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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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Arts & Mingle

Data Zone Page 8

August 25 - August 31, 2012 47th Year Volume 16 www.ladatanews.com



Data News Weekly Turns 46

The Soul of New Orleans

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Special Feature
Data News Weekly
Trailblazers 2011-2012

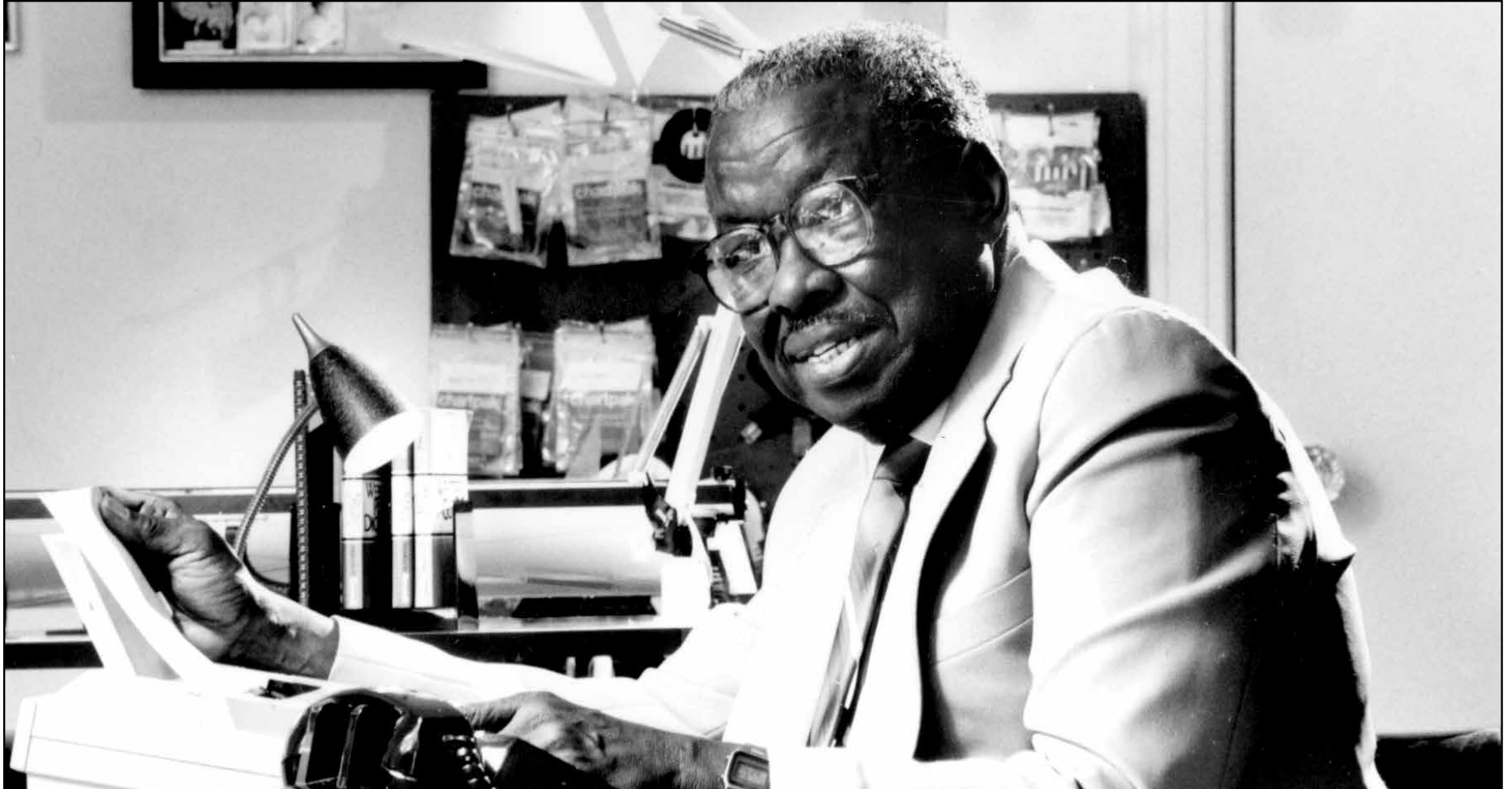
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Continuing a Tradition as being the People's Paper Data News Weekly Turns Forty-Six



Data News Weekly Founder and Publisher Emeritus Joseph M. "Scoop" Jones

By Edwin Buggage

Data News Weekly: A Rich History with Roots in the Community

It was forty-six years ago that Joseph "Scoop" Jones started Data News Weekly against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement. Today his legacy lives on as a pioneer, as someone who has been hailed for providing an invaluable service to the City's African-American community. Today Data

News Weekly is strong as ever as a second generation and it is at the helm forging ahead in its mission as being "The People's Paper." "We are glad to continue to serve our City in the proud tradition my father set out giving the African-American community a place to have a voice," says present Publisher Terry Jones who has been running the paper for a quarter of a century.

Rev. Samson "Skip" Alexander is a veteran in the Civil Rights Movement and a New Orleans Historian, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and knew "Scoop" Jones. "I remember when "Scoop" began the paper and people couldn't wait to read it because it gave us a slice of Black New Orleans." Continuing he says, "It showed us in a way that gave a complete picture of who we are, unlike in the mainstream media that usually portrayed us in a negative light."

During his illustrious life "Scoop" Jones not only published a paper but he mentored young people

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



"It is a paper that not only gives a pulse of the African- American community, and it not only looks at the problems, but it also focuses on solutions and that is the one thing that I can say that has been a constant in the Data News Weekly," says Don Hubbard. (pictured back row left)

Mr. "Scoop" Jones gave us a platform to express our concerns, he was always a man who stood for something fair and just and Data News Weekly is still known in the community as just that, a paper that represents the vision, struggle and celebration of Black New Orleans." said Fred Johnson

and supported their activism. Dyan French Cole, known to the community as "Mama D", has long been involved in the struggle for racial equality. She was one of the young people "Scoop" Jones mentored, reflecting back she says, "He was a great man, and a motivator, he was someone who created a publication that wasn't afraid to discuss and address issues in our community and today the paper continues to do that for the people of New Orleans."

Data News Weekly: "The People's Paper"

Data News Weekly has always been at the forefront of civic activism, and true to its motto as "The People's Paper". Fred Johnson has been involved in activism since his early years as a high school student at Joseph S. Clark High School. He's known current Publisher Terry Jones since their days together as student activists. "Back in 1970 we were marching to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday, and we were also involved in activities that were about empowering our community

and Mr. "Scoop" Jones gave us a platform to express our concerns; he was always a man who stood for something fair and just and Data News Weekly is still known in the community as just that; a paper that represents the vision, struggle and celebration of Black New Orleans."

"It is a paper that not only gives a pulse to the African-American community, and it not only looks at the problems, but it also focuses on solutions; and that is the one thing that I can say that has been a constant in the Data News Weekly," says Don Hubbard, who today is a businessman, but as a young man was a youth activist that led the fight against segregation in New Orleans as a founding member of the local chapter of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and S.O.U.L. (Southern Organization for Unified Leadership).

Newspapers have always been used to tell the story of a people, its aspirations and history. A fact not lost on Rev. Alexander as he speaks about Data News Weekly giving a slice of Black New Orleans and

its importance and historical significance, "As a historian of my people, a history that is now even more important as the City is going through so many changes right now; I can think back when Data News Weekly would cover the shows they use to have at Mason's, the Dew Drop Inn and other places around town. Then there were things going on at churches that they would cover, and all the local sports with "Champ" Clark and photos of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Data News Weekly was our place to celebrate and reflect on ourselves and I am glad to see it is still around telling our story for future generations."

Data News Weekly: Continues to Light the Fire that Inspires a Community Into Action

For now what is nearing five decades Data News Weekly has given the citizens of New Orleans news they can use. "Data News Weekly since the days of "Scoop" Jones has been an inspiration to our community and I take

my hat off to Terry Jones to continue in the tradition set by his father," says Don Hubbard. Many in the community echo many of the same sentiments, Dyan "Mama D" Cole says, "Data News Weekly is an independent voice and it promotes community and people who are doing things such for example features such as the Trailblazer and other outreach programs the paper has done over the years; Data News is one of a few papers that still have their ear to the streets and speak for the people whose words are sometimes not heard." Continuing she says, "Scoop" was a man who stood for principles and values and the paper has continued to carry the torch he lit with Data News Weekly 46 years later.

"Data News Weekly has always been about supporting what's fair and just," says Fred Johnson "It is my hope that Data News Weekly is around for another 100 years fighting the righteous fight and showing the best of Black New Orleans." As Data News Weekly has moved into the

21st Century, Publisher Terry Jones is committed to moving the paper into the next generation, "We are presently working to increase our web presence and meeting people where they are; and while we are embracing technological advances, our goal of being 'The People's Paper' has not changed."

While many publications have come and gone Data News Weekly is forging ahead in its mission started by its founder Joseph "Scoop" Jones and now in the able hands of his son Terry Jones. "We faced several challenges particularly after Hurricane Katrina, but we endured and became more relevant as a paper giving people hope in the darkest hour and keeping them abreast of what was going on in the City. And now that people from New Orleans are still spread out all over the country, we will continue to provide a newspaper that serves our people and tell our story; and on our birthday we reflect on yesterday, today and tomorrow for our City and our community."

Data News Weekly Presents 2011-2102 Trailblazers of the Month

Each month, Data News Weekly takes time out to honor those individuals who are doing extraordinary things in our community. Often times, with few resources, these dynamic persons make wonderful things happen for people who need a hand up, a leg up, an ear to listen, a voice to guide or just a friend to lean

on. We recognize them for their outstanding commitment to our community and for their time and efforts to make New Orleans a better place for all, Data News Weekly says "Thank You" we salute and present to you, the Trailblazers of the Month.

MAY 28, 2011

ZAKENYA PERRY

Dedicated to Making It Right



Zakenya Perry is a woman whose life has been committed to uplifting her community. Perry holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and for over a decade, has connected resources to those who are most needy.

In her years of working in the community she has assisted people of all ages. She has worked with Operation Reach, a program committed to helping young people through tutoring and mentoring; she has also worked with Community in Schools, the NFL Boys and Girls Club and with the Brad Pitt "Make It Right Foundation". "All of these organizations are aimed at helping people this gives me a great feeling, but I have also grown through giving to others," says Perry. Continuing she says, "I have found that in giving

you also learn about yourself in the process."

This was tested in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when Zakenya, who purchased a home located in the Lower Ninth Ward two months before the storm, saw her house washed away as the water came pouring in destroying her home. But this did not stop her will to rebuild, and to coin a phrase, 'Make It Right' she began to rebuild the pieces of her life while helping others in the ravaged Lower Ninth Ward. "It was a very trying time for me helping people while I too was in need, but it was a time all of us had to be strong for each other and that is one of the amazing things about the people in New Orleans; our connectedness in knowing we all were determined to put our lives back together."

JUNE 25, 2011

KIMBERLY RIVERS ROBERTS

Wading In the Water



Kimberly Rivers-Roberts is someone who has used her gifts to uplift her community and become a voice for the people of her embattled City. Many have become familiar with her story as the star and heroine of "Trouble the Water," the Oscar nominated documentary and winner of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. The film is executively produced by Actor, Activist and Humanitarian Danny Glover.

The film chronicles the life of Roberts and her husband Scott Roberts and their lives during and after Hurricane Katrina, "After leaving New Orleans we were in Alexandria, Louisiana and I saw these people filming and begin to talk to them not knowing that it would be something that would change my life," says Roberts "This movie was not only my story but it was all our stories of overcoming obstacles to rebuild our

lives after a tragedy."

During the days of Hurricane Katrina, Roberts helped save the lives of people in the Lower Ninth Ward capturing footage of this horrific event with a hand held video camera, she says of the tumultuous days, "It was a rough time and we were suffering; so we simply did what we had to do not thinking of ourselves as heroes it was just about all of us trying to stay alive."

The success of the movie has catapulted Roberts into worldwide fame; she has traveled the world talking about the story of her life and of her native City. "As I travel the world people always ask how is New Orleans," says Roberts. Continuing she says, "I tell them we are rebuilding and that we are a strong, beautiful and resilient people and we will rebuild, that is just who we are we can weather any storm."

trailblazer

JULY 23, 2011

EUGENE GREEN

The Business of Giving



Eugene Green Jr. is a person who is steeped in the spirit of positivity in his business and civic life. He has been a successful businessman for over two decades and served as the head of the Division of Economic Development during Marc Morial's Administration overseeing many projects that added to the City's bottom line. Today even in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina he sees a City ripe for opportunities for small business persons. "New Orleans is a City because of the lack of businesses owned by African-Americans I see opportunities because there are many services that we utilize that can be filled by African-American businesses entering into the mix," says Green.

As the City and the nation has seen a crisis as

it relates to urban Black males Green is on the frontlines in helping to eradicate the problems of hopelessness that plague so many youths today. "I work with the Boy Scouts and my church, and I also coach young kids because I recognize that being a positive force for change is important to give young people the tools they need to be successful," says Green. "Sometimes it may be as simple as encouraging a young person to believe in themselves to overcome their fear of failure and become a success."

Eugene Green is a man who has been a success in education, family, business and his civic activities. He is an example of what the best of New Orleans has to offer, giving selflessly of himself to the betterment of his City.

AUGUST 27, 2011

NAKINA EUGENE

Inspiration for the Next Generation



Nakina Eugene epitomizes the 21st Century woman. Early in life she was determined to be a success first graduating from Xavier University Preparatory School as the Salutatorian in 2001. Then Nakina was honored as the first recipient of the Arnold and Hazel Donald Scholarship Award. As a Donald Scholar, Miss Eugene received a full scholarship to Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She was the only African-American to major in Chemistry in her classification.

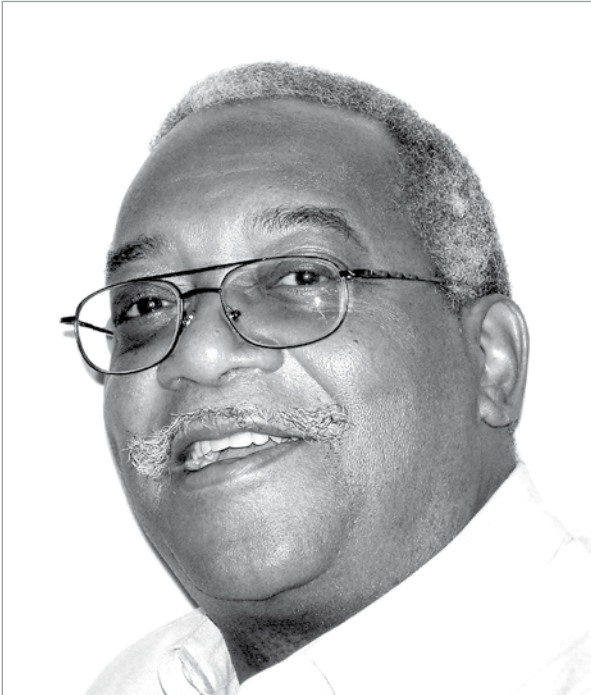
After graduating Carleton College, she enrolled in Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where she focused on Community Health Sciences. Graduating "magna cum laude", she received her Master's Degree in Public Health. "Helping people is my passion and is an extension of my Christian faith to help those that are in need," says Ms. Eugene.

Miss Eugene has done extensive work with the Louisiana Office of Mental Health and she also coordinated the Family Involvement Enhancement Project (FIEP) at the Louisiana Children's Museum. The FIEP focuses on empowering special needs families through trainings, which enhances their leadership, support, and communication skills.

Nakina plans to continue her work with special needs families through Parents United for Children's Mental Health, a non-profit that she is establishing with several parent leaders.

On her being Miss Black Louisiana and the meaning of beauty she says, "I feel true beauty is more an inner than outer thing, it is how you treat people, it is what you give to your community and how you uplift others and that is what I am trying to present as Miss Black Louisiana."

SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

CALVIN JOHNSON*Justice for All*

He is a man who has dedicated his life to service. Calvin Johnson is a man who in his professional as well as civic life strives to enrich the lives of others. Johnson is a retired Criminal District Court Judge and he is also a Law Professor at Loyola University. He says that education is important in uplifting the youth of today and thinks a more holistic approach to dealing with young people is essential to making them productive citizens.

As many simply diagnose problems, Johnson is someone who is on the frontlines offering solutions. He serves on several boards and works to help eradicate some of the things that lead people to lives of crime and vice. He runs a company called Metropolitan Human Service District that offers a variety of services in Orleans and neighboring parishes. "We are hands-on and anytime someone calls they can speak to someone, we offer mental health counseling,

help with substance abuse, transitional housing and a host of other services."

Johnson also sits on several other boards, one of which is Liberty's Kitchen, a social entrepreneurship program aimed at steering youth in the right direction. He also is the Board President of Youth Empowerment Project (YEP).

Calvin Johnson is a man who is committed to making his City and the world a better place. Continuing to give he is a man on a mission, "The true joy in life and prosperity is about being able to share yourself with other people and in turn gain from that sharing," remarks Johnson on what constitutes a good life. He is a man that is at a stage in his life he calls the third-thirty and he looks at it as an opportunity to do what he loves, and that is to serve and work for Justice for All. And today we honor Calvin Johnson as the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for September of 2011.

OCTOBER 29, 2011

SULA EVANS*Inside the Soul of a Survivor*

The October 2011 trailblazer Sula Evans is a spirit filled sister who is a breast cancer survivor and now uses her life example to light the path of darkness in the lives of women. Sula Evans truly encapsulates the strength of the Black woman and is continuing her life calling and mission to give back.

Evans is a woman whose life focuses on the empowerment of women as she is an advocate of holistic health and wellness and the empowerment of women around the globe. She is the founder of Na'Zyia Doula Collective. Na'Zyia in Swahili means a mother's love, Sula enthusiastically talks about how it has empowered women and giving them a better understanding and appreciation of natural childbirth. After one year in training and 700+ hours in delivery rooms the Na'Zyia Doula Collective has become certified as the first Doula Collective of Color in the State of Louisiana."

Sula Evans is also a successful entrepreneur, as the co-owner of King and Queen Emporium, a company that sells natural bath and body prod-

uct, handmade incense and other organic products. "I feel that a more organic way of living is important in our community and we should work harder to promote healthy living for the mind, body and soul."

As a woman who has dedicated her life to giving and in the prime of her life she received news that would alter her life and challenge her like never before in what would literally become a fight for her life. Sula received the shocking news that she had breast cancer. Giving advice to other woman who

may not have been to the doctor or women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer she says, "We are too afraid to be tested or do not have insurance, but if you can please check out free programs, don't let lack of insurance and other things get in the way of the help you may need that can save your life." During the Month of October which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we honor Sula Evans, a survivor who continues to inspire others.

NOVEMBER 26, 2011

PASTOR CRISPUS GORDON

Food For The Soul



He is a man who is a spiritual leader and one who is leading a church with roots in civic involvement. As Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, that was once led by the great Dr. Rev. A.L. Davis Jr. who was a beacon light in the community during the Civil Rights Movement. Today the church still stands at the corner of Third and LaSalle Street where the vision is still the same, helping to uplift a community.

Pastor Gordon in his many years in the ministry has always been dedicated to using the pulpit for social good.

As young people especially, young males, are absent from the pews and are disillusioned about civil action, Pastor Gordon

is on the frontlines trying to address this issue. "I feel there is a disconnect and we are all to blame, we have not passed on the legacy of struggle in a positive way to young people about the heroes of the past and making them realize the opportunities and access they have and that many of the things they do today were not always possible," says Gordon.

Pastor Gordon is an inspiration and gives his recipe for the qualities necessary for a life dedicated to service. He is marching on in the struggle in his mission to serve God and humanity. And for his service and commitment he has been selected as the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for the month of November.

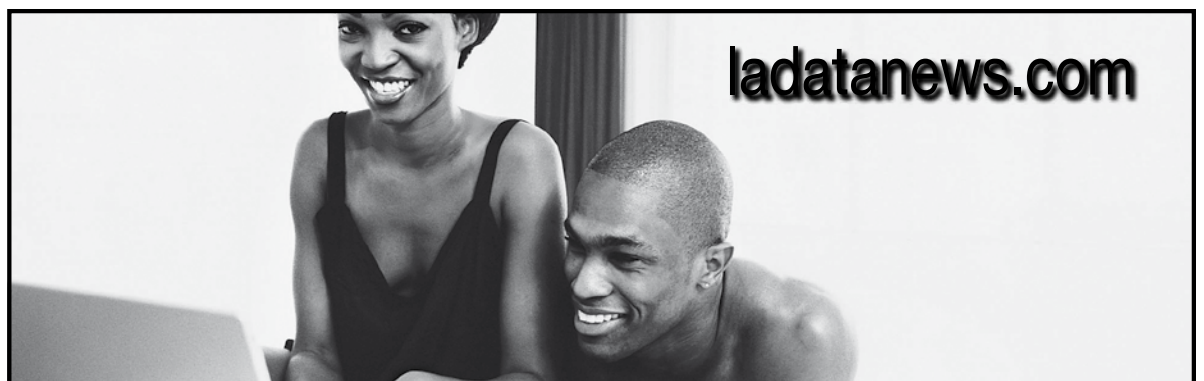


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CONGRATULATIONS

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

On your 46th ANNIVERSARY



The Arts-On Fire NOLA hosts "Arts and Mingle"

Photos and story by Raghan Duroseau

Each month The Arts-On Fire NOLA hosts "Arts and Mingle". This innovative idea provides the community with an opportunity to experience the talent of local artists, both new and seasoned, in efforts to shed light on underrepresented artists and art forms. "Arts and Mingle" creates an environment for artists and performers of all ages to cultivate their talents, and provides a launch pad through events, produc-

tions and exhibits that provide maximum exposure for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career and life in the arts, and keeping the community aware of art-related movements. This month's event was held at the House of Blues' Foundation Room. Featured artist Glenn St. Patrick unveiled original paintings as guests experienced the silky sounds of local artist Mykia Jovan while sipping on complimen-

tary cocktails and sampling the Foundation Room's five star menu.

The Arts-On Fire NOLA gives the community a unique cultural experience through the power of Art. Founded in 2008 The Arts-On Fire is an organization dedicated to increasing awareness of all art forms. Tickets to monthly events can be purchased at thearts-onfire.org or by phone at 504-710-5217.



Erica Duroseau, Glenn St. Patrick (featured artist), Wilbert Curtis



Paintings by Glenn St. Patrick



Mingling while enjoying the art

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Seven Years After Katrina

Inside the Diary of a Survivor



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

It has been seven years since our City faced the disaster of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath that left a City scarred and a skeleton of itself with an uncertain future. In these seven years the City has become better for some and worse for others depending upon your vantage point. After the storm some said that the City would become smaller, richer and whiter. And our former Mayor Ray

Nagin caused a stir by making controversial remarks that New Orleans will be a Chocolate City in response to those who feared African-American will not be able to return to the City. After Katrina, problems of race and class have become central in many of the issues facing the City moving forward. Today the City is at a crossroads where it must ask itself how the people of this great City can find a way to co-exist and share power.

Today New Orleans is seeing rapid change. And while the City is still majority African-American many of the institutions and neighborhoods are under assault either through plans that do not include working class Blacks in the area of housing, or a school system that's become a petri dish for disaster capitalism. Or the state attempting to shut down SUNO, one of our great institutes of higher learning

that for over a half a century been the gateway to the middle-class for countless African-Americans, but Whites are not the only one pointing fingers and placing blame. There also is a chorus of African-Americans who contend that New Orleans is becoming a City where carpetbaggers infest our communities and exploit or simply do not understand the City and its culture, history or significance when they have plans of what the City should be and that they are in fact doing more harm than good.

While I contend that change is a good thing, for this City because before Hurricane Katrina the City had many problems that needed to be addressed. But the question now for the City is who controls what and how people who have lived in these communities have a voice in how it's rebuilding and redeveloping? This is one of the questions in this strange tale of two cities. Where certain parts of town are bastions of development, while others lie as areas where blight and under development is seemingly acceptable. And that a city government continues to allow certain neighborhoods to look the same way they did seven years ago as havens for vermin, filth and toxicity.

And it seems not coincidentally many of these areas are inhabited by African-Americans. Moving forward we cannot continue to allow this to be the case in a City that prides itself as a first-class destination for tourists, but allow itself to continue to have Third World conditions only a few miles from the places they go to enjoy the City. While it is great that conventions and even the Super Bowl will be in New Orleans in 2013, what does that mean for people living in neighborhoods with high amounts of blight and lack of jobs that pay a living wage? What does it mean for those who have to send their children to failing inferior schools staffed by inexperienced teachers or live in neighborhoods where crime is rampant and police and law enforcement is ineffective?

But on a positive note this City has come a long way since being 80% under water. There are pockets of progress that one can easily see all over the City. There is a spirit among some that are working together and are persevering rebuilding their homes and their lives. It is this resilience of the people from all walks of life that are native to the City whose desire to return that's fueled this great recovery. Then there are

those pioneers who have come to our great City during these seven years, some volunteering their time while others chose to stay lending a helping hand and calling New Orleans home, planting new roots and their efforts are to be welcomed and commended.

And as I traveled both inside and outside the U.S. I find people are still concerned about our City. And as an eternal optimist I always tell them the City is coming back, but I remind them there is still a lot of work to do. I tell them there is more than just the Lower Ninth Ward that still looks as devastated as it did seven years ago. As I look at my City I see hopefulness and hopelessness dance a strange tango every day, but I remain positive that my City will experience a renaissance that will create a City that can have not just a culture that has the enviable distinction as one of the world's most interesting cities to visit. But I hope to see a day where the City can have an expanded middle-class and all of its citizens can dine at the table of prosperity. Where a City can have first-class schools for all of its children and a City can be safe from crime and free of criminals. Also I hope to see the classism and racism in the City disappear and this

City can truly become one New Orleans united in making it a better place to live for everyone. And I feel these are problems created by humans and the solutions also lie in our hands. It is time to build bridges of understanding, and it is also a time for a City in its rebuilding to be able to balance and embrace change while celebrating and preserving what makes it special and if this happens New Orleans will not only survive it will thrive.

CONGRATULATIONS DATA NEWS WEEKLY

ON YOUR 46TH ANNIVERSARY.



Clerk, Civil District Court
Honorable Dale N. Atkins

"You are truly "The People's Paper" with your dedication on to our community. You keep us in touch with what is happening with our people throughout the United States and you give support to all of the local organizations who are helping us to rebuild our City, help our young Black men, our homeless, and all of our children. You are a VOICE for the voiceless. Thank you Terry Jones and Data News Weekly."

Sincerely,

Honorable Dale N. Atkins



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Master Gardener's Corner

Biblical Gardens

By MG Calla Victoria
Data News Columnist

There are many garden themes that come to mind when deciding on a landscape design for a garden. There are Japanese garden themes, cottage gardens, and now one of the most popular garden designs is the Biblical Garden which showcases the plant material mentioned in the Bible.

Biblical Gardens expose us to rare and unique botanical specimens like Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*, also called mignonette tree), the Myrrh Tree (*MIPHORA AFRICANA*) from where the bitter herb Myrrh is extracted, Frankincense Tree (*BOSWELLIA SACRA* FluecOMkiger) "Frankincense" (*COPAL FAMILY*) which was presented to the Holy Family by the Magi; Mandrake the plant that Leah traded to Rachael for a one-night stand with Jacob, Hysop which were the branches the children of Israel dipped in lambs blood and spread it on the doors before they were led out of bondage in Egypt, and Flax-what linen is made of.

The best thing about a Biblical Garden you don't have to waste a



lot of time trying to figure out what plant material to buy, everything you need is written right there in the good book. I dedicated a section of my garden as a Biblical Garden. There I planted grapevines because Jesus changed water to wine (John 2:1-11), an olive tree because the dove brought Noah back an olive branch indicating dry land had been found (Genesis 8:11), a fig tree as Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves; wheat because in one of Joseph's dreams his brothers' bails of wheat bowed down to

his which was a prophecy of him becoming the governor of Egypt, (Genesis 37:7), Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) (Song of Solomon 7:12) and cucumber (*Cucumis melon*) mentioned in (Numbers 11:5), just to name a few.

Planting a Biblical Garden is quite rewarding, informative, and connects us to those ancients who thousands of years ago planted and harvested many of the very plants that we enjoy today. For most of them however the planting of certain crops were a necessity for their very existence, as

there were no supermarkets back then. Speaking of which many savvy residents are reverting back to planting their own crops as food prices are skyrocketing. I paid \$5 for a gallon of milk last week, which got me to wondering what permits I might need to secure to have cow in my back yard. Urban farming is fast becoming the norm and not the exception for many households. If you would like to learn more about Urban Farming, Master Gardeners of New Orleans (MGGNO) in conjunction with the LSU AgCen-

ter will be holding a Symposium on September 15, 2012, from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM at the Dominion Auditorium at Audubon Zoo. This fun and informative event will focus on Building and Maintaining a Fall Edible Garden, Raising Chickens in an Urban Area, Bee Keeping in an Urban Area, and Nutritious Meals from Your Fall Garden. Registration is \$15 per person, which includes lunch. I hope to see you there. For further information on the Symposium or questions about how to become a Master Gardener, direct your questions to info@mggno.com

We are currently in the process of upgrading our website, once completed you will be able to submit your gardening questions directly to me, and you will be able to click on my Gardening Tip of the week. If you would like to have your garden featured as Data's Garden of the week email photos of you and your garden to datanewseditor@bellsouth.com, print Garden of the Week on subject line.

Remember, never be too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers.

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25th Anniversary of the New Orleans UNCF Walk for Education!

2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the New Orleans UNCF Walk for Education! UNCF invites you and your family to celebrate this milestone as we raise funds to help Louisiana students get to and through college!

Each year, the Walk for Education attracts thousands of students, parents, educators and community members who believe that education is a priority for everyone. The Walk for Education is the premier education run in New Orleans each year, filled with entertainment, great food, activities and even a few surprise guests!

So, lace up a pair and join us this year! Form a team, join a team or just register yourself online. Corporate sponsors, team captains and volunteers can get involved, too!

The 25th Anniversary New Orleans UNCF Walk for Education is a great event for a great cause. Let

your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors know about this event by clicking the Facebook and Twitter buttons below!

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Sen. Landrieu, Rep. Richmond and Mayor Landrieu Announce \$23.8M for Hurricane Recovery

U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., chair of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Congressman Cedric Richmond, D-La., recently announced \$23.8 million in federal funding for hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana. The money from these grants will go toward the Jackson Barracks, Lakefront Airport, Charity Hospital and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO). These grants are provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program.



"It's been a long road to recovery for New Orleans," Sen. Landrieu said. "Though it has been seven years since that disastrous hurricane season, we must not forget those who are still struggling to return to normal. This funding brings us closer to providing our residents, hospital patients, and National Guard with the services and fa-

cilities they need and deserve."

"These federal dollars are important steps forward in repairing the City of New Orleans water distribution system that was substantially damaged following Hurricane Katrina," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said. "Providing safe drinking water and protecting homes from flooding are basics of government that ben-

efit every citizen and business in New Orleans. We are making progress every day and will continue to work with FEMA to identify new eligible funding for Sewerage and Water Board repairs."

"Funding announced today is critical to the full restoration of New Orleans," Rep. Richmond said. "Today's announcement is a reminder that, while we still have much work to do, we are making great strides in bringing much needed funding back home. Repairs to our military base, airport and hospital are a necessary investment in our residents and in our vision for progress as we strive to rebuild and revitalize the city of New Orleans."

For the complete list of grants included in the appropriation visit Rep. Cedric Richmond's website at <http://richmond.house.gov>.

Trailblazers

JANUARY 28, 2012

GEROD STEVENS

Giving the People a Voice



On the airwaves of WBOK 1230AM in the early morning drive to work there is a man who opens up the lines to give the citizens of the City a voice. This man is one who is dedicated to serving his community and being a positive force for change. The Data News Trailblazer for the month of January is none other than WBOK's Program Director Gerod Stevens.

For over two decades he has called New Orleans home after moving from his native North Carolina. In his time in the New Orleans he's worked in radio and says it is an important part of giving voice to the aspirations of a community.

One of the issues that is close to the heart of Stevens is the plight of African-American males, he says sometimes he is asked why saving them or caring for them is important, "I realize so many of our young people are faced

with choices in life and sometimes they make bad decisions, but we must be able to find a way to restore hope in them and give them second chances and opportunities to be successful in society and secondly it could have easily been me," says Stevens.

When you listen to his show Gerod Stevens is about empowering a community whether it's economically, politically, educationally or any other way, he is on the front-lines sounding the alarm and opening up the lines so people can have a voice. He is the man people wake up to every morning, and in turn his show is a wake-up call to the community. He is a voice in the community that matters and he gives voice to those who do not sometimes have a voice, a forum where they can be heard by the world. And for his contribution we award him our Trailblazer Award for the Month of January 2012.

Voter Suppression Could Kill Black Americans' Dream

By Yussuf Simmonds
Special to the NNPA

Black leaders say that we must fight voter disenfranchisement and not let it deny us the gains made via the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that was passed almost 50 years ago.

The right to vote is a constitutional right. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) that was signed into law on August 6, 1965 was designed to protect individuals who were denied the right to vote based on their race or prerequisite qualifications such as literacy tests, poll tax and/or having a photo ID card. What the VRA actually did was: it enfranchised millions of minority voters whose right to vote had been curtailed by jim crow laws. That landmark legislation became the great equalizer, and it brought about the legal end of discriminatory practices of voter disenfranchisement. It was a victory for

justice and for all Americans.

However, there is a movement today to re-institute those discriminatory practices. In the last year, several states have passed laws that would suppress/curtail the voting rights of minorities, the elderly, youthful and disabled voters; and other states have similar laws pending. It amounts to the same old jim crow by another name and the Rev. A. Sharpton is leading the fight across the country to stop those who would turn back the clock to the "bad" old days.

In Los Angeles, to take the voter suppression message to the Western Baptist State Convention, Rev. Sharpton spoke to the Sentinel. He said, "The voter suppression that we are witnessing through the voter ID laws and ending early voting are designed to re-introduce jim crow to the electoral process. This is the most

serious threat to voter rights that we have seen in 47 years since (President) Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, and one of the reasons that National Action Network (NAN) and I are committed to turning them around – these laws – and to have people prepare to fight for this, is that it could not only cost us this election, it could cost us our right to vote period.

"And we are galvanizing around the country because this is a serious fight and it will not only determine if (President) Barack Obama would be reelected, but it will also determine whether we remain a significant part of the electorate. People need to understand the seriousness of this issue."

Actually voter suppression is the latest ruse in a series of acts that have reared its ugly head since 2008 since President Barack Obama won the election. Those

acts include, but are not limited to, the birther movement and the tea party, and now the subtle suppression of voters' rights in the form of voter IDs.

"There is no doubt about it; it is a continuation and an extension of the tea party and others who want to turn back the clock. It is also an attempt for them to eliminate our voting strength. They can have a fight without our hands being handcuffed behind our backs. And I think a lot of us are sleeping through the most significant challenge to our being able to protect ourselves that I have seen in a long time. We must have a sense of urgency and a sense of crisis about this."

An NAACP report titled 'The Hidden Swing Voters: Impact of African Americans in 2012' revealed that due to a significant increase in voting, African Americans tipped the 2008 presidential

election outcome in the swing states of North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana and Florida. Part of Rev. Sharpton's jobs is to re-energize the electorate as was done in 2008.

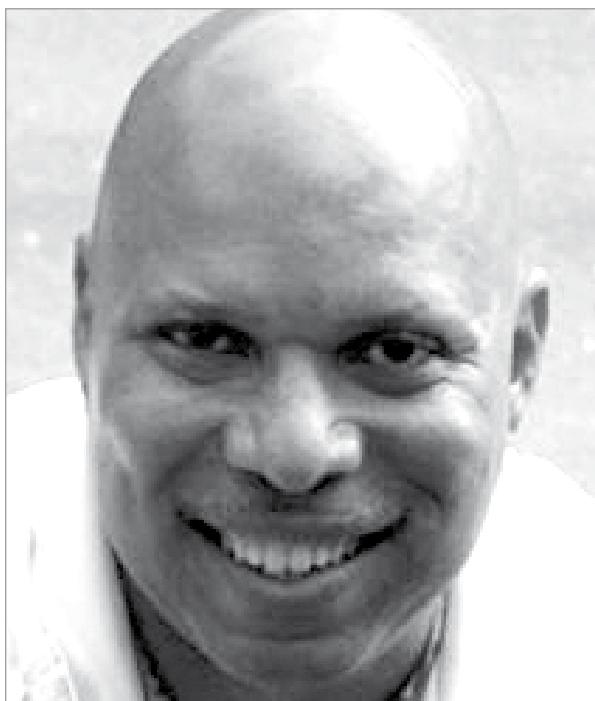
He continued, "They must be energized even more than (they were) in 2008 to continue to fight ... we cannot win one round and think that the fight is over. They (the right wing) started the night of the inauguration ... they started planning how they were going to undermine the President and all of us. Many of us celebrating the inauguration for a year while they were plotting and the results are: we lost the House of Representatives to the right wing. We cannot afford to lose any more elections because of the principles and the interests that we represent... and we certainly cannot afford to not have the right to vote."

Trailblazers

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

EDDIE COMPASS

A Man of Compassion



Eddie Compass is a man whose image will be forever etched in people's minds as one of the true heroes of Hurricane Katrina. As the then City's Police Chief; his tough yet compassionate demeanor gave a human face to what was going on in the City during its darkest hour. During these tumultuous times the world only caught a glimpse of this quiet hero who throughout his over five decades of life has dedicated his time to giving back.

"There were so many people who were instrumental in my success growing up people like Jerome Smith who was a Mentor and Otis Washington at St. Augustine High School," remarks Compass. Continuing he says of the importance of mentors, "I feel that the most important time to impact someone's life whether it is good or bad is when they are young."

Of the qualities he feels that are important to have to be successful in any endeavor in life he says, "Discipline and confidence are important things to have in life," he says. Harkening back to his youth he remarks at what drives him to give back, "The foun-

dation of my life is reaching out to young people with no ulterior motives than just to contribute and make a difference and I just want to show people that it is o.k. to give." He also spends time at his alma mater working with kids, "I am a volunteer coach for St. Augustine High School doing strength and conditioning and that puts me in contact with a lot of young people; when I am working with these kids you can see how they are touched that someone is spending time with them and truly care about them; and I get a so much joy seeing these young people become successful in life." are young and I feel because when they are young they can be more easily influenced," says Compass.

Eddie Compass is a man who is a compassionate, caring individual and it showed as he was a bright shining light during the darkest days for our City. Today he continues in his mission where he lives to give and giving the young people of the City a helping hand and inspiration and for his service he is being honored as the Trailblazer for the Month of February of 2012.

MARCH 31, 2012

JERRELDA DRUMMER-SANDERS*Overcoming the Odds*

She is a woman who has overcome many hardships and setbacks in life and is an example of someone whose known adversity and now is dedicating her life to giving back. Jerrelnda Drummer-Sanders' life story is filled with multiple triumphs and overcoming overwhelming odds. "I tell my life story many times over and if I had thought about it, the little engine that would best describe me," says Jerrelnda. Continuing she says, "I have overcome the hardships of a difficult upbringing, unstable household, teenage pregnancy; I was a victim of youth violence, experienced the loss of my older brother. In my life there was knockdown after knockdown, but, I had the ability to get back up. Now I have a story to tell and my testimony is not hiding from the enemies which are the negative things and obstacles that can happen." She continues, "Instead, I'm exposing the enemy every chance I get and knowing that overcoming is possible."

Jerrelnda's life today is a picture of victory. She's is armed with words of positivity and encouragement and is an inspiration to those who

have the chance to meet her. She is a mother and grandmother and is the founder of Mother's Helpers, a mentoring program and full service learning center for youth ages 9 thru 17. "I remember when I was this age and trying to find myself and my path in life; when I looked around, I saw so many kids not getting what they needed so I created Mother's Helpers to fill that void and provide support for young people," says Sanders.

In addition to running Mother's Helpers, she is the founder of New Orleans East Women of Action and the owner of DrumSands Publishing, where she publishes her own work and is looking to expand her company and begin to publish the work of other authors. She says her love for writing began at an early age and has been therapeutic. She feels that young people can benefit by putting their thoughts down on paper.

Jerrelnda has been recognized by WWL-TV as a Quiet Hero and now as a New Orleans Data News Weekly Trailblazer of the Month for March, 2012.

APRIL 28, 2011

LATOYA CANTRELL*Rebuilding Hope*

Latoya Cantrell is a woman whose name has become synonymous with service. Ever since arriving in New Orleans from her native Los Angeles as a student at Xavier University she's been dedicated to giving back.

She feels that one does not have to wait to serve their community and that all it takes is a spirit of selflessness and that quality is within all our reach and is our duty, "I think it is all of our personal obligation to improve the quality of life of all people because it makes our City a better place to live for everyone."

Presently, she is the President of the Broadmoor Improvement Association, a post she has held since 2004. While she and her husband had their choices of many areas of the city Latoya felt she wanted to reside in an area where she could make a positive impact.

In addition to her duties as President of the Broadmoor Improvement Association Latoya Cantrell is committed to volunteer service as Vice Chair of the Broadmoor Charter School Board, Board Member of the Salvation Army

of Greater New Orleans, Arts Council Committee of Greater New Orleans, Neighborhood Partnership Network, 4-H Foundation of Louisiana, Smart Growth Louisiana and the National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses.

Latoya continues to be a force for change in the City and has been recognized in her post-Katrina recovery efforts as a Restore America Hero by the National Trust of Historic Preservation, Young Leadership Council Role Model 2007, New Orleans Magazine People to Watch 2006 and Gambit Weekly's 40 Under 40. Prior to Katrina, she was recognized by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans as a Neighborhood Knight for her community service efforts. A woman full of humility she says of these honors, "I appreciate being recognized for my work, but the reason I serve my community is because it is the right thing to do and it is what I live for and my greatest reward is seeing Broadmoor recover and become an inspiration for neighborhoods all over the City.

DECEMBER 31, 2011

EUSI PHILLIPS

The Laws of Giving



He is a young man who has seen much success in his young life and is committed to giving back. Eusi Phillips is a man on a mission to save the City of his birth. "I have been afforded a good life in this City, my parents made many sacrifices for me laying a sound foundation so I could be the best I could be and now my goal is to give back," says Phillips.

As an Attorney, he's worked in the D.A.'s office and is now in private practice as a founding partner at Guillory, Johnson, Phillips and Thompson. He is active in rebuilding the City and his community. In October of 2005 he was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Broadmoor Improvement Association. Phillips also spearheaded the "Be Heard Campaign" that helped displaced citizens cast ballots following Hurricane Katrina,

"I thought it was an important time for our City and so many people were not being heard in the dialog that was going on in regards to the future of the City," says Phillips.

Eusi Phillips is a new type of activist armed with business savvy, dedicated to high achievement and the will to give, he has been recognized and for his work being selected in 2008 to participate in "Leadership in the 21st Century: Chaos, Conflict and Courage," a program held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

He is a young man that has given so much in his short life and continues to work to make his City a better place, and for his efforts Data News Weekly is proud to name Eusi Phillips its monthly Trailblazer for the month of December 2011

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