

BLAC²⁰

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Black Life, Arts & Culture

JUDGE DENISE PAGE HOOD

"We've learned and we
are convinced that there
is implicit bias"

JESSICA NABONGO

Citizen of the world

HIGH OCTAVE

Popular Detroiters pick

the tracks that are

must-haves on any Black

Music Month playlist

JUNE 2019 / COMPLIMENTARY

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The Jagged Fork
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Home to your
pet's happy place



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a bright yellow jumpsuit, is lying on her back on a red and black patterned rug. She is looking up towards a massive, ancient rock-cut structure that resembles a temple or a series of tombs carved into a cliff face. The structure features columns, arches, and intricate carvings. The scene is set in a dry, rocky environment with warm, golden light.

JUNE 2019

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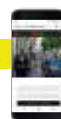
The Power of 20

It's our 20th anniversary, and we're celebrating all year long with special articles and projects in print and online at BLACdetroit.com/ThePowerof20.

And we've got swag! Rock a BLAC T-shirt or hoodie and remind everyone everywhere that you honor Black Life, Arts and Culture. Available in mens and womens cuts and sizes.

For two decades, BLAC has empowered and amplified the voice of the community, taking care to spotlight those oft-forgotten corners. The party can't stop, won't stop.

BLACDETROIT.COM/THEPOWEROF20



Online in June

Visit BLACdetroit.com often for tons of good stuff happening in the D



June Happenings
Browse the expanded version of our Access Detroit calendar.



Gifts for Dad
Father's Day gift ideas courtesy of BLAC.



Free & Cheap
Look out for the best deals and affordable local events each week.



Seen Galleries
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Ford Motor Company Fund

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

Driving Community

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Brandon Jessup, State Voices Deputy Director of Data & Technology

An early interest in politics inspired this forward-thinker to use data and technology to advocate for progressive policy changes in Michigan.

From an early age, Brandon Jessup knew the important role that policy played in his everyday life.

His family started in Louisiana but moved north during the Great Migration and settled on the west side of Detroit, which is where Jessup grew up. His dad owned a small business and his mom was a registered nurse. Both were members of the United Automobile Workers labor union – and both advocated for positive change in their community.

“My family is blue collar. They came to Detroit with nothing on their back looking for opportunity,” Jessup says. “(My mother) tried to organize a Black Panther Party in the ‘70s (and) my father, a union member and small business owner, encouraged me to look at policy and how it affected business.”

In high school, Jessup played football and participated in the Mid American Model United Nations, a debate program that allows students to imitate the work done by

delegates with the United Nations.

It was here that Jessup got his first experience with the work that goes into bringing about political change.

“That really exposed me to the policy making part of politics and gave me a taste what I’d be doing in politics,” he says.

After graduating from high school in 1999, Jessup went to college in Ohio on a football scholarship, but realized the school was too small and too isolated, so he

transferred to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

In 2001, shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he began advocacy work with the NAACP.

“9/11 was a catalyst for me to wake up,” he explains. “I went to an NAACP meeting – and, being young and naïve, I didn’t realize that organizations are doing work every day that you don’t see. So I come in there all radical and I’m like, ‘Hey, you’re not doing enough.’”

The leadership at that meeting

suggested the Jessup step up if he felt that more needed to be done. So he did – as local NAACP action committee chair.

By April of 2002, he had become president of that chapter and was advocating for black college students.

"Everything in my advocacy work as an undergrad was based around access and making sure African-Americans can finish undergrad school," he says. This included providing support for students who were dealing with high tuition costs and working for the passage of affirmative action laws.

In 2005, Jessup graduated from Eastern with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in computer information systems and a minor in labor economics.

After graduation, his advocacy work shifted slightly and in 2008 he founded the nonprofit

Michigan Forward, which aims to build Michigan's urban communities through research, communication and the "advocacy of forward-thinking public policy."

"We're providing higher-level analysis to those that can't afford it and showing them how to collect data more efficiently," Jessup explains. "We're also encouraging and training people on how they can use their personal stories to get engaged in the community."

In addition, Jessup has done work to promote voting accessibility through the Promote the Vote proposal, which passed in 2018 and reduced voting barriers that kept many Michiganders away from the polls, and accepted the Deputy Director East of Data and Technology position with State Voices – a grassroots organization working toward creating a more accessible, inclusive and representative democracy by listening to all Americans.

"(State Voices is) assisting how organizations are using data and technology in order to encourage people to engage in the 2020 election and census," Jessup explains. "We have a network from Louisiana to Michigan, all the way east to the Atlantic Ocean and to the Mississippi River. The goal is to really serve as a leader ... and provide support to the 23 states in our area."

And he isn't planning on stopping there. Jessup wants to continue his advocacy work by finding ways to use both technology and people in the workforce.

"I want to find space to mentor young men and women in the technology field in the city of Detroit," he says. "It's important now more than ever to find ways to combine technology with skills that lay dormant. My goal, in the next five years, is to work with 200 people and place them in jobs across the country."

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

Early on as a child, Brandon Jessup knew he had a passion that inspired him into advocacy and social justice for his community.

Ford has long been a supporter of organizations that help people exercise their voice. We partner with organizations that include the local and national branches of the NAACP, which Mr. Jessup was actively involved in for many years. In fact, at last year's NAACP Convention, Ford sponsored a short film competition where three young filmmakers had the opportunity to tell their social justice and civic engagement stories for a chance to win funding to produce an extended version of their short film. We have also supported the Michigan League for Public Policy's (MLPP) Kids Count in Michigan initiative, which measures the well-being of children in our state and is vitally important to having an understanding on how we can best serve them.

Ford proudly recognizes Brandon Jessup for the advocacy work he's spearheading across southeastern Michigan.

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



**DATA
DRIVEN**

For more information on
State Voices, visit statevoices.org.



TECH TOYS

We may not have advanced to cyborg assistants or levitating cars quite yet, but technology plays a starring role in most of our lives. If nothing else, you've certainly got a mini computer that we call a phone in your pocket or purse – or hand – right now. For the technology novices among us, though, much more than that can be intimidating. Fear not. You need not be a technological virtuoso to take advantage of these gadgets and gizmos. They're approachable, will wedge nicely into your everyday routine and definitely make life a little easier and a bit more fun.



FIXD Vehicle Health Monitor

Avoid being played by the neighborhood mechanic and diagnose that rattle yourself. This device snaps into your car's dashboard and lets you see exactly what's the matter. The app that works with it translates all check engine lights into clear, easy-to-understand terms, so when you do march into the shop, you're armed with your own impartial info. Get one for \$60 at bestbuy.com.

TaoTronics Bluetooth Earbuds

Move aside wireless headphones – floating earbuds are the latest flex. But if you don't want to pay \$160-plus for Apple AirPods, these are a less pretentious, more affordable alternative. The holding case doubles as a portable charger, giving you over three hours of listening time up to 33 feet away from your device, and they're waterproof. Get a pair for \$46 at amazon.com.

Alexa Enabled Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector

This gadget by First Alert keeps your home and your family safe. It works with Amazon Alexa and has a built-in speaker to alert you via voice if there's a problem, and if you're away, you'll get an alert on your mobile device. Get one for \$240 at amazon.com.

Smart Meat Thermometer

Sick of having to say a quick prayer every time you cut into a chicken breast or hoping you didn't turn that expensive ribeye into shoe leather? Take the guesswork out of mastering your meat with this fun little doohickey. Stick this wireless thermometer into your protein before cooking, and then use the app to set your desired temp and receive cooking status updates on your smart-phone. Get it for \$90 at sharperimage.com.

Tile Pro Tracker

Never lose your keys again with this nifty little gizmo. Like all the best things in life, it connects to your phone's Bluetooth, and then use your phone to find whatever you've attached to the tile. And it works both ways. Tile Pro in sight but can't find your phone? Double press the tile to make your phone ring, even if it's on silent. Get a pack of two for \$57 at amazon.com.

WeMo Mini Smart Plug

Pop it into your regular power outlet, connect it to your Wi-Fi and then you can control the appliance or device plugged into it from anywhere. It works with Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple HomeKit, and you can randomize your lights while you're away or on vacation so nosey neighbors or would-be thieves think you're home. Get one for \$25 at amazon.com.

INSTANT MESSAGE

Got a question about post-secondary education that you need answered right away? With Wayne State University's newest information service, DetroitEd411, you can access information and resources about vocational training, financial aid, GED opportunities, child care and the like via Facebook Messenger.

A collaboration between WSU and the Detroit Regional Chamber, DetroitEd411 is meant to support adult learners and promote college attainment and career readiness in Detroit. Search for the service on Messenger and be introduced to Spirit, an innovative blend of artificial intelligence and supervised machine learning, ready to answer all your questions, day or night.

"One of the best things about using this adaptive technology is that we're able to meet people wherever they are and answer questions in real time, without judgment," says Dawn Medley, WSU's vice president of enrollment management. "The amount of information Spirit is able to provide is limitless, and the database of answers and resources will only continue to grow, adapt and expand as more people take advantage of DetroitEd411."

Spirit is powered by Boston-based education technology startup AdmitHub. CEO and co-founder Drew Magliozzi says, "Artificial intelligence can play a powerful role as a complement to the work of advisors, counselors and admissions officers as they help students navigate the college experience. This is about enabling colleges to respond to students' questions quickly, efficiently

and at an unprecedented scale – freeing up time for support staff to focus on the students who need it most."

– P.G.



facebook.com/DetroitEd411



REMEMBER THE TIME

When we consider the stories of the civil rights movement, images of marches, boycotts and violence in the country's southern states often come to mind, but there exists a rich history of civil rights and freedom fighters right here in Detroit. To share and preserve that history, in collaboration with Wayne State University, civil rights activists Junius Williams and Peter Blackmer are set to launch Rise Up Detroit.

The online resource uses materials from WSU's Reuther Library and other sources to tell stories of resistance during the civil rights and black power movements in Detroit. "One day, we looked around and realized that many of our friends – and enemies – who made that journey, or similar journeys, were no longer with us to laugh with, relive old conquests or just tell lies," says Williams,

founder of Rise Up North, the overarching educational tool that promotes and preserves the record of "foot soldiers" of the civil rights and black power movements in the North.

Rise Up Newark was the first leg of the project; Detroit was chosen as the second city. "Detroit was a natural next step as we thought about creating a picture of what the civil rights movement looked like in the North. As we build the resource, we'll focus on cities that played – and continue to play – such an important role in black freedom struggles," says Blackmer, Rise Up North lead researcher and WSU fellow.

Blackmer adds, "The stories are being lost. Rise Up Detroit not only seeks to preserve that history but also to educate and empower users with lessons that they learn from the civil rights activists who were a part of the movement in Detroit."

– P.G.

riseupnewark.com

PLAYPLACE

Aspen Grey is quaint, intimate and comfortable, but at the same time, it's all about the splendor of the space," says Sheree Jackson, owner of the luxury event hall and co-creative space that opened in May. "We're polished and precise – down to the details and the doorknobs."

Jackson also created DesignLuxe, an event planning company. She says she dreamed

of owning a high-class event hall for a while, and in 2018, Jackson says she "lucked" into the 2,000-square-foot venue in Farmington Hills that comfortably seats 80 and holds 100. In addition to hosting events, Aspen Grey Event Gallery will serve as a rentable co-working space for event planners, vendors and creative professionals.

Jackson says she thought this service im-

MEALS + DEALS

It started as a weekly conversation between two art lovers over pancakes and eggs. Since, two have become hundreds. Harold Braggs and Henry Harper founded the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club in 2009. The group meets every Monday at 5 p.m. at Noni's Sherwood Grille in Detroit. Artists, art collectors and art lovers come from citywide and beyond to discuss, sell and collect fine art.

The meeting begins with the organizers inviting first-time visitors to introduce themselves. After the ice is broken and announcements about upcoming shows, open calls and gallery openings are made, the show begins.

Artists are allowed to bring up to two pieces and speak for two minutes. "A lot of artists find themselves here," Braggs says.

Before the Breakfast Club, there were few places for Detroit artists to showcase their work. Ambassador Onzie Norman says the club "fills a void." He adds, "We want everyone to feel welcomed and experience a different kind of energy."

Harper wants members to "look at art in your life differently." Becoming a member is simple: show up to a meeting and don't forget to generously tip your waitress.

— J.G.



MIXED COMPANY

We Are Culture Creators is a media arts collective and label featuring some of Detroit's best young talent. The Creators house is filled with musicians, photographers, filmmakers, producers and others, founded by Michael Reyes, Liz Stone and artists Supreme Flows and DeMaciio in 2013. Last spring, WACC held their first public event, called Y2K, meant to celebrate the culture in the decade between 1995 and 2005. Hundreds of guests showed up along with

supporting brands.

"We keep pushing ourselves to do more and more," Reyes says. Along with an array of events and showcases, they've since added commercial curation to the mix, building relationships with brands like Sony, Red Bull, the Mo Pop Festival, Movement and others. WACC also provides arts and entrepreneurship education for young men of color — where it all started.

"There's a synergy in Detroit right now that we are capturing," Reyes says, curating for a population of Detroit that's ignored — young millennials of color. "We Are Culture Creators is a magnet," he adds. WACC is fearless in their pursuit of art and artistic experience. Joining is simple. Reyes says, "just be around us and help us." Instead of waiting for big brands to find their artists, over the next few months they're expanding projects to Chicago and New York.

— J.G.

weareculturecreators.com



aspengreygallery.com

portant because of her own early struggles in an industry where advice is scarce and colleagues are tight-lipped. "I had a hard time getting guidance when I first started out, and I didn't know who to ask or where to go. I want people to come here and ask questions to get themselves on the right path," she says.

— A.S.



Find DFABC on Facebook.

BROWN SUGAR BABE



Lifestyle brand Izzy & Liv is sprinkling brown sugar and black girl magic all over Detroit when they stop through during their summer showcase tour. "I created Izzy & Liv so that black women and young girls could lose themselves in the joy of discovering pieces that celebrate what makes them unique and special," says founder Nicole Brown.

A selection of Izzy & Liv's online products – accessories and apparel celebrating

black pride and culture – will be on display and available for purchase at Macy's inside Twelve Oaks in Novi June 2-Aug. 3. Snag one of their famous graphic tees or the coveted Brown Sugar Box, chock-full of assorted goodies for the melanin-rich.

Brown says, "I am so excited to see this showcase come to life. The Izzy & Liv supporters will not be disappointed in what we will be offering at each stop."

izzyandliv.com

HOME COOKED

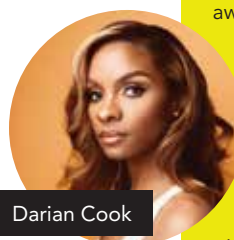
When Darian Cook realized the cheap candles she was buying for her apartment weren't cutting it and that she was literally burning money, she did what any sensible millennial would do: she started making her own.

12th and ViV, Cook's skin care, candle and home décor line, was featured in the May issue of *British Vogue*. "I thought we were being pranked when I first heard about the *Vogue* feature. It was legit, but I was blown away that it even happened," Cook says.

"I spent a lot of time in 2015 on Pinterest and YouTube. I went to Michaels, bought a candle kit and spent an entire Sunday making candles that didn't turn out well," she says. "They either didn't smell like anything, the flame burned too high or the wick wouldn't stay lit. But I was determined."

12th and ViV's ingredients are only sourced from "cruelty-free, certified-organic, pure and natural" suppliers. Cook proudly says, "If I wouldn't use it for my daughter, I won't use it in my products."

Ultimately, she hopes that 12th and ViV provides creative outlets and encouraging vibes for anyone who needs them, especially those walking a nontraditional path the way she did. "We started a series of workshops to build self-esteem and help teach life skills and entrepreneurship to young girls, and the response was phenomenal." **B**



Darian Cook

EVERYTHING NICE



Few salons welcome young children. Understandable. Most of us have had an experience getting pampered but being distracting by a child acting in a way that invited some discreet side-eye. Renika Durden gets it, but she also knows that there's no better bonding time than getting gorgeous with your kid.

That's why her salon uses the mommy-and-me method, removing the stress from going to the shop with your little one. While mom's being taken care of, tikes at Sugar & Spice get pampered with a variety of fun treatments like chocolate facials, pedicures, glitter tattoos and more. Party packages are available, too, for mini divas who want to get glam with their friends.

"Sugar & Spice does so well because we designed it with

kids in mind first and parents second," Durden says. "There's always something fun to do here. Everything goes 1,000% smoother when the salon is actually a fun spot for your kid."

Durden fondly refers to the salon as her most successful "mistake." She says, "I put together a party for my niece, and people on social media and Instagram hyped me up so much. I started the mobile spa thing after that."

And after recognizing the kiddie niche that her competitors weren't filling, Durden tweaked her business model and opened the brick-and-mortar in Redford earlier this year to an incredible response. Durden plans to expand the salon to be more inclusive to men and boys by hiring more barbers and adding a pirate-themed package to the lineup.

25916 Five Mile Road, Redford
313-937-6564
sugarandspicekidssalon.com

12thandviv.com

All the World's a Stage

A true citizen of the world, Jessica Nabongo has traveled to over 170 countries – and counting. An explorer since just past diapers, the Detroit native is on track to become the first black woman to visit each of our planet's 195 countries. Nabongo is also an exquisite writer and photographer, sharing her journey with the many thousands that follow on social media and visit her blog, *The Catch Me If You Can*.

"I'm a geography nerd. So, I've always just been fascinated with the geography of the world and different cultures," she says. Nabongo is a first-generation American, born to Ugandan parents. "They made traveling a priority. In the summer, we would travel. We would go to the Bahamas or Jamaica, other places in the Caribbean. Even if we were going to Canada or, I don't know, California or Ohio, it was always about enjoying vacation, really."

Nabongo says she's always been pulled by a strong wanderlust and a desire to see the world, but in 2017, she decided she'd set a more specific goal. "I'd done research and found that, it seems, no other black woman had completed this feat," she says. "Also, in general, not a lot of people have done this. There's less than ... estimates are around 400 people, confirmed it's around 200. I think a lot of people also just think it's easier than it actually is." Figuring out the logistics – how to fly between countries, applying for visas – is where it gets tricky.

"A lot of people think that I'm doing everything solo. I'm definitely not. I've been traveling for so long, and I love traveling with

my friends. But now, because I'm going to places that are more off the beaten path, it's a little difficult to convince my friends to travel with me," she says. More than a third of Nabongo's excursions have been solo trips. As a woman traveling alone, she's not afraid but she does take extra precaution. "I rely a lot on my intuition."

She prefers to stay in a hotel when solo versus a hostel, Airbnb or other less traditional alternative. A hotel provides extra layers of protection like lots of other guests, a concierge and security. "Say you're being chased by someone, or whatever, you can run back to the hotel," she says, adding, "It's easy to tell a taxi driver where it is and not get lost." To that note, she says she doesn't take a lot of public transit while traveling alone.

It's all about finding your comfort level, Nabongo says. For instance, she wouldn't recommend taking your first solo trip to a non-English speaking country if you only speak English. "When you're comfortable, you're going to be more confident. And when you're confident, you're not going to be vulnerable," she says.

Still, she's careful not to deter women from touring alone. She reminds that most women who are attacked are victimized by people they know and not by strangers lurking in the tall grasses of foreign lands. "I've been interviewed a lot about solo traveling stuff, and I feel like there's this negative lean: 'Oh, women shouldn't travel solo because it's so dangerous' and blah blah blah. I hate that, and I don't agree. I've been to 62 countries solo and I've



"We are more alike than we are different. The stories that I share, it's really about humanizing the foreigner and making the foreigner feel like your neighbor."

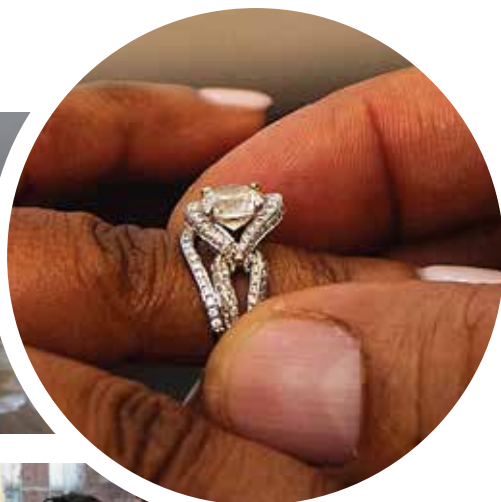
come out unscathed."

To the novice traveler, she says, "Don't overthink it." She warns against getting so caught up in the planning process that you get overwhelmed and turn what should be a great time into a stressful one, or worse still, "just never go." And she says be careful not to lug along that you-won't-catch-me-slipping attitude and allow it to stop you from making new friends on your journey. "In the U.S., we're taught to be afraid of our neighbors. Trust your intuition but also be open to trusting strangers," she says.

When we speak, Nabongo is preparing for Chad, then

Cameroon and the handful of countries still left to visit in West and Central Africa. She'll leave Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa, for last. When she travels, she says, she gets to see "the best parts of humanity on a global scale." Nabongo wants the people following her quest – 115,000 on Instagram – to realize, "We are more alike than we are different. The stories that I share, it's really about humanizing the foreigner and making the foreigner feel like your neighbor." **B**

thecatchmeifyoucan.com



Denitra Townsend and Orlando Gregory

Denitra is an image consultant, and Orlando is a disaster and public safety consultant. The couple lives in Detroit and honeymooned in New Orleans. Here, they share details from their charming and simple wedding day.

THE PROPOSAL

"Orlando planned to propose during a horse and carriage ride through Campus Martius on Christmas Eve in 2017 – which happens to also be my birthday – but there was a complete white-out! So, instead, we had brunch and headed back to his house for coffee. There, he gave me a huge, beautifully wrapped gift box. I thought it was a coat I'd had my eye on, but after wading through layers of tissue paper and seemingly silly little gifts, I discovered the ring box! He asked me to be his wife. My sister was on video chat the whole time and captured the wonderful moment."

THE DRESS

"In keeping with our vintage chic theme, I chose a satin Vince Camuto champagne-colored gown that I ordered online from Nordstrom. It was an off-the-shoulder number with a ruched waist and a fishtail train, the perfect combination of glam and simplicity."

THE CEREMONY

"We initially planned to get married at the courthouse as neither of us ever wanted a wedding, but after some push from our premarital counselor and friends, we agreed to a ceremony. However, we kept things

very simple and chose Perfecting Church, where we're both members. We intentionally held it on a Wednesday afternoon thinking that many people wouldn't make it. Not so! We had a chapel full of loved ones who couldn't wait to witness our union."

THE RECEPTION

"When considering reception venues, we wanted someplace we didn't have to decorate and that was full of vintage charm, and The Inn was just that. Plus, we wanted someplace that would accommodate a strolling reception of hors d'oeuvres. We loved how accommodating the



Date: December 12, 2018

Ceremony: Perfecting Church in Detroit

Reception: The Inn at 97 Winder in Detroit

Photographer: William Bailey of Allen B. Williams Photography

staff was and how the intimate setting allowed us to mingle with all of our guests." **B**

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.



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

▶ AARP event focuses on men's financial security

African-American families represent the group hit hardest in the current financial environment – but most remain optimistic about their financial future.

That was among the findings of a recent national survey of American families conducted by MassMutual. The survey included an in-depth look at the finances of African-American households to determine their unique challenges.

Key findings:

- African-Americans still believe in the American Dream. About 28% of respondents say they believe the American Dream is disappearing compared with 40% of the general population.
- Debt remains an obstacle. Close to half of African-Americans have less than three months of emergency expenses. Three-quarters have a mortgage that is underwater, with nearly 30% owing more on their home than it is worth.

The study concludes that even though many African-American families face enormous financial challenges, they're making efforts to overcome them by assuming an increased role in planning and decision-making.

A survey done for AARP in 2015 on African-American and Hispanic families yielded similar results:

- Building up savings, paying for health care, making more money and paying off debt are key concerns across groups. Hispanic people are especially likely to express concerns about these and all aspects of finances.
- African-American/black people are least likely to give themselves a high rating on a scale of 0 to 10. Specifically, just 21% of African-American/black people rate their financial health as 8-10, compared to 34% of Hispanic people and 33% of the general public.

These and other issues will be explored at AARP Michigan Men's Financial Security Summit on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 5 p.m. at Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) Northwest Campus. This interactive and intergenerational event launches with a networking and resources reception followed by a power-packed program, which includes a financial security panel with breakout sessions, from 6-8 p.m.

The summit's objective is to engage with men of all ages in a dialogue around building wealth, financial security and entrepreneurship.

AARP Michigan is proud to partner with WCCCD on this important topic.

"Our mission is to help create pathways to better lives through higher education," said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. "This event fits well within that mission. We have a generational responsibility to share the collective knowledge and experiences that we've learned in the business world to help ensure that our next generation is standing on solid financial ground."

The June 18 event is an extension of the 2018 AARP National Town Hall series, the Detroit segment focused on financial security in the African-American community.

As a part of AARP Michigan's ongoing efforts to strengthen our community connections to men on this project, we have partnered with the Michigan Prince Hall Masons.

"The collaboration between AARP Michigan and the Michigan Prince Hall Masons continues to flourish and thrive with this planned Men's Financial Security summit. This is a wonderful opportunity to share such vital information with a historically underserved community," said Adrian L. Green, Past Grand Master of Michigan Prince Hall Masons and Director of the Prince Hall Community Service Network.

Green joins Sam Cannonier, Dr. Truman Hudson and WCCCD trustee, Vernon Allen, in providing financial and community insight on the collaborative planning team and working with the AARP Financial Security volunteer leadership team, led by Dr. Mary K. Clark.

To register,
please call
877-926-8300 or go
to [aarp.event.com/
MensFinance2019](http://aarp.event.com/MensFinance2019).



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▶ aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork



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- **JULY 7: Blast Off with Straw Rockets**
- JULY 14: Crater Creation**
- JULY 21: The (Icy) Cool Balloon**
- JULY 28: Operation Filtration**
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- AUG. 11: Squishy Circuits**

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'Hood Feminism': When the White, Middle-Class Idea of Women's Rights Just Ain't Seasoned Enough

BY DESIREE COOPER



Except for our last names, Dree Cooper and I have little in common. Our life experiences have been widely divergent. I have lived with middle-class privilege and have had access to education, housing, recreation, transportation, health care, a savings account and employment most of my life. Dree? Not so much.

Now in her 40s, Dree is living with overlapping disabilities including lupus, epilepsy and chronic migraines. She's had several strokes and is a cancer survivor. The married mom of four is also an animal lover who says that over the years, she's rescued at least 300 dogs. She has lived without access to water when a landlord didn't pay the water bill and she couldn't afford to move. She now lives near John R and Six Mile in Detroit, an area some call "Prostitute Row." She calls it her neighborhood.

In the normal course of business, it's not likely that Dree and I would have ever met, but one thing brought us together – our commitment to feminism. Or, as she calls her particular brand of activism, "hood feminism." Let's be clear: I don't go around calling people "hood." I think of that term as a way to belittle or marginalize something or someone because they

don't match a white, middle-class aesthetic.

To me, "hood" is not only rough around the edges, but also a bit shady or illicit, as in "hoodlum." When Dree described herself as a hood feminist, I had to go to the Urban Dictionary just to make sure I had it right. There it was in black and white: "Hood is a gangster slang word derived from neighborhood, usually talking about the ghetto or where all the gangsters and thugs live."

"We have taken a derogatory term and owned it," says Dree. "A hood feminist cares about people who are of color, nonbinary, ghetto, ratchet, homeless, disabled, mentally ill, trans, the people who do hair out of their homes, cook fish on Fridays for sale, sex workers – especially those who are black and trans – and those fixing cars in their garage. We accept all of these people."

We've had the bra-burning feminists of my day, the second- and third-wave feminists, the black feminists, the intersectionalists and the hood feminists. All of them at their core believed in the primacy of women. But which women? That's been a simmering

question since women of color were sidelined by the original women's movement. Most feminists believe in reproductive freedom (i.e., the freedom to decide what to do with our own bodies), but what about reproductive justice (i.e., the freedom not to die in delivery rooms because you're black, or the freedom to have as many children as you want, or the freedom to raise your chil-

do not have privilege, just as we have been allies for them. Icon of the women's movement Gloria Steinem once said, "The problem is that women of color in general – and especially black women – have always been more likely to be feminists than white women."

Dree says, "Allyship is more than wearing a shirt at a convention. We're dying out here. We're being pulled over by profiling

"Allyship is more than wearing a shirt at a convention. We're dying out here. ... How are you using your white, feminist privilege to speak out on issues that don't directly affect you?"

dren in a safe environment)?

Is the poisoned water in Flint a feminist issue? Hood feminists believe it is because it affects our children and our communities. We believe in pay equity, but when will it be equal? When white women earn as much as white men, or when Latinas reach that goal? How does pay equity address the fact that women of color or women with physical challenges can't get hired in the first place?

Dree said that hood feminists don't necessarily disagree with the agenda of the traditional feminist movement, but they are demanding that white feminists learn how to be allies of women who

police, our sons are being killed, we can't get mortgages. How are you using your white, feminist privilege to speak out on issues that don't directly affect you?"

The more I talked to Dree, the more I realized that hood feminism may be a throwback to a very old concept in the black community. There once was a time when women not only raised their families, they nourished entire ecosystems of neighbors and kin. From that standpoint, "hood" simply means neighborhood, and a hood feminist is about the business of changing the world, one community at a time. **B**





DJ Rue

IN THE SPIN ZONE

Music is more than a universal language, it's a state of being free.

Known to audiences as DJ Rue, Erin Rue – a metro Detroit native – has been in the music industry for more than 15 years, but her connection to music goes even deeper, way back to her roots, genetically speaking.

Rue's mother was a traveling singer and her father's family played jazz. (Detroiters might be familiar with her aunt, the singer, Ortheia Barnes.)

"I come from a very musically-oriented family," Rue says. "My father and mother poured (music) into me and I began to have a love for it."

Her training included music theory and opera, but Rue found her passion in fashion and the arts. Attending Wayne State University, she earned a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising with a minor in accounting – but music continued to be an important, magnetic force in her life; even as she held down the typical corporate gig to pay the bills. Rue continued singing, arranging and producing professionally (especially for other artists) and helping with demos for submissions to record companies.

Two years ago, something "woke" inside her that she hadn't expected: a yearning for change.

"Let me try something different," she recalls saying to herself and a close friend, who wondered what "different" was going to be. "I'm used to doing the background vocals ... that's fun, that's great. I want to play a whole bunch of music ... I want to be a DJ and I'm going to teach myself to do it. I bought everything that I needed. I started getting phone calls."

Some of her closest friends and relatives might have been skeptical of such a move because, let's face it, if you can create your

own music, why would a person elect to spin records – or, in 21st century parlance, "curate" playlists? What's ironic is Rue doesn't use predetermined playlists.

"I don't really plan ahead for my gigs," Rue says, adding that she will find out what the client wants her to play, but never walk in with a programmed playlist. "I do that because I think music is a feeling ... I call it people watching ... I allow myself to feel my crowd. I definitely keep my mindset opened."

Rue's expansive musical background serves her well, as it makes her sensitive to – and conscious of – the effectiveness of playing different kinds of chord changes and shifts in tempos, allowing her to "authentically create" something musical – and magical – for her clients.

"What makes a good DJ is asking questions and providing those answers through the music that I play," she says.

It's also not lost on her that she's a woman in a male-dominated field, a reality that sometimes leaves her feeling like a "small fish in a big pond," she admits. Still, Rue and other female DJs in metro Detroit are finding their own piece of real estate to build.

"We have our own lane where we can express ourselves," Rue says. "The femininity that I bring, plus the creativeness I have, sets me apart from it being so male-dominated. It shows that it's not just one gender that can do this."

With a forthcoming mixtape and a growing list of upcoming dates, Rue is confident she has a little something for everyone.

"I want people to understand, yes, I'm a disc jockey, (but) artist is a better term," Rue says. "I want everybody to get a dose of what I'm trying to bring to my community – to connect with individuals through my art and through expressing these different sounds." **B**

"I think music is a feeling ...

I call it people watching ...

I allow myself to feel my crowd."



iamdjru.com

PITCH

What else but music can as easily shake awake a party as it can those butterflies that fluttered for your first love? Then there are those songs that transcend the individual experience to reverberate within the whole of black culture. Whether it's because of its message, what it did for the artist or its prime placement at every wedding or cookout, some songs will forever be playlist staples, guaranteed to initiate a hurricane of toe taps, fingers snaps and hand claps.

By Jim McFarlin

Photo by Lauren Jeziorski



PERFECT

It's *that* song. You know the one. The song that makes you stop everything you're doing and listen to the entire recording anytime you hear the opening chord. It may remind you of love lost, love sustained or love regained. It might evoke a beloved memory from your childhood or prompt you to sing out lustily when you're – hopefully – all by yourself. It's in the soundtrack at every summer cookout. It's that

one tune that never fails to brighten your day.

In honor of Black Music Month, we asked a cross section of Detroit personalities, some of whom you may recognize, to name *that* song and tell us why it holds that lofty distinction in their lives. As you might expect, narrowing their favorite songs down to just one wasn't easy for most of them.

"I use music to either validate a mood, elevate a mood or to escape a mood,"

says Karen Dumas, former communications professional for the city of Detroit, media personality and owner of the public relations firm Images & Ideas. "So, sometimes you seek out a song for one of those particular needs."

Undaunted, Dumas and several other Detroiters scanned their mental playlists to share their No. 1 hits with BLAC. And while you review their choices, ask yourself: what's that one true love for you?



Karen Dumas



"THE PAYBACK"

BY JAMES BROWN

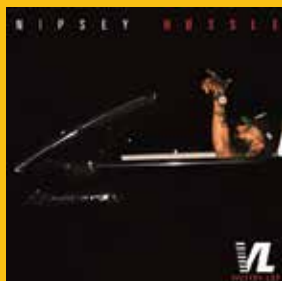
"Come on, you can't go wrong with that infectious beat and those ridiculous lyrics: 'Get ready you mother, for the big payback.' I learned to madly dance my way through successful revenge with this song. 'I don't know karate, but I know ka-razor.'"



"EVERYBODY'S DARLING"

BY AVERAGE WHITE BAND

"I have so many favorite songs, it's more like a catalog! But this one is a longtime favorite."



"VICTORY LAP"

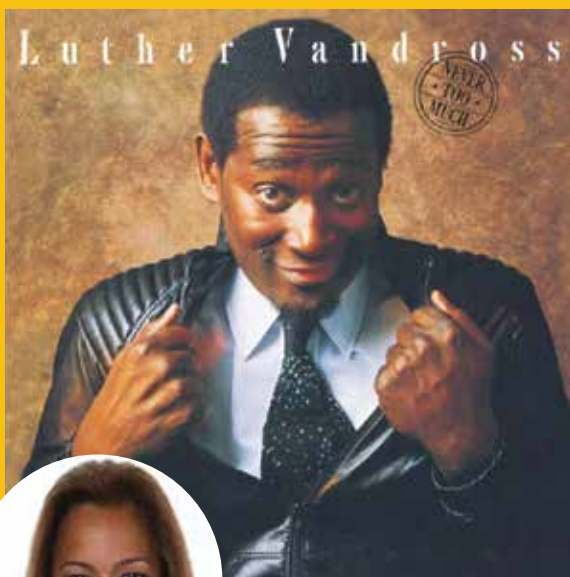
BY NIPSEY HUSSELE

"This is one song I'm listening to on repeat right now."



Chuck Bennett

– Detroit's undisputed fashion and style guru, writer, radio host and creator of thesocialmetro.com



"A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME"

BY LUTHER VANDROSS

"If you asked my children who my favorite artist is, they would tell you without hesitation (that) it's Luther Vandross. Nobody sang that like Luther did. I don't care if you hear it 10 years from now. He had a way of 'Lutherizing' a song, and there's been no one like him since."



Carmen Harlan

– Grande dame of TV news turned fashion designer

"THE WAY YOU DO THE THINGS YOU DO"

BY THE TEMPTATIONS



"This is the song I sing almost every day. I love a good, happy love song, and that one says it better than most." ▶



Rochelle Riley

– Director of arts and culture for the city of Detroit, award-winning former Free Press columnist and author



"FEELING GOOD"

BY NINA SIMONE

"It reminds me that every day of waking up to a new day is a blessing. I feel so fortunate to still be able to sing, perform and give back to the community. I love singing 'Feeling Good' because I really do."



Kimmie Horne

— International jazz vocalist, model, actress and descendent of Lena Horne



"I BLAME YOU"

BY LEDISI

"I love the groove and the subject matter of it, because I can relate."

Thornetta Davis

— Detroit's undisputed "Queen of Blues"



Ken Coleman

— Detroit's modern-day historian, author and reporter for Michigan Advance

"RIBBON IN THE SKY"

BY STEVIE WONDER



"That was the song that was playing when (my wife Priscilla and I) realized we were in love. We had been dating for a while, but we were not committed. We would have these long late-night discussions about politics, society, education, you name it. We were in the midst of one such discussion one night when all of a sudden it was quiet in the car and that song came on the radio. We held hands, and I think we both knew, without saying a word, that we would be together forever."

Huel Perkins

— Longest serving TV news anchor at FOX 2 Detroit



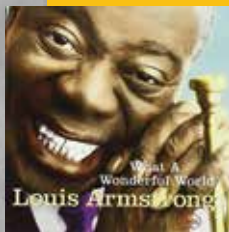
"BRING IT ON HOME"

BY RONNIE DYSON

"It was first love, it was last love, and when you're young, it's what you hope love is supposed to be. He is one of my favorites of all time, an incredible voice taken from us way too soon."

Robin Hardin

— Former Detroit morning radio host, media commentator and public relations executive, now with WDIV



"WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD"

BY LOUIS ARMSTRONG

"There's just something so beautiful about that: the melody, the music changes, the way he delivers it. It just grabs me all over."

Lawrence Payton Jr. – Second-longest tenured member of the Four Tops



"WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKENHEARTED"

BY JIMMY RUFFIN

"It came out in the summer of 1966 at the same time my older brother got drafted. My mother's heart was broken as well as mine, so every time we heard that song we would think about him."

"LOVE'S HOLIDAY"

BY EARTH, WIND & FIRE

"I have a radio DJ friend here in LA who has a segment called 'The Ultimate Love Song.' Whenever I hear him on the radio, I tweet him and ask him to play this. It's to the point now that when I tweet him, he will reply, 'Are there ANY OTHER songs, Shaun?' And I'm like, 'Nope!'"



Shaun Robinson

– Emmy-winning journalist, actor, author and former Access Hollywood host

"CLOSE THE DOOR"

BY TEDDY PENDERGRASS

"That was the slow song they always used to play at the bar at closing time. Usually the only door that got closed was the car door after she got out."

"IF THIS WORLD WERE MINE"

BY LUTHER VANDROSS AND CHERYL LYNN

"I think they just nailed the duet, and the lyrics in the song speak for themselves."

Rod Allen

– Detroit Tigers commentator, former player and host of the podcast Gettin' Bizzy with Rod Allen

"POLITICIANS IN MY EYES"

BY DEATH ('70S DETROIT PROTOPUNK BAND FORMED BY THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HACKNEY BROTHERS)



"Every moment is stuffed to the gills with pure, gritty, raw Detroit soul. If you're not in love when the bass line drops, just hold on 'til the breakdown."



Deekah Wyatt

– Lead singer of Roxolydian, program director of Girls Rock Detroit and founder of the Cosmic Slop Festival



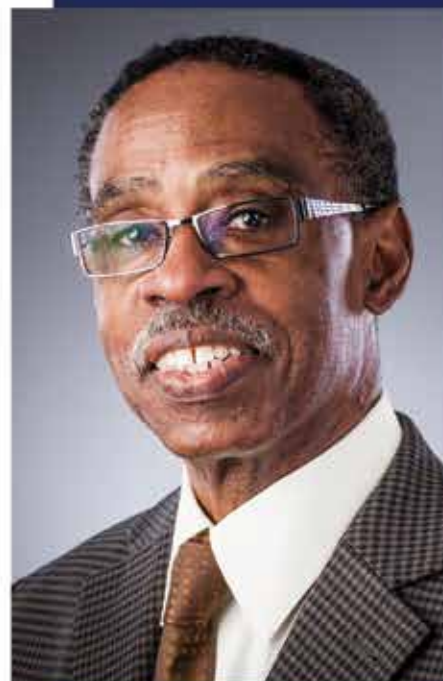
Greg Russell

– Film critic and celebrity interviewer for Live in the D on WDIV **B**



JIM MCFARLIN IS A DETROIT NATIVE AND VETERAN ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST.

What are the early signs of heart disease?



Delano R. Small, M.D.

Heat disease is the leading cause of death for people in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and African-Americans have the highest overall death rate from heart disease of any ethnic group in the U.S. – particularly out-of-hospital deaths – and at younger ages.

Delano R. Small, M.D., the Chief of Cardiology at Ascension Providence Hospital's Southfield and Novi campuses, says the term "heart disease" refers to several types of heart conditions. In the United States, coronary artery disease is the most common type of heart disease, which affects the blood flow to the heart and can cause a heart attack.

Dr. Small uses the term "coronary vascular disease" to encompass many conditions, including heart

attacks, strokes, irregular heartbeat and high blood pressure, to name a few.

Being monitored for heart disease is important, particularly if you have a family history. "Seek advice sooner rather than later," Dr. Small says.

Identification of high-risk individuals for treatment, especially control of hypertension and diabetes, is critical – particularly in the African-American community where the survival rates of patients with heart disease is significantly lower than the survival rates of Hispanic and Caucasian patients.

"As a community, African-Americans have higher rates of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and diabetes – the four major risk factors for heart disease," Dr. Small says.

However, African-Americans tend to put off seeking treatment.

"We have not been able to make a good dent in screening as with other groups," he says, noting that one of the early warning signs for developing heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, is showing up earlier. Type 2 diabetes presents a major risk for kidney disease, which in turn, increases the risk of dialysis, and also increases the potential for developing heart disease.

The CDC reports about 47 percent of sudden heart deaths occur outside a hospital, which means that many people with heart disease don't act on early warning signs. Earlier symptoms such as shortness of breath, or not being able to do things as easily as before are "a warning to see someone."

"Once you go into chest pain, that signals a problem that needs to be addressed immediately," Dr. Small says.

People with diabetes may not experience chest pain and may only report shortness of breath as a symptom of a heart problem. Women often have different symptoms of heart disease than men. Where men may have the typical "elephant sitting on the chest" complaint, women may describe "squeezing, tightness, pressure and pain in the arm and back along with sweating," Dr. Small says.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of chest pain or pressure that doesn't go away, or anyone having trouble breathing, should call 911.

"Don't try to drive yourself to the hospital," he urges.

Aside from regular checkups, controlling high blood pressure and diabetes, along with engaging in more physical activity can help decrease the risk of developing heart disease.



2003

BLAC's 20th

Anniversary Throwback

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

2003



Fipping through the pages of BLAC circa 2003 (then called *African American Family*) truly feels like a trip down memory lane. There's Kwame and his family, so young and full of promise, on the cover of the April issue, Dennis and Trudy Archer looking picture-perfect, as always, as they talked about their post-mayoral life in the November issue. And La-Van Hawkins, the kingpin of Detroit restaurants back in the day, reveled in the recent opening of his fine dining sensation, Sweet Georgia Brown, before all of his legal troubles. La-Van died earlier this year. Kwame is still in jail. And the Archers? Well, thank God for them. Start your own throwback trippin' right here. We promise, it's not all bleak.

Still a Thing

Early advertiser Standard Federal Bank has had more name changes than Prince and Sean Combs in the past 15-plus years, but these things featured in BLAC back in 2003 are still relevant today:



1

Black barber shops

2

Mental health awareness

3

The importance of grandmas

4

Neighborhood safety

5

City murals



Black Cultural Contributions Celebrated

The February issue featured "A Cultural Melting Pot" detailing how "African American contributions are the backbone of the all-American lifestyle" and included was a list of examples in music, fashion, dance: things like gospel music, break dancing and dreadlocks. But the list that was the most fun to check out was on language influence. Here are some highlights:

Mickey D's – Nickname for McDonald's

Talk to the hand – I'm not listening

Yo – Hello or Hey!

Fresh – Cool

Wassup – What's up with that? or What's going on?

Cool – Smooth, with it, a good thing

My man – An endearing term as in Wasup, my man?

Don't go there – Let's not discuss it or take a conversation to another unwanted level

You go, girl! – Congratulations

Hook me up – Take care of it for me

24-7 – 24 hours a day, seven days a week



In '03

Beyoncé's "Crazy In Love" spent eight weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100

Ruben Studdard became the first black winner of American Idol

Deliver Us from Eva was a date-night must

"We ride together, we die together. Bad boys for life." – Bad Boys II, Mike Lowrey (Will Smith)

At Home with the Kilpatricks

In 2003, Detroit's first family finally moved into the Manoogian mansion after a \$250,000 remodel that made the 5,000-square-foot residence more kid-friendly for their boys, twins Jelani and Jalili and 16-month-old Jonas. The Kilpatricks opened their home to BLAC for an interview and tour. Here are some highlights:

Carlita on the renovations

"I was able to express myself with things that I really liked and felt the children would enjoy. We had to talk to a lot of people who treated fabric to find out what would wear better or clean better if something spilled."

On Kwame's handyman skills

"I firmly believe in keeping the economy going by calling electricians, plumbers. Let's keep people working."



Soul singer **Nina Simone** died in Paris



On running for mayor at such a young age

"It took audacity, didn't it? We were sitting around, a group of 10 people, and we were putting stuff out that we thought the next mayor should have. I gave my two cents, they looked at me and said I should run. I denied it for about a month. But (Carlita and I) prayed about it, went on a trip and talked. And I decided to run."

On why the mayor skipped church and hobbies

"All my spare time I spend with (my kids). That's why I don't golf, hang out at bars. I don't see how guys with families can do that. When (the kids) get older, maybe. But they'll tell me, 'Dad, you're working too much. We want you to stay home.'"



U.S. launched **war against Iraq** and toppled Saddam Hussein



The Big Blackout of '03

Wherever we were, whatever we were doing, we all remember the Northeast Blackout on Aug. 14, 2003. It was the second largest blackout in U.S. history, affecting 50 million people in the Northeast and southern Canada (including 2.3 million households and businesses in southeast Michigan). Some got their power back within a day. But many of us went without for days or even a week. Some people fled the city and held their breath in long gas lines on their way to places with power. Others hunkered down and sweated during the scorching temps. But we were all relieved when the power came back on. The fears of major power outages in 2000 were unfounded, but a little software bug at an Ohio-based energy plant taught us that life can come to a screeching halt without any warning.

History Highlight

In a landmark case on June 23, the Supreme Court weighed in on affirmative action in higher education for the first time in 25 years. The 5-4 verdict upheld the right of the University of Michigan's law school affirmative action policy; the Court said it had a "compelling interest in favoring underrepresented minority groups." **B**

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JUNE 15 FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

**CHARLIE WILSON &
THE WHISPERS**

JUNE 16 FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

**CHARLIE WILSON &
LALAH HATHAWAY**

JULY 5

**SNOOP DOGG, WARREN G
& BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY**

JULY 27

MIX 92.3 SUMMER BREEZE

**MAXWELL &
CORINNE BAILEY RAE**

AUGUST 2

UB40 & STEEL PULSE

AUGUST 8

**HERBIE HANCOCK &
KAMASI WASHINGTON**

AUGUST 9

WOMC PRESENTS

LOST 80'S LIVE FEATURING
A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS, THE TUBES,
WANG CHUNG, THE MOTELS, BOW WOW WOW,
ANIMATION, REAL LIFE, THE VAPORS, BOYS DON'T
CRY, THE ESCAPE CLUB, FARRINGTON + MANN
(ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF WHEN IN ROME UK)

AUGUST 10

**ANTHONY HAMILTON,
LEDISI & TWEET**

AUGUST 11

**GLADYS KNIGHT
& WILL DOWNING**

JAZZY NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM

JUNE 5

**DAMIEN ESCOBAR
PHIL DENNY**

JUNE 12

**JONATHAN BUTLER &
KIRK WHALUM
SKY COVINGTON**

JUNE 19

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JULY 10

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Conversations with
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JUDGE DENISE PAGE HOOD

The chief federal judge discusses racial biases within the criminal justice system, earning her respect as a black woman and the future of *Roe v. Wade*. ▶

By Paris Giles • Photos by Lauren Jeziorski



We've made the commute easy for Judge Denise Page Hood. From her offices, it's a quick cut through a parking lot – albeit a congested one – and across Michigan Avenue and she's at 24 Grille in Detroit. She arrives smiling and gracious, 15 minutes early and dressed in a black sheath. On her wrist is a black and white cuff that a friend brought back from South Africa, "because I always wear black and white," she says. An ironic style choice for a chief federal judge, a woman who's an integral part of the American judiciary, a system that is a patchwork of varied shades of gray.

But then, that's her job – to create order and interpret meaning where ambiguity exists. Hood was appointed in 1994 to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan by President Bill Clinton. Before that, she held several state judicial positions, and most recently, in 2016, she became chief judge for the U.S. District Court.

In the restaurant dining room, she's a bit unsure in front of the camera at first – "I'm too shy for this" – but she eventually finds her groove. Afterwards, she settles into a black velvet bench in the spot popular with the downtown lunch crowd and we unpack racial biases within the criminal justice system, the recent abortion bans and Judge Damon J. Keith's legacy.

What responsibility do you think you have as a black woman within a judicial system that has historically oppressed women and black people?

You have the responsibility of making sure that in that setting, which for years was not diverse in terms of judges on the bench, that you commit to that diversity, to pulling along someone with you. But also, on a day-to-day basis, being very fair. Not that other judges who are white are not fair, but I think that when you walk in court and you see that you have a black judge or a black woman judge, it takes away – I think and I hope – a piece of the fear that this is just, quote, 'the system.' It does not necessarily mean you get a different decision, but ... I hope that people think I'm fair. Sometimes, the law requires I give some serious sentencing on the criminal side. There used to be a system when the judges were all white males. Well, there's a different voice being heard in that setting amongst judges where you have more diversity. They have to learn something about you, you have to learn something about them. You maybe have a different

perspective, you bring that to the table. It's just perspective, it's not necessarily the application of the law – although, sometimes it might be. We know that mainly on the criminal side, we are dealing with predominantly black males that come through the system, so we want to make sure everyone is treated fairly.

How do we begin to fix the biases within the criminal justice system?

We've learned and we are convinced that there is implicit bias, so we're doing things to address and recognize that you have those biases. In a few weeks we're having a sixth circuit judge, Bernice Donald, come in with a professor that she works with to talk about implicit bias: how to recognize it and how to fix it, or at least minimize it. Part of it is just getting more knowledge. And I think in the judicial system where we are always keeping up with the law and its application and recognizing any changes, it's natural that we would learn something new. I'm very proud of our judges being willing to do that and being willing to be more involved in

access in justice and access to justice.

Have you found that you've had to fight for respect – either with colleagues or civilians in your courtroom?

Some of both. I think women, traditionally, have been in those rooms where they were the only one, and part of your role there is to make sure that when you're not there, they think about you. What would Denise be saying? Or what would a woman – or a black woman or an African-American – say about this? We

“

I don't think that women have to lead just like men or (that) African-Americans have to lead just like people who are white.

”

have to be diverse because the people that come in our door are diverse, and also because the

legal community is much more diverse than it has been in the past. In any leadership capacity, people are tested. Any leader has to fight for that, and we know very often that sometimes men have not had to work with women and so they don't know that they have a little bit different style sometimes – or they *don't*. I don't think that women have to lead just like men or African-Americans have to lead just like people who are white. One of my styles that I would attribute to being a woman and also how I was raised is that I want everybody to be nice and play fair and be respectful, and when that's not happening, you need to fix it.

Are the abortion bans that we're seeing in Alabama and several other states a national effort to get the Supreme Court to reexamine *Roe v. Wade*?

You know, I can't talk about that in case any kind of cases like that come before me. But I will say that I think that the Chief Justice (John) Roberts has a growing sense of himself and what he wants his legacy at the (Supreme) Court to be. And you



THE LOCALE

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have some very strong, very bright and wonderful – for lack of a better word – liberal judges who are on the court. The court is an interesting place. It doesn't want to do everything over all the time, so I don't know what will happen with that. It used to be that candidates were asked where they were. You can't say what your position is on that, except that you'll follow the law.

Did you know Judge Damon Keith well?

He was down the hall from me; my back door and his front door were directly across from the elevator lobby for years. I sit in the chief judge courtroom, and his portrait is actually right above my right shoulder. So, sometimes if I'm leaning that way I can catch a glimpse of him and it kind of inspires you because he was just an inspirational person, always had time for anybody who came to him for advice. I certainly have been in that room with the Bible on the desk, asking him, 'I'm getting ready to do this, tell me what you think.' He was just a great legal mind, and in that sense, I think, really paved the way for other African-American judges. We didn't have to prove

we're smart. You already had an example of someone who's smart, on target, protecting the constitution.

Yours is a heavy job, I'm sure. How or where do you find stillness and peace?

I'm also a religious person. I would say I firmly believe in the separation of church and state, and I believe I act that out really well, but I do also get some solace in the fact that I do have my religion for my personal growth and substance, and for comfort. I have things I like to do when I don't have that one thing I brought home to work on. I like to walk, and I like to read a lot, of almost everything, and it changes. I try to read a smattering of everything so I can be broad. Sometimes, we forget that we're also, in this job, paid to think and that sometimes

thinking requires lack of distraction. So being thoughtful, I know it's called all kinds of things now. It's called meditation, it's called mindfulness. There are lots of other terms that people use for it. I think I'm better about being thoughtful about my job than sending out those birthday and holiday cards and stuff, but all of that is a part of it. Having a moment to think about where you are, what space you're in and being cognizant of that. And I have my family.

Does your life look like what you imagined it would when you were at Yale?

No, not at all.

What's something that's been a surprise?

Well, I didn't think I would be a lawyer, and I didn't think I would practice law. I thought I

would be a lawyer to be able to do something else that I wanted to do, and people would go, 'Oh, she went to law school, so she must be able to learn everything.' I didn't really know anybody until I was much older that was a judge. And so, I was kind of surprised that at one of those interview meetings where we were interviewing people to give a rating to run for judge, a person walked out that we rated well but had little experience, and one of my friends said, 'Denise, you're as good as anyone we've interviewed so far. You should run for judge next time.' I kind of played that off and I went home and my husband said, 'You should talk to my dad,' who was on city council. And he said, 'When do we get started?' **B**

PARIS GILES IS BLAC DETROIT'S SENIOR EDITOR. |



access

DETROIT | JUNE 2019

Compiled by Paris Giles

19 WEDNESDAY
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EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY
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8 SATURDAY PRIDE

7 FRIDAY

JIM GAFFIGAN. The Grammy-nominated comedian, actor and author headlines For-gotten Harvest's 27th annual Comedy Night. \$90. 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

8 SATURDAY

PRIDE. Celebrate inclusion, individuality and love with Motor City Pride's annual festival and parade. Free-\$5. 1-9 p.m. today, noon-7 p.m. June 9. Hart Plaza, 1 Hart Plaza, Detroit. motorcitypride.org.

K. MICHELLE. The "Can't Raise a Man" singer stops in. \$50-\$52. 8 p.m. Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. soundboarddetroit.com.

13 THURSDAY

TANK AND THE BANGAS. The groovy, breakout hip-hop group performs. \$20-\$25. 8 p.m. The Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. majesticdetroit.com.

14 FRIDAY

CHIEF KEEF. The rapper stops in with Ice-
wear Vezzo, Supakaine, Glo Gang and Hu
Dat. \$35. 10:30 p.m. El Club, 4114 W. Vernor
Highway, Detroit. elclubdetroit.com.

15 SATURDAY

CHARLIE WILSON. In a Father's Day double-
header Charlie Wilson performs, with The
Whispers today and with Lalah Hathaway on
June 16. \$46-\$86. 8 p.m. both nights. The
Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater
St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

18 TUESDAY

SONREAL. The Canadian singer-songwriter
performs. \$17-\$80. 7 p.m. El Club, 4114 W.
Vernor Highway, Detroit. elclubdetroit.com.

19 WEDNESDAY

SINKANE. The Sudanese-American musician
who blends krautrock, prog rock, electronica,
free jazz and funk rock with Sudanese pop
performs with Bassel and the Supernaturals.
\$13-\$15. 7 p.m. El Club, 4114 W. Vernor
Highway, Detroit. elclubdetroit.com.



BLACdetroit.com

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

To list an event in Access Detroit, send facts and photos two months prior to calendar@BLACdetroit.com. You also may upload information to BLACdetroit.com/SubmitEvent, fax to 248-399-3970 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 BLAC online at BLACdetroit.com.



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21 FRIDAY
RIVER DAYS

26 WEDNESDAY
BLACK VIOLIN



JUNETEENTH JAMBOREE. Musician Robert Hurst presents this Jubilant Juneteenth Jamboree Jazz Concert. \$15-\$20. 7-9 p.m. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. thewright.org.

KENNY G. The soulful saxophonist takes the stage. \$13-\$20. 7:30 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

21 FRIDAY

CANNACON. Entrepreneurs, scientists, cultivators, politicians and other marijuana industry experts convene in the city for this cannabis expo and seminar. \$40-\$150. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today-June 22. Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. cannacon.org.

RIVER DAYS. GM River Days presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort features Jet Ski demos, an air show by the Tuskegee Army Airfield Museum, live music, delicious eats and more. Free-\$5. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. today-June 23. Detroit International Riverfront, Detroit. riverdays.com.

REPPIN THE REP. The Detroit Repertory Theatre board of trustees announces this inaugural benefit fundraiser, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Motown. Guests are encouraged to wear their best 1960s outfits for a chance at a prize. \$75-\$100. 6 p.m. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson St., Detroit. detroitreptheatre.com.

TWISTED STORYTELLERS. The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers presents *Real Men*, featuring Muhammad al-Sharkawi, Douglas Howell and others. \$20-\$25. 8 p.m. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. twistedtellers.org.

22 SATURDAY

FINE ART FINE WINE FAIR. Shop one-of-a-kind works from over 70 juried artists, sample dozens of wines, enjoy music and more. Free-\$5. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. today, noon-6 p.m. St. Mary's, 3535 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake. fineartfinewinefair.com.

BLOCK PARTY. Monica, Jagged Edge and Dru Hill perform during 105.9 KISS-FM's Kiss Block Party. \$29.50-\$129.50. 6:30 p.m. Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill, 14900 Metro Parkway, Sterling Heights. 313presents.com.

BILL MAHER. The comedian and HBO host takes the stage during this live standup tour. \$39.50-\$89.50. 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

23 SUNDAY

BURGER BATTLE. Sample the city's best burgers from over 15 competing restaurants and cast your vote for the bests, plus enjoy live entertainment, a full bar, free games and more. \$15-\$30. 1-4 p.m. Eastern Market, Shed 5, 2801 Russell St., Detroit. theburgerbattle.com.



13 THURSDAY
TANK AND THE BANGAS

24 MONDAY

HUGH JACKMAN. The Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe- and Tony Award-winning performer stops through with *The Man. The Music. The Show. World Tour*. \$69.50-\$225. 7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

FORD FIREWORKS. Get ready to "ooh" and "ahh" at this 61st annual city staple, themed "Detroit. Ready! Set! Go!!" Free. 9:55 p.m. Downtown Detroit. theparade.org.

26 WEDNESDAY

BLACK VIOLIN. These hip-hop string instrumentalists stop through. \$13-\$20. 7:30 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

28 FRIDAY

BACK TO THE 90S. Next, Donell Jones, Case, Montell Jordan, Adina Howard and others perform. \$79-\$89. 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

29 SATURDAY

AGAPE NATURALS FESTIVAL. This inaugural festival promises a day dedicated to naturalistas and full of love, laughter, dancing, music and food. Enjoy vendors, art, panelists, giveaways, demos and more. \$25-\$40. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Roosevelt Park, 2231 Michigan Ave., Detroit. agapenaturalsfest.com.

30 SUNDAY

LIONEL RICHARD. The legendary singer stops in on his *Hello Tour*. \$29.50-\$385. 7:30 p.m. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sasabaw Road, Clarkston. 313presents.com.

3 WEDNESDAY

JASON MRAZ. The soulful singer-songwriter stops in on *The Yay! Tour*. CA\$57-CA\$138. 8 p.m. The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor, Ontario. caesars.com/caesars-windsor.

5 FRIDAY

JENNIFER LOPEZ. J-Lo stops in with a mix of classic anthems and new hits during her *It's My Party* tour. \$59.95-\$274.95. 8 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

SNOOP DOGG. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Doggystyle*, the legendary Snoop Dogg, Warren G and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony take the stage. \$75. 8 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com. **B**



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

18th Annual Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce Gala

Dressed in ethnic attire or black tie, on May 4, over 700 guests gathered at MGM Grand Detroit to celebrate APACC's record of successful service as an advocate of Asian and Pacific Islander American businesses.

Photos by Sydney Kispert-Bostick



Alysia Green (executive director of APACC), Victor Green



Marcella McCullough, Ma Liang, Eileen McKinney



Cassandra Tucker, Vincent Tucker



Van Talagala, Anaiah Massey



Laurelle Smith, Kevin Heard



Katora Cole, Rodney Cole



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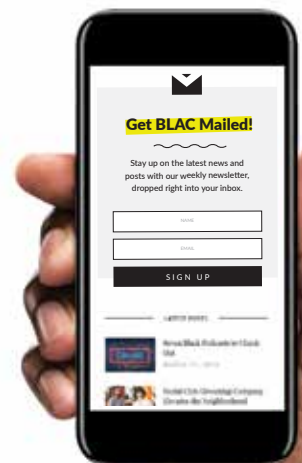
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