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COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER!

Local organizations and political figures lend a hand in helping to make the season a little brighter for community struggling with challenges created by COVID-19!



LOCAL BLACK BUSINESSES COME TOGETHER FOR TOY DRIVE!

Above are representatives of several area Black-owned small businesses who, with their children, came together to organize and giveaway toys via a drive-through recently. Initiated by Alana Holmes of the Life Organization, the drive-through, called the 'Kid's Choice Toy Giveaway' was held at The Exchange, located at 3343 N. Holton Street. Some 2,000 toys were distributed to area children. —Photo by Kim Robinson



A volunteer prepares to put a food box with a COVID-19 safety kit into a car during the "Baskets of Hope: A Holiday Food and COVID-19 Safety Kit giveaway," held at the African American Women's Center (AAWC). Hundreds of families in need during this holiday season took advantage of the generosity. Sponsors of the event were: Feeding America, the AAWC, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Walmart, Franciscan Peacemakers, Green Bay Packers, My Choice Wisconsin, and the Milwaukee Times. —Martinez Milton Photo



Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI) held its annual Holiday Dinner Giveaway at its Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center on Silver Spring Drive. —Photo by MHSI staff.



Hundreds of Milwaukee children were given gifts during the first annual New9th Christmas Toy Drive, sponsored by Ald. Chantia Lewis and the Granville and Havenwoods Business Improvement Districts. The drive provided gifts for 500 children who might otherwise not see any presents this Christmas. Pictured above is Ald. Lewis (far right wearing glasses), a woman and her children, and Santa Claus. —Martinez Milton Photo



MKE Cnty Sheriff Earnell Lucas and his deputies went shopping for food items to put in Christmas dinner baskets for area families at Metcalfe's Market recently. Also participating were the Milwaukee Deputy Sheriff's Association (MDSA), and Reach A Child. The sheriff, his deputies and local partners shopped, assembled and distributed 125 baskets. Also included with the food items were sleds for the family to enjoy during the holiday season. —Photo by Faithe Colas



COVID-19 not stopping men's movement to end Human Trafficking

Five-week HEMAD Campaign is raising awareness and seeks an end to societal scourge

A men's movement to oppose human trafficking is picking up steam despite lockdown measures to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus.



Rep. Jason Fields

Through December 20, more than 20,000 men in Wisconsin and seven other states have taken the HEMAD pledge to stand against human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of adults and children.

HEMAD (Human trafficking Educators working with Men and boys to stand Against the Demand) is a program of Convergence Resource Center (CRC), a faith-based nonprofit community service organization

(continued on page 3)



Dr. Corbett

Black woman, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, developed scientific approach to the COVID-19 vaccine

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the leading infectious disease doctor and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, recently addressed the African American community's fears of accepting the new coronavirus vaccine.

"To my African American brothers and sisters ... this vaccine that you're gonna be taking was developed by an African American woman. And that is just a fact," Dr. Fauci proclaimed during a National Urban League event.

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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

THE LOVELY CHRISTMAS SEASON
IN WHICH WE ALL DELIGHT,
BRINGS US JOY AND HAPPINESS
WITH ALL ITS BEAUTY BRIGHT

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TO CHEER YOUR HEART LONG AFTER
ITS HAPPY HOURS ARE PAST.

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Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, developed scientific approach to the COVID-19 vaccine

(continued from front page)

Dr. Fauci noted that Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, a Black woman, has been at the forefront of the vaccine process.

He added that it is vital to recognize the U.S.'s history of racism that's led to great mistrust from the Black community.

Dr. Fauci exclaimed that the vaccine is safe.

"The very vaccine that's one of the two that has absolutely exquisite levels – 94 to 95 percent efficacy against clinical disease and almost 100 percent efficacy against serious disease that are shown to be clearly safe – that vaccine was actually developed in my institute's vaccine research center by a team of scientists led by Dr. Barney Graham and his close colleague, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, or Kizzy Corbett," Dr. Fauci stated.

Dr. Corbett, 34, is an accomplished research fellow and the scientific lead for the Coronavirus Vaccines & Immunopathogenesis Team at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Vaccine Research Center (VRC).

According to her biography, Dr. Corbett received a B.S. in Biological Sciences, with a secondary major in Sociology, in 2008 from the University of Maryland – Baltimore County, where she was a Meyerhoff Scholar and an NIH undergraduate scholar.

She then enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she obtained her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology in 2014.

A viral immunologist by training, Dr. Corbett is known for using her expertise to propel novel vaccine development for pandemic preparedness.

Appointed to the VRC in 2014, her work focuses on developing novel coronavirus vaccines.

Dr. Corbett has 15 years of expertise studying dengue virus, respiratory syncytial virus, influenza virus, and coronaviruses.

Along with her research activities, Dr. Corbett is an active member of the NIH Fellows Committee and an avid advocate of STEM education and vaccine awareness in the community.

"History books will celebrate the name and achievements of Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the Black Woman who was the leader in developing the COVID-19 Vaccine," Barbara Arnwine, president



and founder of Transformative Justice Coalition, wrote on Twitter.

"She developed the specific scientific approach to mitigating the coronavirus."

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected African Americans, who make up a large percentage of the more than 290,000 U.S. residents to die from the virus.

One study released by the COVID Collaborative, the NAACP and UnidosUS revealed that 14 percent of Black Americans trust a vaccine will be safe, and 18 percent trust it will be effective.

Much of the concern stems from pervasive racism in medical research and healthcare, notably the 1932 Tuskegee experiment.

"I would say to people who are vaccine-hesitant that you've earned the right to ask the questions that you have around these vaccines and this vaccine development process," Dr. Corbett told CNN.

"Trust, especially when it has been stripped from people, has to be rebuilt in a brick-by-brick fashion. And so, what I say to people first is that I empathize, and then secondly is that I'm going to do my part in laying those bricks. And I think that if everyone on our side, as physicians and scientists, went about it that way, then the trust would start to be rebuilt."

COVID-19 not stopping men's movement to end Human Trafficking

(continued from front page)

helping women rebuild their lives after trauma with an emphasis on justice involved women and female survivors of human trafficking.

"The response to this effort has been amazing. We've had men's groups and churches in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina and California join us," said State Rep. Jason Field, who has introduced or supported a number of bills aimed at helping human trafficking victims escape the commercial sex trade.

"People all over are recognizing that the commercial sex trade exists in cities, suburbs, small towns, rural areas and tribal lands," he said. "It is a multi-million-dollar criminal enterprise that we must put out of business. It is victimizing vulnerable teen boys and girls in every community."

The HEMAD campaign, now in its third year, kicked off just before Thanksgiving and runs until Dec. 28. Organizers hope 60,000 men will go to CRC's website (<https://www.convergenceresource.org/hemad>) or YouTube to watch a 3-minute video and take the pledge.

"While there have been some in-person presentations made at churches, many more are being done virtually through Zoom, Skype, Teams or Facebook Live," said Arnold Cifax, senior youth pastor at New Testament Church in Milwaukee and a CRC board member. "People have quickly adapted to using these methods to stay connected and share information despite the pandemic. We conducted several training sessions for volunteer ambassadors through Zoom and have been using social media to spread the word."

One such virtual event was the Alpha Kappa Alpha holiday party held December 19. During the Zoom event, CRC co-founder and CEO Debbie Lassiter showed the HEMAD video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYOe-Muhmf1E&t=29s>) illustrating the issue of human trafficking and how men can play a key role in ending the demand of sex trafficking. She then led the

99 attendees in the pledge.

"We encourage individuals and organizations to watch the video and take the pledge. They should email us at hemad@convergenceresource.org if they want one of our ambassadors to conduct a short presentation in-person or virtually," said Lassiter. "While this campaign is focused through the end of the year, we have presentations already scheduled into January and are happy to do any and all in the coming weeks and months. This is an important issue happening all year long."

Cifax noted that high-profile arrests of Jeffrey Epstein associates Ghislaine Maxwell and Peter Nygard as well as local cases involving federal charges in sex trafficking has raised awareness of the issue.

"Statistics show that 80 percent of human trafficking cases in the U.S. involve sex trafficking, and that more than half of the criminal trafficking cases in the U.S. involve children," noted Cifax. "One in three runaways will be lured into sexual exploitation within 48 hours of leaving home and the average age of entry into the commercial sex trade is 13 – that is a kid in the seventh grade!"

"About 300,00 children are at risk of being sex trafficked each year in the U.S.," add Fields. "That's the combined populations of Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha and Wauwatosa or Green Bay, Eau Claire, Sheboygan, Oak Creek, Mequon and Germantown. That's a lot of kids and they are worth saving!"

Fields added that nearly 45,000 cases of human trafficking have been reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888 or text 233733) in the past five years and the number of human trafficking cases in the U.S. is rising every year.

"Traffickers are using social media platforms to recruit and advertise. But we can use those same social media tools to fight this epidemic and squash the demand for commercial sex trafficking," said Fields. "Working together, we can put this multimillion-dollar demand-driven industry out of business."

MATC Appoints New Vice Presidents in Student Success and Human Resources

MATC Appoints Dr. Naydeen Gonzalez-De Jesus Executive Vice President of Student Success and Laquitha "Elle" Bonds Vice President of Human Resources



Laquitha 'Elle' Bonds

Milwaukee Area Technical College has hired two new leaders who will shape enhanced student and employee workplace experiences and strengthen MATC's position as an educational leader in our community.

Dr. Naydeen Gonzalez-De Jesus has been appointed executive vice president of student success and Laquitha "Elle" Bonds has been named vice president of human resources.

"We are proud to announce that two outstanding leaders will fill these extremely important positions at the college," said Dr. Vicki J. Martin, MATC president.

"This is a pivotal and extraordinary time for MATC, which is navigating organizational change to drive greater student success. Our new organizational structure is centered on creating a student



Dr. Naydeen Gonzalez-DeJesus

experience that focuses on eliminating our achievement gaps so all students can succeed. These experienced leaders will help shape these important efforts."

The new position of executive vice president of student success brings together academics and student services in a new structure for MATC.

Dr. Gonzalez-De Jesus will ensure collaborative strategy and implementation of initiatives to improve students' educational experience at MATC -- and their preparation for success after graduation.

She will oversee the vice president, enrollment management; the vice president, learning; the vice president, retention and completion; the executive directors of the Mequon, Oak Creek and West Allis campuses; and the student Title IX coordinator.

She will play a vital role in the college's firm commitment to the nationally-recognized Guided

Pathways framework to help more students graduate and achieve their dreams.

Gonzalez-De Jesus most recently served as the public diplomacy officer for the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, dedicating her time to impacting the lives of students from the U.S. and abroad by creating connections and platforms for student success and faculty-led research.

Her previous roles include serving as vice president of student affairs for Bergen Community College in New Jersey; associate dean, academic advising, and working with special populations at Rowan College at Burlington County in New Jersey; and as assistant dean of student services, and founding member and director of the Center for Student Success at Salem Community College in New Jersey.

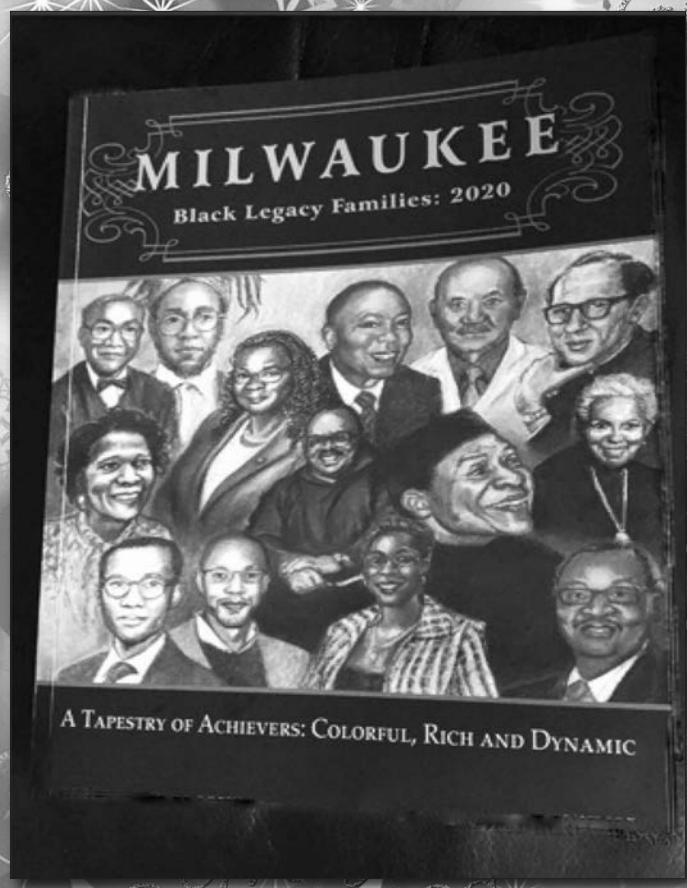
While at Bergen, Dr. Gonzalez-De Jesus led Project Graduation, an initiative that was nationally highlighted through the American Association of Community College's 21st Century Center, which also received several Bellwether Award nominations for its ability to help students complete their college education, thus moving the needle on student success with a focus on equity.

She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Penn State University, a master's degree in student personnel services from Rowan University and a doctorate from Northcentral University in industrial/organizational psychology.

"I see this role as a strategic opportunity to position equity, through inclusion and social justice, at the center of everything we do at MATC to increase student success," said Gonzalez-De Jesus. "MATC's mission to transform lives is what attracted me to MATC -- the laser focus on strategic community involvement to

(continued on page 4)

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE, ACHIEVEMENTS, PERSONAL COMMITMENTS THAT HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE THE BLACK COMMUNITY OF MILWAUKEE!



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drntscholarshipfund.org and read about the fund in an article by Sam Woods, in the October 13, 2020 edition of the Neighborhood News Service (NNS). THANKS!

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RELIGION



Recognizing a 'straight shooter'!
Riley Dotson, Jr. (at left) recently received the 'That Boy Can Shoot Shooting Guard of the Decade' award from Elder Ricky L. Price, Sr., the founder and president of 'A Weekend with The Teamsters.' The award recognizes individuals who mentor and serve as role models for youth in the community. 'A Weekend with The Teamsters' is an annual educational conference and banquet held over a three-day weekend, and is sponsored by the Milwaukee Teamsters and brings together Teamster leaders and community leaders from all over North America to communicate, educate and empower. This photo was taken at Barack Obama High School.—Photo by Kim Robinson

RELIGIOUS BOOKSHELF

Imagine what it would be like to pray for miracles and see them happen right in front of your eyes! When he was just 15 years old, Dr. Andrew Nkoyoyo prayed for a blind man, and before hundreds of witnesses, God gave the man his sight. Is Dr. Nkoyoyo one of the chosen few born with a unique spiritual gift, or is the ability to access and walk in God's supernatural power something all believers can cultivate?

In *Catch and Release God's Supernatural*, author Dr. Andrew Nkoyoyo shows readers how to operate in the power of God despite their spiritual maturity or call, even if they're a new believer with no prior experience in God's supernatural. Nkoyoyo believes that we are in a crucial time, and that God is raising up those who desire to go to the next level.

"We choose to be chosen," Nkoyoyo said during a recent interview with Dr. Francis Myles (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRnoOQHsprQ>). "It's not happening by accident. God is giving us opportunities, and He's waiting on our response."

In *Catch and Release God's Supernatural*, Nkoyoyo says he will:

Show you how the power of God will make a shift in your life so that you can be victorious and transform the lives of others.

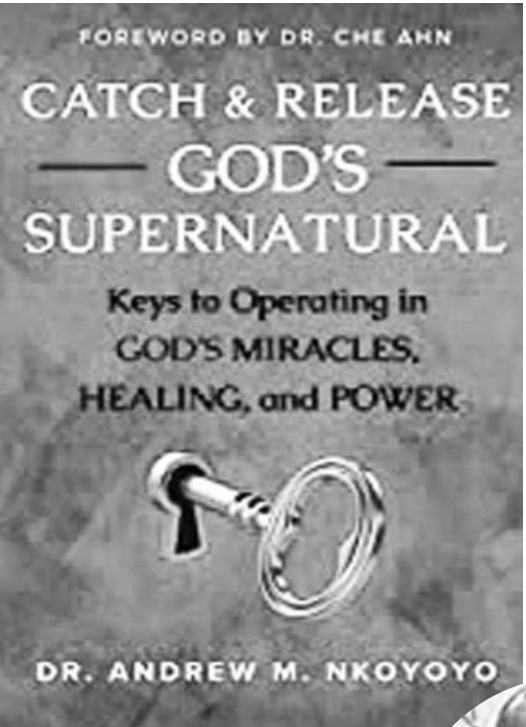
Reveal the simple yet powerful kingdom keys, secrets and methods needed to release God's supernatural

Guide you step by step on how to apply each kingdom key in your life so that you can access heaven and unleash the miracle worker in you

Interweave powerful supernatural testimonies and stories he experienced both personally and in ministry to demonstrate each key

Even before you finish the book, Nkoyoyo says your confidence in God's ability to use you will increase as you become more spiritually

The Most Powerful Resource We All Need Right Now: The Supernatural Power of God



equipped to apply these keys to each situation you encounter. You'll soon find yourself operating in God's miracles, healing and power, changing people's lives for Jesus, and catching and releasing the supernatural power of God!

Author Dr. Andrew Nkoyoyo is the founder and president of Kingdom Impact Ministry. He is a revivalist, international speaker, host of the Kingdom Come TV program, apostolic/prophetic minister, author, and missionary from Uganda, East Africa, to the United States. Additionally, Nkoyoyo is a member of Harvest International Ministry, an apostolic network.

His Kingdom Come broadcast program and streaming media reaches people in more than 195 countries every day. He has shared miracle healing and revival stories on Sid Roth's TV program *It's Supernatural*. He has also shared the platform with speakers and Christian recording artists such as The Newsboys, For King and Country, Nick Vujicic, Jaci Velasquez, Sidewalk Prophets, Kutless, The Afters, Uncle Reese and many more.

Nkoyoyo is also the author of *Working the Works of God*, a book expounding on the keys to supernatural ministry. He focuses on inspiring the body of Christ and communities toward a great spiritual revival and awakening that has the power to transform society. With an obvious passion to impact lives with the message of Christ through God's power, miracles, healing, signs, wonders and prophetic ministry, he equips Christians to catch and release God's supernatural love and power daily. He and his wife, Mona, have four beautiful children and make their home in Montrose, Colorado.

For more information, please visit www.kingdomimpactministry.org, or connect with the author on Facebook: @kingdomimpactministry; Instagram: @kingdomimpacttv; and Twitter: @kingdomimpacttv.

Catch and Release God's Supernatural: Keys to Operating in God's Miracles, Healing, and Power

Publisher: Spirit Life Publishing
Release Date: December 1, 2020
ASIN: B08K9FXQ7Y (eBook)
Available from www.kingdomimpactministry.org/supernaturalGod and Amazon.com



Dr. Andrew Nkoyoyo

ANTI-TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION HOLDS COAT GIVEAWAY!

Dana World-Patterson (pictured at left, in the center), the founder and executive director of Foundations for Freedom, was recently joined by staff and volunteers at 32nd Street and Lisbon Avenue where the organization gave out 600-plus coats, sweaters and boots to 116 adults.

The event was part of Foundations for Freedom's 'For My Sisters Boots Edition and 13 Live. I AM HER!' Foundations for Freedom is an organization on the frontline of eradicating human trafficking through education, advocacy, awareness, and prevention while strengthening women and girls and reducing vulnerabilities that are magnets for traffickers.

During the coat giveaway, a young woman came forward for help, saying she was sick and tired of 'the life' of prostitution. For more information, or to get help if you or someone you know is being trafficked, call 414-323-7273 (office) or 414-698-4187 (cell). Online, they can be reached at wwwFOUNDATIONS4Freedom.org.



MATC Appoints New Vice Presidents in Student Success and Human Resources

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empower students through education that leads to family-sustaining jobs."

As vice president of human resources, Bonds succeeds Cheryl Zima. Bonds leads the Human Resources Department by utilizing best industry policies, practices and trends to oversee talent management, succession planning, innovation, collaboration, employee recognition, compensation and benefits programs, legal compliance, data analysis and other HR systems. Among her responsibilities are positioning the college as a preferred place to work and serving as a change agent for diversity, equity, inclusion and multiculturalism.

Bonds was director of talent operations at Waukesha County Technical College for the past nine years. During that time she designed and implemented their first HR Partner business model, led the college through a compensation study and served as the affirmative action officer as well as deputy Title IX coordinator. Prior to that, Bonds worked for local hospital systems for nine years. She holds a bachelor's degree in management and communications from Concordia University and a master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, one of the largest African-American sororities in the world, which has received international recognition for service to the community. The Milwaukee chapter has been honored for commitment to offering

resources, support and programming for Milwaukee's inner city.

"Being a life-long Milwaukeean, I know the rich history of MATC. I am excited to join the college as we look to reshape the way in which we provide services to our community and position MATC as an employer of choice," Bonds said. "The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose challenges in our lives and our workplaces. In the midst of all of this, MATC is moving forward with new strategic priorities -- the student experience, organizational excellence, equity and community impact."

Wisconsin's largest technical college and one of the most diverse two-year institutions in the Midwest, Milwaukee Area Technical College is a key driver of southeastern Wisconsin's economy and has provided innovative education in the region since 1912. Nearly 35,000 students per year attend the college's four campuses and community-based sites or learn online. MATC offers affordable and accessible education and training opportunities that empower and transform lives in the community. The college offers more than 150 academic programs; and transfer options leading to bachelor's degrees with more than 35 four-year colleges and universities. Overwhelmingly, MATC graduates build careers and businesses in southeastern Wisconsin. The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.



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PERSPECTIVES



COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance: A Black physician's plea to the Black community

Dr. Florencia Greer Polite



Dr. Florencia Greer Polite

As I walked to the top floor of the Perelman Center to receive the novel COVID-19 vaccine, I was filled with an emotion I had not felt in some time: hope. Yet there was something else on my mind at that moment as a physician of African descent:

Tuskegee.

I told my colleague that while our country could never undo the harm it caused to the many families directly and indirectly affected by the inhumane acts of the Tuskegee syphilis experimentation, my hope was that this iteration of scientific discovery would be restorative.

Black Americans have expressed skepticism about the COVID-19 vaccine that needs to be confronted head-on. Make no mistake, this reluctance is well deserved. The medical profession has a long history of mistreatment of Blacks at the hands of those who have taken an oath to “first do no harm.”

Most notably physicians have shown a disregard for the health of the Black community through the Tuskegee experiments but more commonly, in the number of ways that health disparities exist in our country (with worse survival rates for almost every cancer, delays in treatment for common medical disorders, and the ravaging effects of COVID-19 and its 2-3-fold increased mortality among African Americans).

The COVID-19 vaccine has the opportunity to either further exacerbate the effects of this devastating disease or begin to close the gap in this most recent example of health-care disparities.

Notably, our Black community deserves accurate information about the vaccine and its side effects, including:

The fact that the vaccine is not a live virus vaccine, and thus, is not giving its recipients COVID.

The manufacturers reported 95% efficacy of the vaccine based on clinical trials.

The initial study group of

30,000 participants found few side effects as the non-mRNA vaccine components are found in most packaged medications.

If there was real concern about the effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, medical professionals who

A personal Christmas tribute to my pal, late New York Mayor Dave Dinkins

By Richard G. Carter

“The best way to remember a man is to keep on fighting for what is right...” Zakes Mokae, "A Dry White Season" (1979)

The recent passing, at 93, of my dear friend David N. Dinkins -- New York City's only Black mayor -- is especially poignant to me this Christmas for a memorable reason.

Recalling the many times he called me to compliment one of my columns in the New York Daily News, I counted on my special relationship with Mr. Dinkins -- the way I often referred to him -- for a special event during Christmas week in 1998.

I invited Mr. Dinkins -- the city's mayor from 1990-93 -- to be my special guest speaker at a popular class I taught on “Media and Race Relations” at the New School for Social Research, on W. 12th St. in New York's Greenwich Village.

Showing up in a snazzy tennis jacket which he doffed to reveal spiffy, black formal attire, the dapper, mustachioed Dinkins charmed my two dozen students -- Black and White -- joined by a crowd of several hundred city residents who paid to hear him speak.

During my glowing introduction of him from the podium, many attendees moved up front to take photos (one included here) -- prompting the former mayor to smile broadly, lean over, and whisper, “Richard, I think a lot of these folks are here to see you, not me.”

The classy, scholarly Mr. Dinkins followed the ineffective Ed Koch and preceded the notorious Rudy Giuliani as New York mayor and fought to cool racial tensions stoked in the Koch era. Along the way, he always comported himself with sensitivity and dignity.

As first Black chief executive of the nation's largest city, Mr. Dinkins was the biggest name in a who's-who of American Black mayors -- causing millions of Black people everywhere to rejoice, and millions of Whites to begin to see the light.

As a result, Mr. Dinkins told me how fortunate he felt to join the ranks of Carl B. Stokes, Willie Brown, Charles Evers, Andrew Young, Maynard Jackson, Kurt Schmoke, Harold Washington, Michael White, Wellington Webb, Coleman Young, Norman Rice, Sharon Pratt Kelly and Marion Barry, among many others.

Mr. Dinkins first venture into politics prior to his run for mayor, was as a New York State Assemblyman in 1966. He was president of the New York City Board of Elections from 1972-

“Kwanzaa's seven principles—unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith—are also shared values that bind us as Americans. And in the spirit of the season, we reflect on the blessings of the past year and commit to building a brighter future for all our children.”

—Barack Obama



are currently under-staffed in our fight against COVID, would not volunteer to be the first group to receive the vaccine under the Emergency Use Authorization.

Masking and social distancing will be necessary until our community develops herd immunity — the result of a high proportion of individuals becoming immune to the disease, most often through vaccination.

Medical decisions almost always lie in the evaluation of the risks versus benefits. In this case, we are being asked to weigh the risks of contracting COVID-19 versus the risks of receiving the vaccine.

While many people who contract COVID-19 will only suffer mild effects, our current death toll of over 315,000 in the USA illustrates its deadly potential. And for Blacks, there are a number of social determinants of health that lead to a disproportionate number of fatal cases, including crowded

work environments and living conditions, reliance on public transportation systems, decreased access to quality care, and lack of health insurance.

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are meant to stimulate an immune response that can temporarily cause one to feel sore arms, fevers, chills, or headaches. In reality, feeling a little sick from the vaccine is not comparable to the potential deadly effects of COVID-19 itself.

As a frontline healthcare worker, I have seen the devastating effects of the coronavirus over the last 9 months.

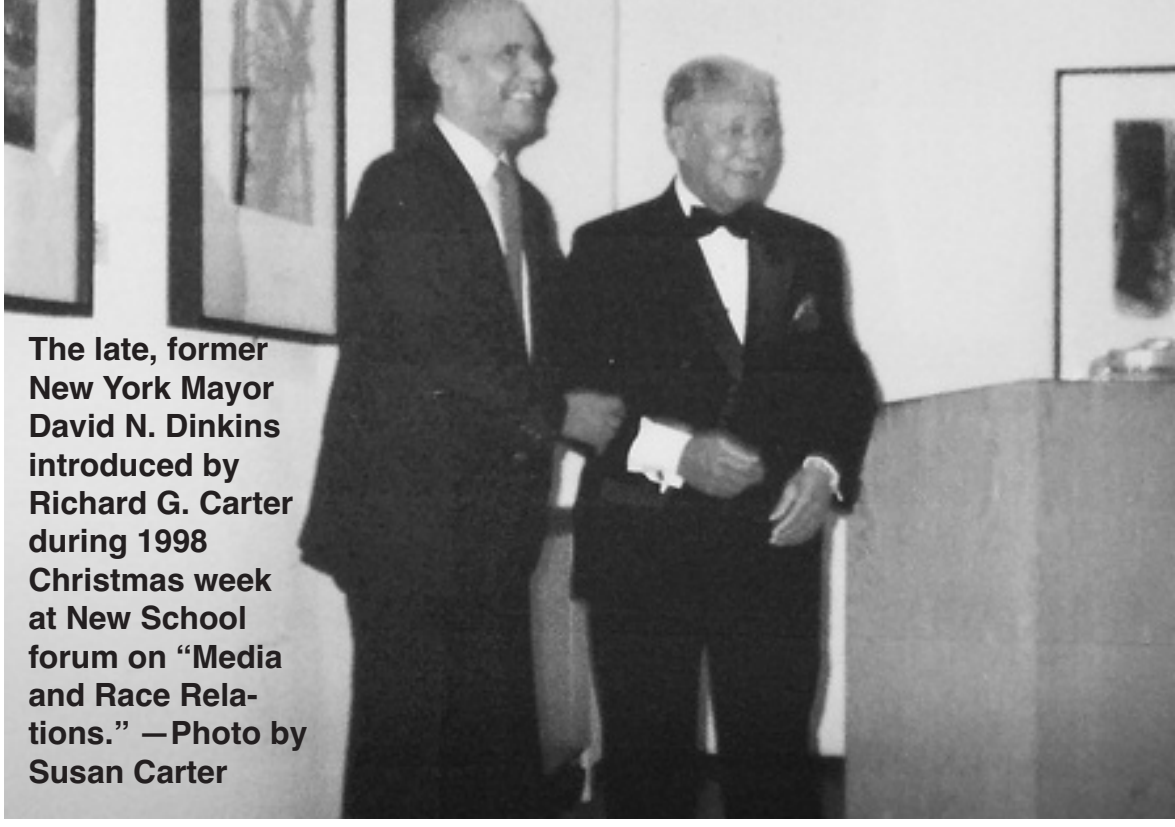
I have mourned the loss of family members, friends and patients, too young to have succumbed so quickly to the perils of this virus. Thus, I welcomed the opportunity to become vaccinated early.

Like many Black physicians, I have been vocal about the need to address our community directly:

to own the past mistakes of the medical profession, to acknowledge the current disparities that exist in healthcare and to share with our community why we think this vaccine is not only important, but vital in the efforts to decrease the destruction of the coronavirus.

I trust the science behind the vaccine and I hope that when the time comes for the vaccine to become available to the public, that my community will be ready to trust the medical profession again. I can only imagine the devastation if we opt out of this scientific revelation.

Dr. Florencia Greer Polite is an Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology and Chief of the Division of General OBGYN at the University of Pennsylvania – Perelman School of Medicine. She has served on the front-line caring for patients with COVID-19 at Penn Medicine.



The late, former New York Mayor David N. Dinkins introduced by Richard G. Carter during 1998 Christmas week at New School forum on “Media and Race Relations.” —Photo by Susan Carter

73, later served as New York city clerk and was elected Manhattan Borough President in 1985. Then came the big one.

How well I recall, in September 1989, when Mr. Dinkins and Giuliani appeared, separately, at the Daily News' editorial board as mayoral candidates. Dave quietly explained to the editorial writers and reporters, while Rudy loudly lectured us.

There was little doubt, at the time, that the brunt of the burden for improving New York City's stormy racial climate rested squarely on the shoulders of its next mayor -- Dinkins or Giuliani. During the Mayor Koch years dating back to 1977, relations between Black people and White people had progressively deteriorated.

A Daily News/Eyewitness News poll on Sept. 20, 1989, had Dinkins leading Giuliani by a whopping 23 points -- 53 to 30-percent. However, by Nov. 2, his lead had shrunk to between 4 and 14-percent, sparked by contentious candidate debates.

The lively campaign at times resembled a heavyweight championship boxing match. After the final bell was sounded, Mr. Dinkins vanquished Giuliani to become the city's 106th mayor. Along with millions of Black New Yorkers, I shouted Glory Hallelujah!

Giuliani got his revenge and narrowly became mayor in 1993 when Mr. Dinkins' 48.3 percent of the vote declined from 51-percent in 1989 -- which cost him reelection.

Politics aside, the New Jersey-born Mr. Dinkins lived a full life which included service in the United States Marine Corps in 1945-46. He graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Howard University in 1950, and a earned a law degree at Brooklyn Law School in 1956.

That same year, Mr. Dinkins met and married the late Joyce Burrows -- the daughter of a New York State Assemblyman -- whom I also was honored to know. Over the years, the stately couple was inseparable, appearing arm-in-arm at high-profile civic events.

Among his personal interests, Mr. Dinkins was an avid tennis

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Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin Hosts 20th Annual Season of Giving Blood Drive

Donors asked to help by sharing a life-saving gift

Blood donors have an opportunity to top off the holiday season by donating one of the most precious gifts of all at the 20th Annual Season of Giving Blood Drive. It takes place Monday, Dec. 28 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 29 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo Peck Welcome Center, 10001 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee.

Blood donations are especially needed this time of year, when donations tend to go down because of additional family commitments. Donations of all blood types are needed, but there is a critical need for O negative donors who carry the universal blood type given to patients in emergency situations.

“The need for blood never ends, and it is a critical need,” says Dr. Dan Waxman, vice president of transfusion medicine and senior medical officer at Versiti. “Now more than ever, Versiti Blood Centers needs people to step forward for their community and save a life by donating blood. In a year like 2020, when so much feels out of our control, the selfless act of blood donation lets you make a life-saving gift for free.”

Every two seconds, someone needs life-saving blood to survive. While medical technology has provided many life-saving discoveries over the years, there still is no substitute for blood, making it essential to hospitals every day of the year.

During the drive, Versiti will also be collecting COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) from eligible donors who’ve been pre-qualified. COVID Convalescent Plasma is a blood-related therapy used by hospitals to treat the most severely affected patients. The donated plasma contains antibodies, which can help seriously ill patients fight the infection.

Due to COVID-19, safety precautions will be in place, including social distancing and mandatory masks. COVID-19 antibody tests are being performed on all donations as part of Versiti’s standard testing. The test will inform the donor if they have antibodies reflective of a prior COVID-19 infection.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-877-BE-A-HERO (1-877-232-4376) or visit <https://www.versiti.org/seasonofgiving>. Appointments are preferred, but walk-in donors are also welcome. The entire process takes about an hour. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes birth date.

A Christmas tribute to late New York Mayor Dave Dinkins

(continued from page 5)

player into his 80s, often wearing a black tennis jacket. Well-known as a staunch supporter of big-time tennis, he moved the U.S. Open from Forest Hills to a more accessible Queens location.

One of my fun, personal memories of Mr. Dinkins, was our long conversation about Alfred Hitchcock’s classic 1951 suspense film “Strangers On a Train.” In it, tense, important scenes took place during play at Forest Hills. He told me he loved the movie.

After his tenure as the city’s high-profile, first Black chief executive, Mr. Dinkins published his memoir “A Mayor’s Life: Governing

New York’s Gorgeous Mosaic,” while serving as a professor at Columbia University.

Now, David N. Dinkins, my personal friend, belongs to the ages. I was privileged to have known such an accomplished, sensitive man and Black political leader, and cherish the times he invited me to visit him at Gracie Mansion -- official residence of the city’s mayors. They rank as highlights of my long career in print and broadcast journalism.

This Christmas week, especially, I find myself missing Mr. Dinkins so very much.

—*Milwaukee native Richard G. Carter is a freelance columnist*



Good Karma Brands’ 101.7 The Truth Launching January 4th, 2021

The station announces a lineup diverse in life experiences and thought

December 21, 2020 (Milwaukee, Wis.): Good Karma Brands is excited to announce 101.7 The Truth will launch at the beginning of the New Year, January 4th, 2021, with a group of talent filling the airwaves from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday. 101.7 T

he Truth is an audio platform that will embrace Milwaukee’s Black community — a marketplace where authentic conversations will challenge and inspire; incorporating raw, honest perspectives true to what is really going on in our communities.

Cherie Harris, 101.7 The Truth’s General Manager said: “The search for our on-air talent was not easy and every one of our hosts has a different perspective of Milwaukee. The city is home too many creative and talented voices who have a unique story to

share.”

The lineup on 101.7 The Truth, effective January 4:

7 – 10 a.m. Joe Brown and Melanie Ricks

10 – 1 p.m. Sherwin Hughes

1 – 4 p.m. Tory Lowe

4 – 6 p.m. Dr. Ken Harris

6 – 7 a.m. Re-airing of shows from the day

Kyle Wallace, Operations Manager of 101.7 The Truth said: “Our goal when recruiting was to find talent who were unapologetically and authentically Milwaukee, and we are confident we chose outstanding leaders who have already made an impact on the city through their service, advocacy, and fight for justice and equality.”

Joe Brown, a native of Milwaukee, has a passion for the city and entertainment. He is an in-game host for the Milwaukee Bucks and is looking forward to listening, learning and laughing with the entire city. Each morning from 7 to 10 a.m., Joe Brown will be alongside Melanie Ricks.

Melanie Ricks has a love for hosting, public speaking and dancing, previously a member of the Milwaukee Bucks dance team and currently seen as an in-game host with the Milwaukee Bucks. Most recently, she hosted the 2020 NBA All Star Game in Chicago.

Sherwin Hughes will take the mic mid-morning. He has a lengthy background working in public policy, working for Congressman Tom Barrett during the 107th Con-

tinental Congress, and in 2005, was appointed to lead and chair the Wisconsin State Elections Board.

He has a true passion for broadcast journalism, most recently heard on “The Forum,” a program which aired on two other Milwaukee radio stations from 2012 to 2019.

Tory Lowe is an advocate seeking to abolish the socioeconomic segregation and racial tension that continues to plague our inner-city communities in hopes of promoting a more stable, thriving society.

He has personally assisted in locating over 188 registered missing people in the city of Milwaukee. His passion and experience will capture listeners during the afternoon hours each weekday.

Dr. Ken Harris joins the station as a retired Lieutenant from the Milwaukee Police Department, current Assistant Dean of Professional Development and Program Chair of the Bachelor of Science in Justice and Public Policy at Concordia University, and with several decades of media experience as an announcer, host, and producer in radio.

He will close out each weekday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Beginning January 4th, listen to 101.7 The Truth on The Truth App or 1017thetruth.com.

Follow all of our social media platforms: Facebook @101.7 The Truth, Instagram @101.7 The Truth, and Twitter @101.7 The Truth.



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