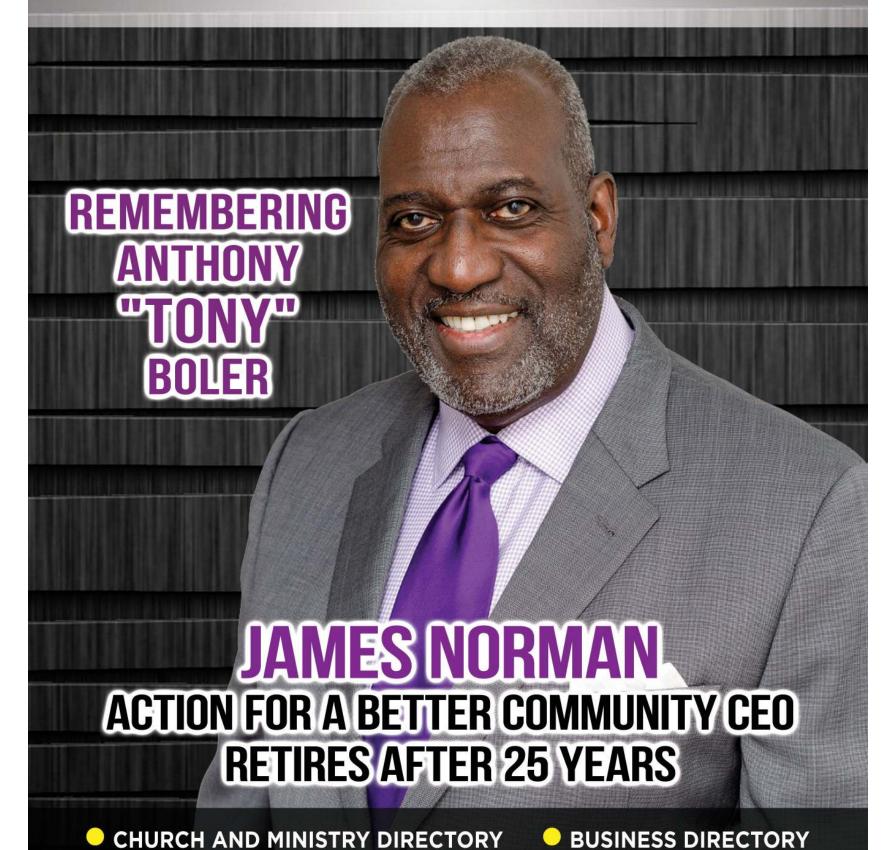
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Upstate NY Gospel Magazine serves to be your ultimate source of "Good News".

We want our readers to look to this magazine, when searching for up and coming events, local entertainment and for places to worship in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse. Look for our bi-monthly issues, as we intend to captivate you with interviews and informative articles that

brings you news you can use.

Glory to God. Monwel Flor

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK



FROM OUR MANAGING EDITOR



We truly thank and praise God for allowing us to bring to you another issue of Upstate NY Gospel Magazine.
Our staff works tirelessly to bring you an uplifting, informative and encouraging issue. 2016 was an exciting year filled with challenges as well as cheers. We pray that you will enjoy this issue of our publication. We encourage you not only to spread the good news within the pages of this magazine but we would

Please send your comments to me via email at Karen@UpstateNYGospelMagazine. com for call me at **585**,**360**,**0132**.

love to hear from you.

Continue to Walk in your blessings!

Karen M. Cornwell



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MAYOR LOVELY WARREN AND ROCHESTER COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK ANNOUNCE

2017-2018 "FAFSA FEST"

By Jessica Alaimo

ayor Lovely A. Warren and the Rochester College Access Network today announced, FAFSA Fest 2017-2018, a series of free events to help students and families take the first step towards making college an affordable reality.

"Education is the staircase out of poverty and it continues to be my top priority," said Mayor Warren. "I am thankful for the many partners in this community that work tirelessly to make college a reality for our residents. College costs continue to rise, and FAFSA Fest ensures that students are aware of their financial aid opportunities."

FAFSA Fest 2017-2018 will help students who plan to attend college in the 2018-2019 school year, complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Volunteers, including financial aid counselors from local colleges will be on hand to answer financial aid questions and provide one-on-one help to understand college costs. The event is for high school seniors and their families and for students in college receiving aid who need to file a FAFSA form annually. Students will also be able to learn about New York State's Excelsior Scholarship which, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college, tuition-free. Preregistration is not required and refreshments will be provided.

Financial aid is offered on a first-come, first-served basis – so it is critical to submit the FAFSA as early as possible. Applications for colleges and universities have different due dates. Many four-year-college deadlines fall in January and February, and community colleges have various application deadlines throughout the year.

FAFSA Fest events in 2017 and 2018 are scheduled as follows:

- 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017 at Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC), 161 Chestnut St. Free parking at the Strong.
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017 at MCC Downtown Campus, 321 State St. (with SUNY Financial Aid Day) Free parking.
- Noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at Franklin High School, 950 Norton St. Free parking.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan., 13, 2018 at East High School, 1801 E. Main St. Free parking.
- 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 at REOC, 161 Chestnut St. Free parking at the Strong.
- Noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 3, 2018 at MCC Downtown Campus, 321 State St. Free parking.

Students attending the events Nov. 2, Nov. 11, Dec. 2, Jan. 13, Feb. 13 and March 3 will be eligible for a drawing to win one of twelve \$500 scholarships to the Monroe Community College bookstore, thanks to the Monroe Community College Foundation.

"Filling out the FAFSA form can be complicated and difficult for students and families. These events provide trained, confidential help to students and their families," said Patricia Braus, chair of Rochester College Access Network and executive director of Rochester Education Foundation. "We've seen a steady increase in the number of Rochester students submitting their FAFSA forms early, when more financial aid is available. Thousands of dollars in aid is available to many of our students. Please help us spread the word about these events, so all of our students can submit their forms early to get the most financial aid."

The number of Rochester students submitting FAFSA forms early enough to be considered for most scholarships and grants has increased 50 percent since the launch of FAFSA Fest in 2015.

Students, parents or guardians planning to attend any of the FAFSA Fest events are asked to bring their 2016 Federal tax returns. All students are welcome and assistance for special circumstances will be available.

ESL Charitable Foundation, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, The Community Foundation, William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Oppenheimer Funds, Monroe Community College Foundation, WDKX 103.9, News 8 WROC, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Educational Opportunity Center, Paychex, ConServe, Roc the Future, Rochester City School District and New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA) join the City of Rochester as sponsors.

Rochester College Access Network (RCAN) is a program of Rochester Education Foundation. RCAN is a collaborative initiative encouraging college access and success through communication, coalition and advocacy for students in Rochester, to enable students to reach their full potential. Members of RCAN include every local college or university, Rochester City School District, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, not-for-profit groups including Hillside Work Scholarship Connection and the Urban League, and business and other individual representatives. Rochester College Access Network is a component member of the Roc the Future community-wide coalition that tracks the work of local agencies seeking to close the achievement gap for students in Rochester schools.

For more information, visit www.RochesterCAN.org, www. cityofrochester.gov/FAFSAfest, or call Rochester Education Foundation at 271-5790.



5 TIMES YOU'LL WANT TO REVIEW YOUR LIFE INSURANCE

By Staff Writer

here are a number of times in your life that you'll need to review your life insurance, to ensure you're adequately covered and that you have the right policy for your circumstances.

Failing to reevaluate your needs can mean that you end up underinsured - something that many American families are facing, with an average insurance gap of almost \$320,000.

These are the main events that should trigger a reevaluation:

1. Marriage and Divorce

If your spouse will be dependent on your income for their current standard of living, you may need to increase your insurance coverage to meet their expenses and pay off any large debts like your mortgage.

You and your spouse will need to take some time to evaluate

your life insurance expectations, based on your current finances. If either of you already have children, you may need to discuss whether you should be added as a beneficiary of their life insurance policy.

While many people get married in their 20s, the median age for second marriage is 32.6 for women and 35.2 for men. Life insurance will be different for people in second marriages, particularly if there are step children to consider. The former spouse will usually need to be removed as a beneficiary, and

you'll also need to consider any child support and alimony payments.

If you're getting a divorce, you may want to review your beneficiaries and ensure that any children you have together will still be adequately supported.

2. Expecting or Adopting Children

Adding children to the family is usually one of the biggest triggers for people who are uninsured to purchase life

insurance. If you already have a policy you'll need to update your insurance.

Usually, you'll need to increase your cover, protecting the financial future of your kids. This will ensure that their living and education expenses can be covered if you pass away while they're still dependent on you.

3. A New House or Job

When you change jobs, you may find that your new employer may offer more or less insurance than your last employer. This can mean that you either need to purchase supplemental coverage or decrease your current life insurance.

If your new job includes an increased salary, you may also want to increase your life insurance coverage. And if you purchase a new house, you'll usually want to reevaluate your

life insurance to cover the mortgage.

This will prevent your spouse or children from needing to sell the house if they no longer have your income available.

4. Retirement

If your employer is providing you with life insurance, you'll need to update your coverage when you're ready to retire. If you already have whole life insurance, this can often help you cover the cost of retirement.

If you're worried about your chances of getting insured, you can also look into 'no medical exam' life insurance. These policies will often cost more, however, as the insurer is taking on more risk.

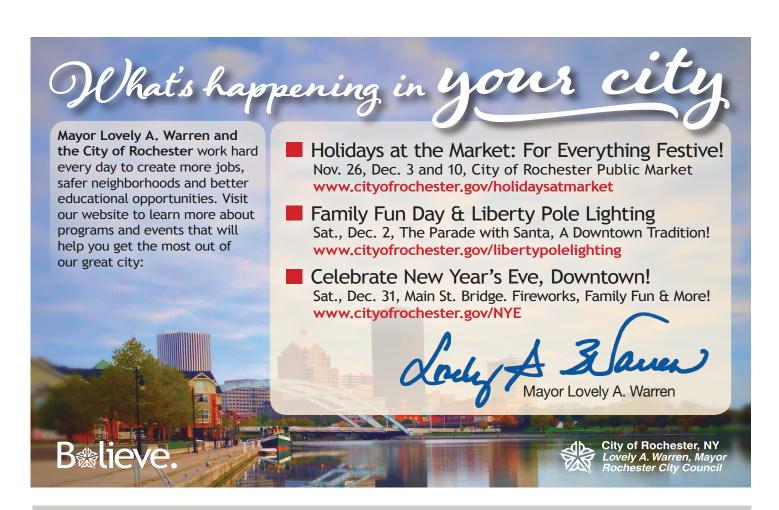


Reviewing your life insurance doesn't need to take a long time. Mark a day on your calendar once a year to look into your situation and make any necessary adjustments.

You may find that events you hadn't considered (such as adult children becoming independent or going to college) can mean that you no longer need as much insurance.













PRINTING TOMORROW'S IMAGES TODAY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

Greetings, Upstate Gospel Magazine reader! It's hard to believe winter right around the corner, but have no fear, there are many exciting events coming up for you and your families to enjoy as the temperatures begin to drop.

On Dec. 2, help us ring in the holiday season with one of Rochester's favorite traditions, the Lighting of the Liberty Pole. Enjoy the magnificent Christmas tree in the Sibley Building's atrium, help me throw the switch on the Liberty Pole, and help me welcome our very special guests: Santa, his elf, and Rudolph and friends, as we parade from the Liberty Pole to Martin Luther King Jr. Park for a family ice skating night and fireworks. A trolley will be available to take you back to your car.

For more information visit www.cityofrochester.gov/libertypolelighting.

Next, I invite you to bring your family back to Downtown for our annual New Year's Eve Celebration at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center from 7 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31.

Enjoy a DJ Dance Party with giant bounce houses, an obstacle course, airbrush tattoos, photo booths, caricature artists, a magician, clowns and more! The City Rec on the Move staff will provide fun activities and crafts for the kids. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

And there's free ice skating at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Ice Rink from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and you won't want to miss our spectacular our annual fireworks display over the river at 10 p.m.

These events are open to the public and free for the entire family. For more information visit www.cityofrochester. gov/NYE.

Just because it's starting to get chilly outside, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the Public Market! This year, "Holidays at the Market" will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. These events attract dozens of vendors with art, crafts, decorations, holiday food delicacies, gifts, stocking stuffers and much more. They are a great opportunity to get great deals on holiday trees, wreaths, fresh garlands and gifts of all sorts — all while supporting local vendors!

We place a high value on providing these events to make our city vibrant and enjoyable for our residents and visitors. A more vibrant city leads to more jobs, safer neighborhoods and better educational opportunities.

It is my wish that our families have a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Please know that my office is here to serve you. If you have any questions about city government, programs or services, please call my Office of Constituent Services at 428-7045.

God Bless,

Mayor Lovely Warren







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WHAT IT MEANS TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE

By Staff Writer

ur modern world can be a crazy, confusing and sometimes dangerous place.

It's easy to get swept up in the chaos. But how do we avoid it?

Having to bring home the bacon, pursue or maintain a lasting intimate relationship, keep up a healthy lifestyle, build a successful career and lead a happy, fulfilled life seems like an impossible undertaking.

Does all this make you feel out of control? A victim of circumstance? Unable to take it all on and live the life you truly desire?Do you look at other people who seemingly have it all and wish you could figure it out for yourself?

If it does, you are not alone.

Most people live their entire lives missing out on the vast wealth of joy available to us. We get stuck in a job that just maintains us, but doesn't fulfill us. We settle for a relationship that at best, feels safe and comfortable. We eat unhealthy, easy foods and don't exercise because there "isn't time" to do it right.

Don't lose hope! It is possible to take charge of your life and have it all!

Where We Fail

How we manage the cornucopia of stress and responsibility of daily life is key.

Unfortunately, it's all too easy to get wrapped up and rely on bad habits and quick fixes to ease our restless minds, hearts, and bodies.

You've made the decision you want to eat healthier, but you had a long day at work, and it's just easier to turn off into that drivethru and start eating healthier tomorrow. Have you done this recently?

Maybe you determined you'd do some meditation to alleviate that daily stress, but a long day of taking care of the kids leads you to just have that cocktail or two before passing out to do it again the next day. Sound familiar?

An exciting new job opportunity arises in a field you've been wanting to explore for months, but the safety and comfort of your survival job pays the bills. So, you decide you just aren't prepared, it's too risky, and let the interview slide. Are you guilty?

All of these things are just a flinch, a way we push our true selves down and allow life to live for us, rather than we simply living our life

It doesn't have to be this way!

Reclaim Your Power

"Every time you are tempted to react in the same old way, ask yourself if you want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future." – Deepak Chopra

All too often we allow our habits to control us. It's time to reclaim your personal power and make a change.

Here are a few things that you can and will discover when you reclaim your power and take charge of your life:

Fear is not your enemy

Personal responsibility is more powerful than victimhood

Focus on what you want, not what you think you need

Forgiveness, of yourself and others, will lead you to freedom

Nothing lasts forever

I know you have the ability to take charge of your life and reshape it into that sparkling vision of happiness you deserve.

SASE BASE INVITATION TO FOLLOW

We're Making You a Retirement Celebration Invitation you can't refuse...

Please join family, friends and colleagues as we laugh, cheer and celebrate the career of

James H. Norman

President and CEO Action for a Better Community, Inc.

The Roast and Toast Fundraiser will take place

Sunday, J-ebruary 11, 2018 Comedy @ The Carlson

50 Carlson Rd, Rochester, NY 14610

For guests traveling from out of town, a block of rooms has been reserved.
Please make your reservations before Thursday, December 28
and identify James Norman Retirement Celebration.
Please contact The Strathallan Rochester Hotel & Spa – a Doubletree by Hilton

Friends of James Norman's Retirement Party Planning Committee



G



JAMES NORMAN

ACTION FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY CEO. RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

By Tracie Isaac

or the pasttwenty-five years, many in the city of Rochester have had the benefit of having the leadership, counsel, board affiliation, teaching instruction or experience of inspiration from the one and only James Norman, President & CEO of Action for a Better Community (ABC). Since 1992, Mr. Norman has been at the helm of ABC, which is one of the leading community action agencies providing quality of life resources and services to the residents of Rochester. In December of 2017, Mr. Norman will be retiring from ABC but not from being involved in the support and advocacy of our community.

When we think of how a person can impact your life, we need to take a look at the programs, organizations and people who make up the leadership and are involved with the decision making process. Among the list of individuals who are compassionate about people, you will find James Norman, linked arm in arm with many of the leaders and decision makers that are fighting and advocating for the enrichment of the community in which we live.

I sat down with James Norman in his office at ABC located at 550 E. Main St. in downtown Rochester, and was enthralled with the opportunity to speak to the man that so many have had the opportunity to work with or be guided by his sage wisdom and expertise. This experience was met with an opening joke that put me at ease when I asked Mr.

Norman what brought him to Rochester? Mr. Norman replied, "My wife! I met this incredible woman from Rochester who was involved with a project in Michigan, whom I wanted to make a family with and she was on her way to Rochester to work with Xerox. So, I considered looking for a position in Rochester that was suitable to my experience, at the local level that I achieved in my previous position." Mr. Norman received his Bachelor's in Psychology from Mercer University (Macon, Georgia) and his Master's in Social Work (policy, planning and administration)

from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, Michigan), where he also completed extensive-post graduate coursework in Public Administration. Prior to relocating to Rochester, Mr. Norman served as the Michigan Department of Labor's Deputy Director for Administration. Before that appointment, he directed the department's Bureau of Community Services, which administered the state's Community Services Block Grant, Weatherization, Energy Assistance and the Neighborhood Assistance Programs.



When James Norman arrived in Rochester during the period of 1991-1992, he began to address the current community issues of violence, homicides, education, health care and poverty at ABC. One of the initiatives that he engaged was Project Redirect, a street outreach program lead by ABC which partnered with various settlement houses across the city to have direct access and interaction with individuals. On the matters of early education, the graduation rate, healthcare, senior issues and economic development; ABC provides services that directly impact the disadvantaged and those obtaining excellence. "We get young people ready to learn with Head Start. ABC is the single recipient agency of federal funds for the Head Start Program. ABC is "the" Head Start grantee for Monroe County which administers

any educational readiness program or any program that is under contract with ABC, to address early childhood education. ABC reaches various demographics by working with other agencies like libero-American Action League, Volunteers of America and even faith based organizations with appropriate facilities. Additionally, there are other programs to assist with the various education levels from elementary to high school. The work is not only with children but with the families, in areas of nutrition, health care and measurement of the progress and growth of the various domains." stated Mr. Norman.

During Mr. Norman's leadership at ABC, the organization was one of the leading advocates for a "living wage" for the residents of Rochester. To practice what was being addressed, the organization adopted a policy that anyone who worked for ABC in a full-time position would make no less than the city's living wage. Yearly, the agency adhered to the cities adjustment increases with their employees.

With his association and involvement with various foundations, professional and non-profit organizations, James Norman infuses his compassion for people through the array of vehicles that seek to address the issues and interests of the community to achieve result oriented objectives. In the areas of economic development, healthcare, music, the arts and even personal development; Mr. Norman is somewhere in the midst advocating for those seeking success and for recognizing those who display

excellence. The Gateways Music Festival, where Mr. Norman is Vice Chair on the Board of Directors, is a valued resource that posses a database of over 700 classical musicians of African descent from around the country. The festival has been held biennially in Rochester, NY since 1995. Over 120 musicians of various ages were invited to Rochester in 2017, for over 50 performances of classical music in various venues, FREE of charge to the public. Many

first time youth and adult attendees were amazed at the level of professionalism and artistic ability of these artists. This is a unique organization that has brought to the forefront the largest concentration of instrumentalist to perform of African descent. Additionally, the history of composers and legendary musicians of color in the classical music genre is highlighted. Youth and adults were reported stating that they are more aware, and now

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interested in classical music because of the Gateways Music Festival, and are appreciative of this opportunity because they

did not see themselves in this category previously in schools or other venues.

Over the years, Mr. Norman has been a consultant, speaker or workshop panelist at national and state conferences on topics such as Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA), advocacy, structural inequality, poverty trends, community action history, economic security, and not-for-profit governance.

When does someone like James Norman

find the time to do all the work that he does? "I don't have the time to do ALL that I want to do. So now that I am retiring I will do more of what I want to do." We will find Mr. Norman enjoying time with his family, participating in initiatives that provide positive impact for the lives of the residents of Rochester and maybe even teaching as a professor.



HOW TO STAY FIT OVER 50 AND STILL ENJOY EATING

By Staff Writer

s we get older our body composition changes. This is often a result of becoming less active, which leads to a decrease in our basal metabolic rate (BMR).

With less muscle to burn calories, we may find that we can't eat as much as we used to, without gaining weight. Other changes in hormones, tastes, energy levels, and nutrient absorption can also impact our fitness levels and health.

However, staying fit over 50 doesn't mean that you can't still enjoy eating. Learn how to get the balance right with these great tips.

Stay Active

Many people think that our metabolism decreases as we get older, but this isn't true.

What actually happens is that our activity levels decrease and we lose muscle mass as a result. With less muscle the body needs less energy, so food is stored as fat rather than burned off. Our basal metabolic rate (BMR) then slows down as the composition of our bodies change.

The simplest way to counteract a slowing BMR is to stay active. Walking is a good, fairly low-impact exercise that will help to burn calories and maintain muscle mass. Walking is also great for the heart and helps to boost your mood.

Other low-impact exercises to try include gardening, swimming, yoga, and pilates.

Cut Calories, Not Taste

With small changes to the meals you love you can save a lot of calories and still enjoy eating.

Many people find that reducing their intake of carbohydrates helps them to stay in shape. Why not try spaghetti squash as an alternative to pasta? And even if you're not much of a baker, this low carb bread recipe is delicious and simple to make.

Alternatively, you can make small changes to the products you consume every day, such as opting for low fat dairy over full fat versions. Many taste exactly the same but pack in a lot fewer calories.

Another great tip is to try to make more meat-free meals. Try a bean Bolognese or make a stew with veggies and lentils. You'll cut calories and saturated fat drastically by skipping meat a couple of nights a week.

Consider Supplements

Another key part of staying fit is maintaining good health.

Our bodies become less efficient at absorbing some nutrients as

we get older, so it's important to make the calories we consume as nutrient-dense as possible to stay healthy.

Without key vitamins, it can be hard for your body to process food correctly into energy, meaning that you may feel tired and sluggish. You may also put yourself at risk of infections and more serious illnesses.

Some of the nutrients you may be lacking include Folic Acid, Vitamin B12, Calcium, Vitamin D, Fiber, and Omega-3 Fats.

It's always preferable to get nutrients through your diet but you may need to consider taking supplements. Consult your

doctor to discuss your diet and whether supplements could help you stay fit over 50.



Our sense of thirst also reduces as we get older, so it might not be so easy to tell when we're dehydrated.

Drinking water can help reduce hunger, boosts energy and facilitates digestion.

Not drinking enough water can cause urinary tract infections and lead to memory problems, so getting enough

water is beneficial for our physical and mental health.

Keep small bottles of water in your fridge and drink from them regularly, even if you don't feel particularly thirsty. You should aim for around eight cups per day for good health.

Sleep Well

Staying fit at any age is all about balance. As well as your diet and activity level, getting enough sleep is an important part of that.

As well as giving you the chance to rest your mind and body, sleep helps to regulate the hormones that control hunger signals. Not sleeping well can disrupt these signals and fool your brain into thinking you're hungry when you're not.

As we get older it can be harder to enjoy a good night's sleep, possibly because of hormonal factors, physical discomfort or changes to our oxygen intake.

If you're finding it hard to sleep at night then these simple solutions to help you sleep better should help.

How to Stay Fit Over 50

Staying fit over 50 doesn't mean that you can't enjoy eating the same foods or that you have to make any drastic changes.

With small sustainable changes to your lifestyle and diet, you can maintain good health and keep fit for many years to come.



MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH CELEBRATES 190-YEAR LEGACY OF CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT IN ROCHESTER

By Tracie Isaac

emorial A.M.E. Zion Church (Memorial AMEZ) has much to praise and sing about with the announcement of its 190th Anniversary. The public was invited to a Black Tie Soirée on Sept. 29th, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester to celebrate the historical legacy of civil rights advocacy and the spiritual leadership.

The Master of Ceremony was the first African American, three term Mayor of Rochester (1994 – 2005) William A. Johnson; who comedically and authoritatively presided over the gala. A special presentation was made by incumbent Mayor, Lovely A. Warren to Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James, Senior Pastor of AMEZ. Bishop Darius

G. Pridgen of True Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo was the keynote speaker for the event, along with featured psalmist and national recording artist Eli Wilson, of Eli Wilson Ministries in Orlando, Florida.

Founded in 1827, Memorial AMEZ is the oldest African-American Church in Rochester, and Monroe County. Rev. Thomas James, an escaped slave, was the founder and first pastor of what was then called A.M.E. Zion Church.

Its original location was on Favor St., and served as a place of shelter on the Underground Railroad for hundreds of escaped slaves who were being led to freedom by Harriet Tubman. A.M.E. Zion was also the platform from which Susan B. Anthony delivered her last public address, as well as the home church of Frederick Douglass.

Mr. Douglass edited his abolitionist paper,

"The North Star," from printing presses set up in the church's basement. He and other political activists would meet regularly at the church, where he gave many historic speeches, including his last speech in Rochester. Rev. Thomas James licensed Frederick Douglass to preach in the AME Zion church.

The original structure on Favor St. remains today, and the property has been designated as a national historic landmark.

The church eventually relocated to its current location at 549 Clarissa St., and "Memorial" was added to its name in 1907, when one-of-a-kind stained-glass windows memorializing Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, and Harriet Tubman were donated to the church.

The original Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman windows are

still adorning the church today, which is under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James. Rev. Dr. James previously served at the historical Mother A.M.E. Zion Church located in Harlem, New York City. The church was the founding organizing church of the African Methodist Church in the United States in 1896.

Rev. Dr. James was born and raised in New York City, and is a fifth-generation member of AME Zion. A graduate and product of all AME Zion schools, post high school, Rev. James obtained his masters and doctorate degrees from Cliff Theological College.

The reverend's vision "is to build on the legacy and leadership of Memorial AMEZ. Make more inroads with young people



and youth, and to not be the last generation of A.M.E. Zion in Rochester, NY."

"I want to reach young people, to let them know that the church wants you, and you have something of value to offer the church," he stated.

In discussing how the community can assist the leaders of our community with Rochester's growth, James said, "We need to reach young people, and let them know that there are viable careers and life opportunities in Rochester. Additionally - I heard this from Kwesi Mfume - 'We have no permanent friends or permanent enemies, we have permanent interests.' We need to find our permanent interests, perhaps from the people we represent."



Prior to the gala, Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church hosted a special worship service at 549 Clarissa St., featuring Bishop-Elect Marvin L. Winans, the founder and senior pastor of Perfecting Church of Detroit, Michigan, in order to commence the celebration. Bishop-Elect Marvin L. Winans is widely known as a member of the musically-anointed Winans' family, and as an international recording artist with multiple Grammy, Steller, and Dove awards. Bishop Winans began his sermon by stating, "I will definitely add to my resume that I preached in the legendary church where Frederick Douglass preached."

Locally, Memorial AMEZ also remains at the forefront of civic activity and responsibility.

In October 2016, U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter invited U.S. Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis to speak at Memorial AMEZ about his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. He shared his memories of "Bloody Sunday" in Alabama, an event during which he nearly lost his life, while fighting for equal rights and justice.

The Memorial AMEZ Choir has also been a featured performer at the White House during the Clinton Administration, and at the anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Ultimately, the church and its members have established a strong tradition of helping to better the lives of others.

"I want this church to have a strong voice in the community, to

be in the vanguard of speaking up and out for those that Jesus termed 'the least of these' – those who are disadvantaged, oppressed, or in some way outsiders, outcast or unwelcomed," Rev. Dr. James said. "That is where the church has always staked its claim. Quoting the late Gardner C. Taylor, 'the gospel should comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable."

Examples of the church's efforts to uplift the community, include the creation of the Ralph Bunche Scholarship, which is the first African-American scholarship in Rochester, funded through the generosity of church members Mr. and Mrs. Hamm; the church serving as the founding home of Rochester's oldest African-American Boy Scout Troop, Troop #169; the development by then-pastor, Reverend Errol E. Hunt, of affordable apartments (the RL Edwards Manor Retirement Home and The Daisy House) surrounding the church; as well as the creation, over the years, of a food pantry, soup kitchen, and coordinated activities for the elderly.

"We are blessed to celebrate 190 years of service to the Rochester community, and are extremely proud of our legacy of civil rights advocacy and spiritual support for all," Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James stated. "We look forward to celebrating our past, present, and future with the Rochester community — and we remain firmly committed to continuing our work to enrich the lives and spirits of our parish congregation, and our community neighbors for many decades to come."

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HOW CAN YOU BE A CHRISTIAN AND A GREEK?

PART II

By Rev. Ronald Sampson, Sr.

COMMONALITY OF BLACK GREEK LIFE AND BLACK CHURCH LIFE

Culturally Rich experience -

The genesis of both Black Greek life and black church life grew out of the need to be more and do more than social norms of the day allowed. Though born in segregation both provided for its members that which the general society of the day would not allow – the full development of individuals of African descent. In the church, this loosed the limitations of who would be allowed to ascend to the ranks of the church hierarchy and where they could serve. In addition, it provided for the evolution of the perspective from which the gospel was taught and preached, from slaves obey your masters, to that liberation theology. Lost in the annals of time is the fact that many of the early denominations that are no longer existent, did not hamper the movement of women into the ranks of church leadership. The church was not just a one day a week operation. Rather it was significant integral part of the communities of color. Before public

education, churches were the only institutes of education for the masses. These were the places that runaway slaves would go so they could become productive citizens of the community.

A century after black churches were instituted Black Greek letter organizations sprouted

up for two reasons. Black Greek life began as a means to call collegians of African descent to a higher purpose then their own personal gain. The realization that being black with one or more college degrees meant little or nothing in the general American society particularly in the south. So the development of a network of Fraters and Sorors provided a means of communication opportunities for employment and or academic advancements. Leadership development and opportunities abounded within these organizations, as their goals was to make each member an asset to the community to which they would join upon graduation.

The bonding factor in each is the common experience shared by its members. In comparison, to say the Catholic Church, most Black Church services are participatory worship experiences, where the congregants are moved by their personal experience with Jesus and God. Where you can get an amen affirmation when you state, "that you know, that you know, that you know". Of course if you don't know, you don't get it. In many communities the church is the place where children develop

public speaking skills as they are prepared for performance in various holy day observances.

For Black Greek life, what begins in college for many it becomes a lifelong commitment. On the college campus you find yourself with likeminded individuals with the ability to get things done and you start operating as a mover and shaker. There rendering of services and uplift of your fellowman are powerful inducements to lifelong commitment.

With all this potential both intellectual and spiritual, why isn't the Black Community better off? Why aren't our schools top notch, why are our neighborhoods in the urban core so desolate? The answer to these questions cannot be summed up in a thirty second election sound bite. We are caught up in a society whose desire for power and wealth is manifested as systemic racism. For every response by our community to lift ourselves up a counter response is made to wipe out all those gains. That however is a topic for another day.

Common Points of Failure



The weakness of both Church and Black Greek life are quite the same. Less than effective member intake process, failure to hold one another accountable to the principles of the organization, poor leadership development and succession planning.

Lack of Effective Member Development

The majority of the local members only know about and are concerned with, the local (chapter) level of activities, rather than understanding about the world wide responsibilities of the organization/church. How many people join the church and they only do one thing? How many members join the church and the only thing they do is occupy the same seat, Sunday after Sunday. How many people become a Fraters or Sorors and they only attend the meetings and group functions but don't do the work. How many people after they join just wear their letters at public events?

I know many want to understand hazing, with respect to Greek life intake, but for the divine nine we have come to the realization that you can't MAKE a silk purse out of a sow's ear. We don't make men or women out of boys and girls. If it is not in you it is not going to come out of you. The new process requires we know and access potential members before we formally engage with them. Once we engage, it is our responsibility to teach the potential members what our organizational purpose

and philosophy is, what principles we abide by and the sacrifice expected of the membership in order to help us to fulfill our purpose. Upon induction into the organization, the organization would benefit from exposing the new member to a broad a range of the organization's scope by the attendance at regional, national and or international conferences as soon as possible, in order to set the expectation of what they can become.

For the church the focus is quite different, but the goal is similar. For the church, we as individuals have no "Saving Power". However, we do know a man named JESUS, who can heal the sick, raise the dead, and forgive sinners. In the church, we have to be accepting of all who come. For Jesus said, 'come as you

are'. We have to show that God has replaced our heart of stone with a tender heart. We have to show that God has poured His Spirit in us, and in so doing we inform the new convert that God has begun a new work in them. The more difficult part is Jesus stated come as you are, but the Word does not say stay as you came.

There is an expectation that all members of the church are in a process of spiritual maturation. In the Baptist church this process is called sanctification. Through the study of God's Word and personal application in our lives, of what we learn we are growing. This is the principle of renewing our mind as stated by the

Apostle Paul. If there is no expectation of attendance to the various components of church life which promote the study of God's Word – Sunday School, Bible Study, and Prayer Meetinghow can you expect the church leadership to be spiritually mature. You can't lead where you don't go and you can't teach what you don't know.

Member Accountability

Nowhere in the scripture do I find a declaration for us to be sin police. Yet, there is not a church where members don't take it upon themselves to point out the failings of others. Yet the word informs us that we are to take note of the failings of others and

help to restore them to good standing in the Lord lest we get caught stumbling. The church is and always has been a place of reclamation, reconciliation, and restoration. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. All sin is sin to God. There are no big sins and little sins. So we are to regard them all the same and forgive the repentant sinner even as we were forgiven. However, do we hold each other accountable in the faith? Do we correct and edify one another with the word? Or do we go tell the pastor and wait for the pastor to correct every misstep and transgression. We are our brother's keeper. If we see something that seems amiss, it is our responsibility as a brother or sister in Christ, to say something in love through the word to the individual. The spirit of God has been placed in us. We have the

capacity, to love one another, do we have the will to forgive one another?

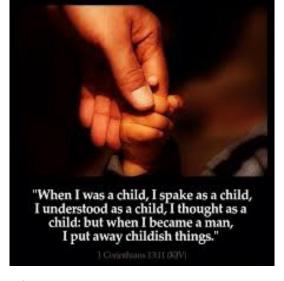
Greek life is no different, brothers and sisters both "Lean on the shield" for selfish reasons and we allow it because "We want to maintain the spirit of brotherhood/sisterhood". In doing so we absolve the leaner of their responsibilities to the organization. Let's get real. To be in a fraternity or sorority you have to attended and preferably graduated from a four year college. You should be a grown man or woman.

I Corinthians 13:11 states . . . 'but when I became a man, I put away childish things'. We have to hold one

another to a standard of maturity and responsibility. When we find those who are not measuring up, we have to help, instruct, and educate our brothers and sisters of how they are falling short and what they can do to be better. They are better people, they just need it reaffirmed in them. After all they were accepted into the organization.



Legacy leadership in Black Churches and Black Greek organizations is the term I will use for the impact of systemic societal racism. With relatively few opportunities for leadership churches and fraternal organizations were the havens of last





resorts. With so few opportunities, once gained, many sought to keep their position for life. Whether the person is good, mediocre or excellent, the end result of this mindset is stagnation of innovation and dying on the vine of other possible leaders. In both Black Churches and Black Greek organizations there was a direct resistant to integration of "corporate procedures" to make the organization/church run more efficiently. The long term growth development of both black entities is dependent upon the exposure of the next generation of leaders to the current problems and the opportunity for them to propose solutions. In a democracy, term limits are a good thing. The more minds that understand the scope of the problems, the more perspectives are brought in to bring about an optimized solution.

Therefore a leader's responsibility is not just to manage a day of activities for the organization, but to train and prepare their replacements. In the post segregation era, many became leaders because they were good members. In and of itself this is not bad, but if you have others who are more capable to lead, why not give them the opportunity.

However the church is not an organization, it is an organism. It is not a democracy, it is a theocracy. The Word of God is the first and final authority on how the church should operate. Leaders should be chosen based on the spiritual maturity even as the first deacons were selected. Just as Paul mentored Timothy, church officers should be finding those young adults who are also spiritually mature and mentor them into the ways of Christian leadership.

CHRISTIANITY: FULFILLMENT OF THE BLACK GREEK PURPOSE

I started these articles to answer the question can you be a Christian and a member of a Black Greek letter organization. In review I would ask the question, how can you not be a Christian and be a member of a Black Greek letter organization. The purpose and principles upon which the Divine Nine were founded are fulfilled in the life of a Christian. Don't confuse what you see church folk do with what God has called us to be. We are all works in progress, some of us have decided to put away childish things, and assume our adult responsibilities. Some of us just want to act like adults while holding on to childish things. We must hold one another accountable in love and always Give God



the Glory for the good things He has done.

BIO:

Rev. Ronald Sampson, Sr. is an associate minister at Aenon Missionary Baptist Church in Rochester, New York, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Jonathan Jamel H. McReynolds. He has been Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. since November of 1972. Is active in church and in the fraternity. He is married to his college sweetheart and member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Cheryl.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT — JOSEPH A. GOINGS

By Karen M. Cornwell

Upstate NY area including our local city and county governments are making great strides in aiding our youth to thrive and flourish and prepares them for a healthy, happy, and safe adulthood.

Upstate NY Gospel Magazine strives to spotlight our positive youth through our Youth Spotlight. This issue we had to opportunity to speak with an inner-city youth that is overcoming his challenges while engaging in every element of the society - school, home, church, community, etc. Please join me for a conversation with Joseph A. Goings.

oseph, tell us about your family? Tell our readers about you academically?

I am a 14-year-old 9th grader, at Leadership Academy for Young Men (RCSD). I am the oldest son of 8 children, and have older sisters who do a lot for me. I have three nieces and a god sister that I enjoy spending time with.

When I was in elementary school I faced many challenges. I was diagnosed with ADHD and Anxiety. I had difficulties with peer interaction, trusting my teachers and other staff. As a result of some of my struggles, my academic scores suffered and I was labeled. Even though I had many concerns in elementary school, I was in an environment where the staff met me where I was. The school, my mom (Walida Monroe-Sims) and step father (Edward Sims) worked together to make sure I could have the best possible support. When I graduated from School #1 my principal, Dr. Harris Pappin, strongly advocated for me to go to Leadership Academy.

When I entered Leadership Academy, my GPA was a 1.75. Today, my overall GPA is a 3.75. I have maintained a 3.25 since the 7th grade. I enjoy going to Leadership and look forward to my success there.

What are your extra-curricular activities in school, community and church?

I really like sports and enjoy playing football, basketball, and tennis. I play on all three of these teams at my school. Outside of school, I enjoy riding my bike, scooter, and skate board.

I started playing football when I was 10 years old and joined the South West Colts. I played with them until I was in the 8th grade and tried out for my school team. Today, I am on the JV team at Leadership Academy.

I have been playing basketball since I was 5 years old. I have played on various city recreation teams, then Youth for Christ Basketball League. Then onto the Bobcats Basketball League, where I earned the "Most Valuable Player" award and have played for my school the last 2 years. I am currently waiting for football season to end so I can begin playing freshman basketball for Leadership Academy.

I enjoy going to church. I attend Elim Christian Fellowship of Rochester, where my pastor is Bishop T. Anthony Bronner. I truly enjoy being apart of our youth ministry, especially the youth discussions, and other activities at my church.





Outside of sports, school, and church, I enjoy hanging out with my friends that have been in my life since I was in the first grade. I like going to different shopping plazas and malls. I also enjoy going to the grocery store with my mom and stepdad, as well as helping out around the house.

How did you get involved in the Roland Williams Champion Academy? Please tell us about your experience with the Academy? What type of activities have you done with the Academy?

Two years ago, Roland Williams and the staff of Championship Academy came to my school. I signed up, and went home to tell my mom about it. After orientation, my mom and I decided that the Championship Academy would be a good fit for me. The summer sessions were not far from my home, so I was able to walk. I look forward to the monthly meet ups and the community activities.

Every morning we receive positive quotes via text message, and we have meet-ups every school break at the MLK Park. I have participated in many activities: Clean Sweep, Buffalo Bills Training Camp, trips to the Art Gallery and museums.

What has the Championship Academy taught you?

Championship Academy teaches us to be the best that we can be, because we are great. It teaches us to embrace our own uniqueness, and to be leaders. We discuss challenges youth face today, and issues that may occur in homes. We talk about our future. The importance of making well informed decisions and every decision has a consequence: good or bad.

What I like most is the entire academy is focused on the recruitment process of football - from high school to college to professional. We get drafted on certain teams, and it maybe a team you do not like. You can even get traded to other teams.

Now that you are involved with the Championship Academy has your outlook been impacted?

Today, I am more focused, because I want what is best for my future. The Championship Academy has assisted me in this process. Before I signed up for Championship Academy, I made a choice to do something different and work on myself, and being apart of the Championship Academy is one way that has helped.









UNIQUE AND HEALTHY WAYS TO BREAK A SMOKING ADDICTION

By Dale Harris

ou may smoke, but that doesn't mean that you're happy to be a smoker. Smoking addiction affects a lot of people and many wish that they could drop the habit altogether.

According to a survey from the American Cancer Society, 70% of the participants want to stop smoking. Giving up smoking can be one of the most challenging things you do, but that doesn't mean that it's impossible.

Ending Smoking Addiction

If you want to stop smoking, there are a variety of things you can do to help get rid of your habit. People have used mental tricks, products, and even medical help to stop their habit.

Are you ready to stop smoking? Any of these five methods could help you finally quit for good.

Delay

Are you close to giving in to your tobacco craving? Instead of taking a smoke break right now, just wait a few minutes. It may sound crazy, but those few minutes can help do a lot to stop a craving in its tracks.

Spend 5-10 minutes doing something else. Check your e-mail, look at social media, or basically do anything to get your mind off of your craving. After awhile it should pass and you won't feel the need to smoke anymore.

Deal With Stress Constructively

Smoking and stress almost work together hand-in-hand. A study from the Pew Research Center shows that a lot of smokers struggle with stress, and those stressful feelings cause them to light up more cigarettes.

If you're a stress smoker you need to find a different way to handle feelings of stress. Some people find that using a stress ball helps them. Others have used yoga or meditation to center themselves and fight off cravings.

Find New Routines

Some people like to end their lunch breaks with a cigarette or two, and others need a smoke before they go to sleep. Smokers that fall into routines can have trouble quitting, because it becomes a part of their daily schedule.

Finding a new routine can help you break your smoking habit. Replace your scheduled smoke breaks with new

routines that are satisfying.

Instead of having that post-lunch smoke, take a quick walk to energize yourself for the next half of the day. Consider having a snack instead of a smoke before bed.

Think About Natural Remedies

If you want to quit smoking, mother nature may be able to help. There are a variety of herbs and other natural things that can help break your smoking addiction.

Cream of Tartar has health benefits that have been touted by naturalists for years, and it can also help you quit smoking. Ginseng has also been known to help combat cravings.

Reward Yourself

Quitting smoking is tough, and even just slowing down your habit is a cause for celebration. Quitting comes with a variety of health benefits, but small rewards along the way can make it easier to end your smoking addiction.

If you just went your first day without smoking, treat yourself to a fancy coffee in the morning. If you've gone weeks or months without a cigarette, it may be time to buy that new pair of shoes you've been eyeing.







REMEMBERING ANTHONY "TONY" DWIGHT BOLER

10/22/52/-5/8/17

By Tracie Isaac

usic has a way of penetrating the human condition and transporting the flesh to a unique period in time, or shifting the emotional state into various levels. There was a man who had a special gift for understanding how to utilize music in a way that connected a person to a memory, or united an entire city. That person was affectionately known as Tony Boler, the voice and talent of a culture and a heart for all people. Anthony Dwight Boler (Tony) was born on October 22, 1952 in Durham, North Carolina, to Dorothy and the late Charles Boler II. As the oldest of ten children, Tony possessed the spirit of a role model and leader from an early age, with his eight brothers and one sister. During his high school years at both Booker T. Washington and Reidsville Senior High, Tony became a star

basketball player. He won several awards during that time, among them was his most prestigious award, being selected MVP in his senior year. This afforded him the opportunity to play in the East-West Coast All Star game. His dream was to go professional.

At the age of twenty, Tony relocated to Rochester, New York to seek out new opportunities, while he lived with his aunt. His employment search landed him at the Eastman Kodak Company, where he became a part of their basketball league and gained a life-long friend in Leroy Sanders. With the development of a new friend in Larry Cheeks, Tony was introduced to the love of his life, Larry's first cousin Jerry Lynn Johnson.

The courtship of Tony and Jerry lead to a proposal in 1979 and the marriage of Tony and Jerry took place on August 9, 1980. The Boler family was enhanced with the birth of one son Anthony Rashaad and one daughter Ashlynn.

His passion for basketball lead to a scholarship, to play on a collegiate level at Fayetteville University in North Carolina. Tony majored in Biology and remained enrolled until the passing of his college coach. With the loss of his coach and school funds, he decided to return to Rochester. His transition back to Rochester included returning to Kodak. Moving forward, Tony obtained a position with the Xerox Corporation that lasted for 32 years.

During the settling time of 1991, Tony happened to make a phone

call to WDKX to request a song. Not realizing this moment would change his life. The call was answered by Andre Marcel where he was asked, "if this was his natural voice and would he be interested in doing jingles for the station?" He did and the story of Tony Boler and WDKX commenced. Tony became a well-known radio personality for the number one rated radio station, WDKX in Upstate New York with the voice that commanded attention. The timbre of his unique baritone voice, endeared listeners to the ever-popular silky-smooth DJ and announcer.

The perfect program format for Tony was "Memory Lane" which he co-hosted with owner, program director and friend Andre Marcel. A dynamic duo of Tony and Andre spinning the hits that range from the beginning of the R&B "golden oldies" to current

> day chart toppers that had many on Saturday mornings moving and grooving to the "memories" of good times and good tunes. Additionally, with the popularity of love songs garnering the evenings throughout the midnight hour across the country, the latest Quiet Storm segment had a new star in

Many in the Rochester community can attest to the charismatic and humble spirit of Tony. His love for the community and the youth, was evident in his omnipresence with mentoring the youth, volunteering at grassroots and community events throughout the city and especially working with Senior citizens. He was not only musically inclined, but he also held strong entrepreneurial skills. As an

inspirational speaker and Master of Ceremony, Tony's name was at the top of everybody's list for special events.

There were many who enlisted Tony as their go to DJ, including Rochester Mayor, Lovely A. Warren, who presented Mrs. Jerry Boler with a special posthumous honor for Tony. "Tony was also present for the special moments in the lives of many of our citizens, including serving as DJ at my wedding. He will be greatly missed, but heaven has gained an angel. My prayers are with Tony's family, Andre Marcel and the WDKX family, and to his many fans."

We are left with great and valuable moments as we continue the journey of celebrating the life of Anthony "Tony" Dwight Boler.







EMPOWERING WOMEN LUNCHEON ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!



he YWC Empowering Women Luncheon featured keynote speaker Sonia Manzano, better known as "Maria" from Sesame Street.

For over 30 years, Sonia inspired, educated, and delighted children and families as "Maria" on Sesame Street.

Named among the "25 Greatest Latino Role Models Ever" by Latina Magazine, Sonia broke ground as one of the first Hispanic characters on national television. Throughout her career, she has continued to contribute to enriching diversity on television, on the stage, and in the educational realm.

A first generation America of Latin descent, Sonia's tale is one of perseverance and courage as she overcame countless obstacles

to become one of the most influential Latinas in television.

More than 1,350 community members came out to the Convention Center to hear Sonia's story of overcoming adversity as well as her fond memories on the set of Sesame Street.

In addition to Sonia's keynote address, former YWCA participants shared their stories of facing and overcoming adversity.

Thank you to the entire Rochester community for your continued support of the YWCA!



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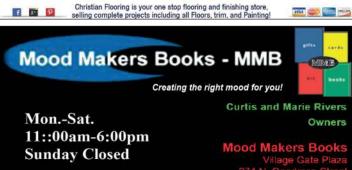
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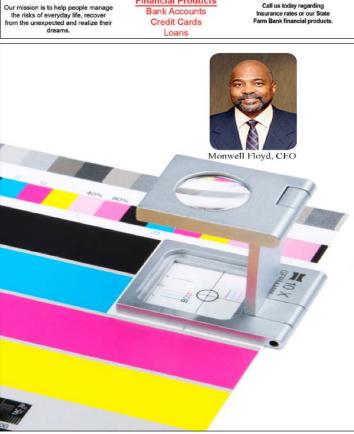
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