

The Weekly Challenger

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 51 NO. 47

SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

50¢

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Panelist Fred Hearn, Gwendolyn Reese and Victoria Oldham discussed the Civil Rights Movement in the Tampa Bay area at the opening reception for the Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts exhibition at the Florida Holocaust Museum Sept. 7.

Opening reception of local Civil Rights Movement exhibition

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Florida Holocaust Museum opened its original exhibition Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts: The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay on Sept. 7. The event included a discussion about the history of Tampa Bay's African-American communities in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota.

Panelists included Gwendolyn Reese, president of the African American Heritage Association of St. Pete; Fred Hearn, who has served as president for the local chapter of the Association for the Study of

African American Life and History and was a longtime member of the NAACP and the Tampa Urban League and Victoria Oldham, a former broadcast journalist and documentarian of Newtown, the African-American community in Sarasota.

Judge Charles Williams, who sits on the board of directors of Embracing Our Differences, Florida Studio Theatre, and The Boxer Diversity Initiative acted as moderator.

Discussing the origins and geographic boundaries of the first African-American communities in St. Pete, Reese noted that we could trace the first such community, Pepper Town, to 1888. It was located around what

is today Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, near Third and Fourth Avenue.

"That community was established primarily when black workers came to build the Orange Belt Railroad," Reese explained.

Methodist Town was another community that followed in 1894, called so because it was built around Bethel AME Church. The next area was Cooper's Quarters, which became known as the Gas Plant area because of its two large natural gas reservoirs. It extended south of Fifth Avenue to include the Campbell Park area.

"Then, of course, we have

See **EXHIBIT**, page 10

Cloud Nine Outdoors teaches youth the joys of fishing



Jovan McNeill shares transformative outdoor experiences with low-income and single-parent families.

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

TAMPA BAY – Jovan McNeill's personal experience with nature and family is directly responsible for the creation of Cloud Nine Outdoors, Inc. The founder and executive director speaks passionately of how spending time in nature while fishing with his teenage mother as a child transformed his world.

Born and raised in Tampa to a 16-year-old mother, McNeill was raised with his grandmother and his mom. "My great-grandmother introduced us to fishing when I was about three, four. Growing up, fishing became our way to bond."

McNeill said it's a tradition that's continued. Even when he became a rebellious teen, time spent fishing was a way that he and his mother could spend time together.

Strongly impacted by the transformative nature of that time spent with his mom fishing, McNeill believed that there were hundreds of kids from low-income homes who might watch TV shows about fishing and hunting and want to experience it themselves but couldn't because of their family's structure and finances.

It sparked an idea. "I wanted to provide a program to give parents the skills, opportunities and tools to go fishing," said McNeill.

He noted that the affordability of the sport (poles can be purchased for under \$10 at Walmart, and bait costs less than that) makes it a perfect option for getting out in nature, spending time with family and providing healthy meals.

Mentorship has always been another important part of the Cloud Nine Outdoors' program. Growing up in the projects without a father around, McNeill related to the hardships and struggles that many of the youth he interacted with were experiencing.

Working with youth, he said, "We saw a need for more mentorship in the schools, with grades and behavior issues that kids deal with." Because of his background,

See **FISHING**, page 8

Campbell Park Resource Center has a new location

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – With a new location and a lot more space, Jeffery Johnson, manager of the Campbell Park Resource Center, said he is excited about what his organization can do for St. Petersburg residents.

The center held a grand opening last Saturday for its new, larger space located in the rear of John Hopkins Middle School.

A resource fair was stationed in the cafeteria of JHOP, and on the outside, Feeding Tampa Bay provided fresh and pantry stable foods for the crowds. Of course, free food, music and activities for the children were in full force.

The resource center, under the umbrella of United Way Suncoast, provides financial assistance for families struggling to pay their utility bills, as well as career awareness, credit restoration and legal advice. Residents will also have an opportunity to attend classes on a variety of topics, including tenant law and



Jeffery Johnson, manager of the Campbell Park Resource Center, and the SPDP showed up and out at the Campbell Park Resource Center back-to-school event last Saturday.

budgeting 101.

"We are a one-stop-shop for families," Johnson said. "Bay Area Legal is onsite to provide legal advice, and the Pinellas Urban League is here to assist with economic development."

To date, the two-year-old center has helped more than 1,000 St. Pete residents with a goal of increasing that number with the addition of the permanent food pantry in partnership with Feed-

ing Tampa Bay.

"We will provide residents in Campbell Park, Melrose and John Hopkins with food twice a week," said Johnson. "But we will also take referrals from our partner agencies. If they bring a family to us and tell us they are in need of food, we will make sure they get it."

Other resource center part-

See **CENTER**, page 9

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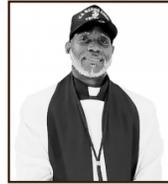
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Praise the Lord Saints.

This week I'm saddened by the loss of a friend, fellow faithful servant of God, devoted husband and father, fellow devil dog and brother in arms.

My brother District Elder Lenton Willis transitioned this past Saturday unexpectedly and it was a great loss to all that knew him.

He was one of the good ones that we feel left too soon.

The First Lady and my hearts go out to Sister Joyce Willis and his entire family. She already knows how we feel and know we are here ready, willing and able to do all we can for her during this time.

I will miss his great smile and always clean, sharp threads (that's dressing to you all young folks).

Love you, miss you brother.

Shout out to a young brother that is taking on the true spirit of entrepreneurship.

Big Brother Rick, located at 527 49th St. S,

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They did a super job and for a fraction of what you would pay at all the other car detailing places around. Sorry, Pro*** but I gotta support my small black-owned businesses, especially this young brother who employs several young black teens.

This is how you take what hand you are given and do and not complain that you don't have enough, need more grants or whatever.

I'm proud of the young brother and told him I would give them a shout out in my column this week.

This is what it's all about.

I will be back next week to continue with Battle scars: When the church wounds its own, part 4. This ain't over by a long shot.

I haven't seen or heard any other pastors speak to this subject but there needs to be so that we can collectively ad-

dress it head on and move to have it removed so that the people of God, especially the 26,000 plus that are unchurched, can come back home and feel welcomed with open arms.

I know I would welcome them.

FYI, 2800 41st Ave. N, across the street from the Whizz Inn corner store on 28th Street North, our service time for now is Sundays at 2:30 pm. I can assure you that you might miss the kickoff but you will be home before the start of the second quarter.

We are untraditional in the sense that I teach what's in the instruction manual (Bible). Not a bunch of fillers. Ain't gone be no ushering in the spirit, you should already be ready to receive once you walk into the sanctuary.

Cut the greens on low and come on out. I promise you won't leave the way you came, in Jesus' name.

Till next week.
Blessings,
Bishop Elect Dr. Robert L. Harrison, Phd



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PICK OF THE WEEK!
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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be received no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Pete youth voice their opinions with local law enforcement

ST. PETERSBURG – This past Saturday, Sept. 7, more than 30 middle and high school students met with law enforcement officers from the St. Petersburg Police Department

at the Campbell Park Community Center to discuss current issues and concerns facing the youth and police.

The conversation was the first in a series to help

strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and youth in St. Pete. Takeaways from the discussions will be used to inform a plan of action to bridge the gap

between youth and law enforcement.

The event was made possible by the City of St. Petersburg Police Department, Civilian Police Review Committee, Com-

munity Action Response Team and Cohorts of Champions, as well as the Pinellas County Urban League and community volunteers.

The next session will

be Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Roberts Recreation Center. For more information on the discussion series, contact Lendel Bright at lendel.bright@stpete.org or 727-893-7229.



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Senator Darryl Rouson and UNITE Pinellas team to combat unfair fees, fines and evictions

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — “Cash register justice,” according to a recent report from the Brennan Center, is a term describing Florida’s method of fining criminal defendants with “user fees” to fund its courts and budget shortages.

According to the report, since 1996, Florida has added over 20 new fees while eliminating exemptions for those unable to pay. The accumulation of debt for defendants who can’t afford the costs can result in a burrowing

hole of poverty and an endless struggle to escape fees and fines that stranglehold their freedom.

One immediate, glaring issue is fines contributing to suspended driver’s licenses. Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles data reported that between 2012 and 2015, 77 percent of suspended licenses were the result of “a failure to pay fees.”

Numbers like these spurred Senator Darryl Rouson to team with UNITE Pinellas to investigate the impact on communities in Pinellas and

Hillsborough. While he acknowledged that the issue has been around a long time, reviewing the statistics and impact on residents revealed in the recent Equity Profile of Pinellas County encouraged Rouson to take further action.

It costs approximately \$775 just to renew a suspended license, on top of the unpaid fees that triggered the suspension in the first place. Rouson noted economic factors could impede the repayment process and impact more people with lower socio-economic means than higher-income constituents.



Tim Dutton, left, with Senator Darryl Rouson

“Sometimes people can’t afford it,” he remarked. “And sometimes they’re making decisions about groceries and rent versus paying a fee or fine.”

Tim Dutton, director of UNITE Pinellas, agreed that focusing on the legislation is where solution-building will come.

“We’re also looking at the topic of evictions and how that plays out,” he added. “In both instances — fines and evictions — there are specific state laws that are a piece of the puzzle.”

Data from the Eviction Lab, Princeton University’s national database of evictions, reveals that the number of evictions in Florida and throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties are higher than the national average.

In the most recent data, Pinellas is evicting an average of 11 families a day, with four of those families in St. Petersburg. Data also shows that residents in communities of color are disproportionately impacted.

Noting that Florida ranks 40th in the country in terms of best legislation for renters, Rouson explained, “That leads me to believe there’s room for improvement.”

The senator stressed that in looking at eviction legislation, it is important to assure that people are following the law, but there should be compassion in enforcing it.

“We’re not saying that every landlord is a bad

landlord and that they shouldn’t have rights to get paid and to enforce the eviction laws. We’re arguing for compassion in the enforcement; there ought to be understanding in the regulation of the law.”

Dutton referred to Florida laws that allow evicted tenants’ possessions to be put out on the curb, which is not the case in some states. “We want to be a place where the laws look at what the best practice is going on around the country, what might be fair and just and what laws might make that happen,” he offered.

Both Rouson and Dutton also noted that the lack of legal representation in eviction cases had been shown to negatively impact tenants who usually don’t have representation, while landlords normally do.

Dutton noted that a solution might be creating a better source of legal aid funding that assures more tenants are represented in eviction proceedings, as is the case in other states.

To get evidence-based statistics that will help lead toward solutions, on July 25 Rouson wrote to Senate President Bill Galvano at the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. He requested a review of the state-wide policies impacting criminal justice fees and fines, as well as evictions and their impact on individuals and families.

Still, shared Dutton,

“the best solutions are going to be generated by a combination of understanding the data and also understanding people’s personal experience with the issue.”

Dutton stressed that community input, expertise and knowledge must be included in the solution building process or “it’s not going to work.”

To that end, Rouson and UNITE Pinellas will hold several story-gathering community meetings around the county, with the first being held in St. Pete. “The Real Truth About Fees, Fines and Evictions — Share Your Story” will be held on Monday, Sept. 23, from 6-8 p.m. at Childs Park Rec Center, 4201 13th Ave. S.

The flyer for the event stresses the importance of individual input, appealing to the community to come share their stories: Have personal experience? Then you know the real truth. Your knowledge can help to change the policies for good.

Rouson concluded that the best-case scenario would be “a reform of legislation and respecting of tenants’ rights, fewer people going into poverty as a result of being evicted and increased legal representation that will lead to better outcomes.”

For more information, call or email Tim Dutton at 727-440-7996, or tdutton@unitepinellas.org.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com

THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT: FEES, FINES AND EVICTIONS

SHARE YOUR STORY

WHEN?

September 23
6pm – 8pm

WHERE?

Child’s Park Rec Center
4301 13th Ave South – St. Petersburg

WHY?

People receive punishing fees & fines throughout the criminal justice system.

Florida’s eviction law is one of the worst in the nation in terms of fairness to tenants.

THIS CAN AND SHOULD CHANGE!

HAVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE? THEN YOU KNOW THE REAL TRUTH.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP TO CHANGE THE POLICIES FOR GOOD.

WHO IS BEHIND THIS MEETING?



Senator Darryl Rouson

and



QUESTIONS?

Call or email Tim
727.440.7996
tdutton@unitepinellas.org

CONNECT WITH US!

Pinellas County School news

Homework Helpline available to Pinellas students

The Homework Helpline is a free service for all PCS students. The service is available 5 to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday. Students can get help with math, science, social studies and language arts. Students who need practice reading can also call the helpline and spend 10 minutes reading to an adult. Families can reach the Homework Helpline at 727-547-7223.

New online volunteer process makes registration easier

Pinellas County Schools’ Office of Strategic Partnerships has launched an online process for new volunteer registration. The new process replaces a paper registration system and allows those looking to volunteer to register online from their homes and streamline the registration process. Volunteers can register here: www.pcsb.org/volunteerregistration

PCS is hiring bus drivers

Pinellas County Schools is seeking to hire bus drivers for the 2019-20 school year. Full and part time positions are available. To learn more about the application process, qualifications and benefits visit www.pcsb.org/busdrivers or call 727-547-7294.

Pinellas County Schools is now hiring nurses

Pinellas County Schools is looking for applicants to help keep our students healthy and ready to learn!

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- Current certification in CPR
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Applicants who are interested in becoming a school nurse, can apply here. If you have questions related to the position, please call School Health Services at (727) 588-6320.

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Campbell Park

September 21, 2019

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For more information, contact Chairperson Paulette Jones, 727-565-6094.

Tony Love fired before HUD, SPHA investigations completed

Dear Editor:
Over the top, under the radar, around the system, and through our fingers! Well played, Mayor Kriseman. The mayor likely would respond, "I think so."

A recent *Tampa Bay Times* editorial sporting the headline, "Fresh start for the housing authority," said that the St. Petersburg Housing Authority (SPHA) – on the verge of delivering upwards of \$50-million in economic development in the south side community through the redevelopment of Jordan Park – acted "responsibly," by "finally" firing

CEO Tony Love, "so it can focus on its mission, rather than the "constant" internal turmoil and poor management that has plagued it for months."

The statement was made despite the compelling fact that SPHA has, in fact, achieved national "High Performer" ratings from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for well over a decade, including each of

the three years led by Tony Love.

The editorialized statement was also made in full light of the even more compelling fact that in the same timeframe, SPHA has also successfully ended an inter-local operating agreement with the Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA).

That liberating move away from PCHA has not only freed SPHA to consistently achieve higher performance levels, as defined by HUD; it has also freed SPHA to secure new sources of funding such as that offered under the HUD-supported RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) program, which effectively opens the door for housing authorities to compete at a level that is more on par with private sector providers of affordable housing.

In fact, it is growth, for the strategic business purpose of developing additional affordable housing opportunities, that has made the African-American led SPHA the favorite

whipping boy for its market sensitive competitors and the political interests that are so openly and unabashedly aligned with them.

As the largest provider of affordable housing in a city that has openly, historically, financially and politically opposed public housing, especially for low to very low-income constituents, of course, the SPHA and the executive hired to enlarge its territory are under siege.

With the nearest competitor falling some 2,000 units behind the pace set by SPHA, it also should be noted that the unspoken word tells a New South story about a formerly all-black SPHA board of commissioners led by a black CEO, bringing the heat to a town with no historic point of reference for such achievements by black people.

This story, its chapters undergirded by race-based politics and economics, is playing out given long suffering desegregation efforts at home, work and play,

under a sadly, though clearly selective sunray of light, as evidenced by repeated slams against a black man CEO's salary that is lower than that of affordable housing competitors, local housing authorities and the politicians who are appointing SPHA competitors, former city employees and persons having no relevant skills or particular affinity to the SPHA board.

The latter observation also gives pause to the shameful comparison drawn by *The Times'* editorial writers between the documented medical condition reported a month in advance of Love's sick leave with the unspecified basis for leaves taken by other executives of other ethnicities fired for abandoning their posts during a time of crisis.

Perhaps the analogy is better authenticated by the fact that storm preparedness training and materials have been provided to residents from June forward through the threatened arrival of Do-

rian.

Indeed, board chair Stephanie Owens, in lobbying for Love's dismissal for "convenience" during a recent board meeting, expressed wonderment and frustration that Love would take leave while a major storm was forecast and, according to sources, to buttress her argument may have shared his personnel and medical leave records with fellow commissioners as part of a package of documents she distributed to them on the day Owens and five other Kriseman appointees – Roxanne Amoroso, James Dates, Jerrilyn Evans, C. Knox LaSister and Terri Lipsey Scott – voted to fire Love.

Resident Interest Commissioner Sharlene Gambrell-Davis, a holdover from the previous board whom Kriseman did not go after, voted to retain Tony Love.

Political and real estate insiders tell us Kriseman wants all that Jordan Park acreage to be developed by folks who look



Tony Love

like him rather than the homegrown black folk who've been working hard to produce this economic development opportunity.

Activists on the ground now say they are wondering just how black folk in near-downtown election districts – who records suggest gave Kriseman his reelection margin of victory – will react or respond if this black-led economic development is neutralized.

I will be looking for black citizen-electors' responses now as Kriseman has floated potential interest in governing we Floridians from the capitol in Tallahassee.

R. Clendenning

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Age ain't nothin' but a number

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

As the 40-year-old marvel Manny Pacquiao recently proved with his win over Clearwater's previously unbeaten Keith Thurman, we should never count a great fighter out no matter how many rounds he's racked up over the years.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of another ageless wonder climbing into the ring to face a much younger opponent and completing a comeback for the ages.

Against all the odds the indefatigable George Foreman, who first grabbed the heavyweight title in 1973, reclaimed the crown more than two decades later at the age of 45.

His unique life's journey started with a troubled childhood and took him from being a merciless bruiser handing out beat downs in the ring to an ordained minister lifting spirits in the church. He became an analyst, author and entrepreneur. Yet, he always had a battler's heart.

Foreman became attracted to the sweet science in his teens, and as an up and coming amateur, he qualified for the 1968 U.S. Olympic boxing team. Making short work of his hapless opponents on his way to capturing the gold medal in the heavyweight division, the big Texan turned pro the following year and proceeded to mow down all comers with his fierce punching power.

As fearsome a fighter as any whoever put on the gloves, Foreman walloped and stopped the tough-as-railroad-spikes Joe Frazier in only the second round of a 1973 bout to win the WBA and WBC heavyweight titles. A year and a half later, unde-

feated Foreman would face the aging yet still charismatic Muhammad Ali in Zaire for the Rumble in the Jungle.

There probably isn't a single man, woman or child on the planet who by now doesn't at least have a passing knowledge of the "rope-a-dope" tactic Ali employed to emerge victorious.

Ali, always knowing precisely how to handle his opponents, simply hung back and held on for dear life as Foreman brutishly swung at Ali's well-protected mid-section like a man trying to knock down a tree with his fists.

In the eighth round, with Foreman finally exhausted and outsmarted, Ali picked his spots, landed his shots and felled the mighty giant in front of an exhilarated African crowd to wrest the titles.

Foreman would pick himself up from the canvas and fight only another half dozen times — the last time dropping a decision to Jimmy Young in Puerto Rico — before ostensibly retiring from the ring in 1977. After that last fight, Foreman felt his spirit was in a place of despair, and soon he became a born-again Christian.

In dedicating his life to God, he became a reverend, preached at the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Houston and opened a youth center.

Out of the sport for a decade — an eternity for a fighter — Foreman decided it was time to once again lace on his boxing shoes and step out onto the comeback trail at the overripe old age of 38. Drawn back to the ring to raise money for his youth center, he was determined to fight his way back up the ladder and see if he had any magic left in his mighty fists.

As the world would find out, Foreman still had some thumpings up his sleeve.

For four years, Foreman dispatched every fighter he faced — almost all by KO and nearly every one of those wins came inside of four rounds — to set up a shot at the title in 1991 against the one and only Evander Holyfield.

Over 42 at this point, Foreman hung with the younger, hard-punching Holyfield for 12 rounds in his toughest test yet. He absorbed some fierce flurries and brutal bashings from the champ, and the magic finally ran out that night in Atlantic City as Foreman lost by decision.

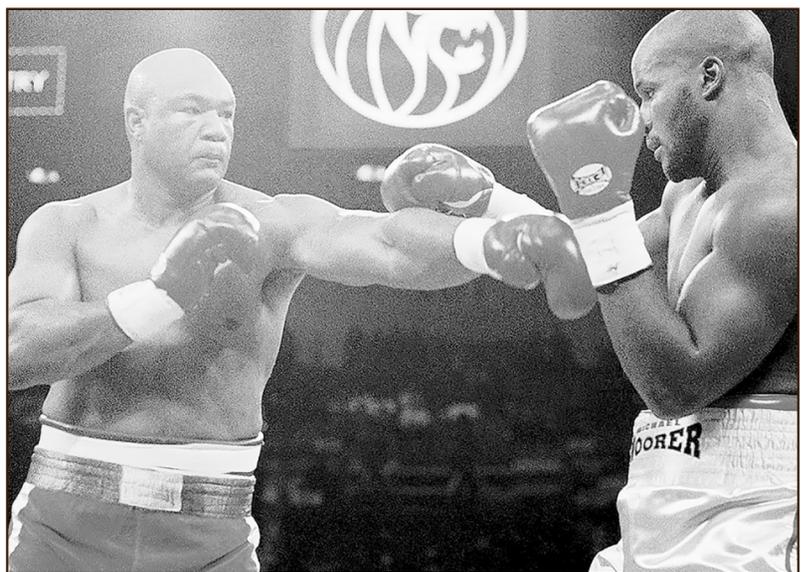
But there was no keeping the relentless Foreman down. Eight months later, the old warrior got back on his horse and defeated three talented fighters in a row before coming up short against the cocky Tommy Morrison, who won by unanimous decision.

Now over 44 years old and coming off a loss, Foreman still was a favorite of many fans and boxing pundits alike. His never-say-die attitude was inspiring youngsters who weren't even born when he first marauded his way to the title in the early 1970s.

However, this was a kinder, gentler George. Not the sullen, scowling executioner that looked across the ring at his opponents with death in his eyes. Everybody was pulling for this big teddy bear with the kind heart.

His chance at another title came in 1994 against WBA and IBF champ Michael Moorer. Undeclared in 35 bouts,

"Double M" was 27, in his prime and a clear favorite to put old man Foreman out of his misery in the early rounds.



George Foreman's chance at another title came in 1994 against WBA and IBF champ Michael Moorer (right).

It would be an old-timer squaring off against a whippersnapper, and many wondered whether Foreman could conjure any more victories as he stood ready to face Moorer in the MGM Grand ring in Paradise, Nev., a couple of months shy of his 46th birthday.

Looking overweight and moving slowly, Foreman kept fending off attacks by the quicker and more aggressive Moorer. The champ established his jab right away and kept peppering a retreating Foreman with rights and lefts while Foreman himself plodded slowly along, throwing unsure punches with all the speed of a poorly-constructed paper airplane.

Through nine rounds, Moorer moved forward and repeatedly struck his target while Foreman lumbered back and to the side, seemingly debating on whether he should formulate any cohesive attack of his own.

Outboxed and out-gunned heading into the tenth round, Foreman trailed on all the score-

cards. But the once-upon-a-time-champ was determined to finish his Cinderella story with a coronation of his own.

Needing a knockout to have any hope of winning, Foreman trudged out to meet Moorer in the center of the ring and promptly ate some leather. But Foreman wouldn't give up that easily. This time he was the one coming after his opponent, forcing him back with more spirited punches.

Moorer, wary of getting caught with a powerful shot in the late rounds, kept circling to his right to stay away from Foreman's right hand of granite. But Foreman adjusted to the southpaw's movements and was waiting for Moorer with a few left hooks, which he unleashed to rattle Moorer a bit.

Then, showing more quickness than he had in the whole fight (in his entire career, possibly), Foreman drove home the exclamation point of his entire comeback. He shot off a jab followed a

nanosecond later by a thunderous right hand, which he bashed into Moorer's face with the force of a battering ram.

Moorer flopped to the canvas, face bloodied and body splayed flat. With the referee counting over him, he weakly tried to roll over in a daze, but there was no getting up from that vicious blow. The comeback was complete and old man Foreman was finally heavyweight champ again!

Foreman would take on a few more bouts, defending titles along the way, before fighting for the last time in 1997, at the incredible age of 48. He has inspired multiple generations as a man who is resilient and philanthropic, a man who has a genuine knack for business and a deep love for God and family.

But on that one night in Nevada, he proved above all to be a man who refused to be counted out.

To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweeklychallenger.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-4311
Email: info@mzprogressive.org
Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study6:30 p.m.

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E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
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Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



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Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

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SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM

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10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study* -7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.
(except Wednesdays)

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For more information about the other services and
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*Nursery and Youth Services Available



Bro. Robert Smith

20th Street Church Of Christ
825 20th Street South
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Home: 896-8006

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Sunday Morning Worship9:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

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Call: 727-896-2922



INSPIRATIONS
BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON

Thankful

We are thankful for Your love and peace dear GOD, that You give so unconditionally;

We are thankful for Your grace, favor and mercy, that we are truly blessed to see.

We are thankful as You lead and guide our footsteps in the way of JESUS CHRIST;

Our thankful hearts are humbled as You eliminate the desperation of our strife.

We thank You LORD for Your kindness and the revelation of Your strength;

Our hearts are truly thankful, for the depth and the abundance of Your amazing strength.

So we urge everyone to operate with a thankful and forgiving heart;

Be thankful for GOD’s presence and HIS love that will never depart.

Be thankful for all the trials that GOD has brought you through;

And be thankful for the restoration and the blessings of peace GOD continues to give to you.”

AMEN

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union..... 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

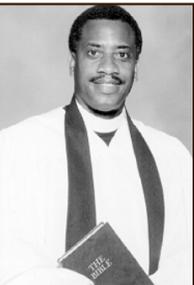
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015

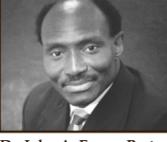
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Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.net
Email: fmbc3300@verizon.net



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
WednesdayNoonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

Today's Church TAMPA BAY



<p>ST. PETE 940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH Staybridge Suites/Boyside Ballroom</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9 AM Centering Service 10:30 AM Creative Expressions Worship Experience</p> <p>WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD 6:30 PM Mastermind Prayer 7 PM Bible Study Class</p>	<p>TAMPA 5107 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE Church Office: (813) 450-2353</p> <p>SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP 2 PM Creative Expressions Worship Experience</p> <p>TUESDAY NIGHT 7 PM Bible Study Class</p> <p>MOC SCHOOL OF MINISTRY 8 PM Courses Offered</p>
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Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader | WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

A message from our pastor . . . Fountains of Blessings

"The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" John 4:14

The picture of the Lord described here is not that a simple stream of water, but an overflowing fountain. Continue to be "be filled" (Ephesians 5:18) and the sweetness of your vial relationship of Jesus will flow as generously out of you as it has been given to you. If you find that His life is not springing up as it should, you are to blame - something is obstructing the flow. Was Jesus saying to stay focused on the Source so that you may be blessed personally? No, you are to focus on the Source so that out of you 'will flow rivers of living water -irrepressible life.' (John 7:38)

We are to become fountains through which Jesus can flow as "rivers of living

water" to bless everyone. Yet some of us are like the Dead Sea, always receiving but never giving, because our relationship is not right with the Lord Jesus. As surely as we receive blessings from Him, He will pour out blessings through us. Whenever the blessings are not being poured out in the same measure as they are received, there is a defect in our relationship with Him. Is there anything hindering your faith in Him? If not, then Jesus says that out of you will 'flow rivers of living water.'" It is not a blessing that you pass on, or an experience that you share with others but a Source, closely guard your faith in Jesus Christ and your relationship to Him, and there will be a steady flow into the lives of others with no dryness or deadness whatsoever. Be ever thankful for what God has blessed you with, always remembering that our Heavenly Father blessed us to be blessings to others ...

"poured out as rivers of living water." —

A new bible study series begins in September on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. centered around the book *Anxious for Nothing*, by Max Lucado. On September 15, we will travel to Tampa to fellowship with the Highlands Missionary Baptist Church in celebration their Pastor's 24th Anniversary at 4:00 p.m. On the fifth Sunday, Operation Love will find St. Mark visiting our sick and shut-in members.

Weekly Events:
Sunday School - Sundays @9:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Sundays @10:45 a.m.

Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) - Sundays @9:30 a.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study - Wednesdays @9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,
SPIRITUAL LEADER
TODAY'S CHURCH Tampa Bay

Change is not a dirty word!

"Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place (Revelation 2:5 NIV)."

Denial: I cannot be where I AM not.

Affirmation: I can only be where I AM.

Kingdom Principle - Divine Placement

Your current way of being (perceptions, thoughts, words, and actions) brought you to this point of your journey. To go to the next point along your path, change is necessary. Some things in your life may be easy to change. Other things may be more challenging to transform. Nevertheless, progression, growth, and development call for some type of change. These

changes are for your highest good and forward movement.

John the Baptist had one requirement of his baptismal candidates (Matthew 3:1-16). Repent. Jesus was no exception to this rule. He, too, needed to repent. Repentance is a change of heart or mind that results in a change of action. Jesus' public acceptance of being a Wayshower meant that his entire life as he knew it was changing. His old patterns were not enough for his new life; therefore, repentance was essential.

Repenting does not mean that you have done something wrong; it simply means that God is calling you to make changes in some area of your life. Only you can determine what needs to

change, when to make the change and how to implement change for your personal happiness and success. Your spiritual practices for the development of your soul empower you to transform easily and gracefully. You may be blessed with friends and family who support you in and through your change process; however, ultimately, change is in your court.

Reflection Question - What are the current changes that you are making in your life? How do you know God is calling you to make those changes?

Sharing Activity - Share with a like-minded and supportive individual the change you are working along with any challenges that you are facing as a result.

FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Robert A. Vinson, Jr., Pastor

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Women's Ministry - Health & Wellness Ministry
Marriage Ministry - Music Ministry - Youth Ministry
Assimilation Ministry - Brotherhood Ministry

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity - Psalm 133:1



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
9:00AM-2:00PM
FAITH LAND
18th Avenue South between 19th & 20th Streets South

Deatra Martin, Reg. Therapist, RMFTI
A. Laverne Feaster, LCSW

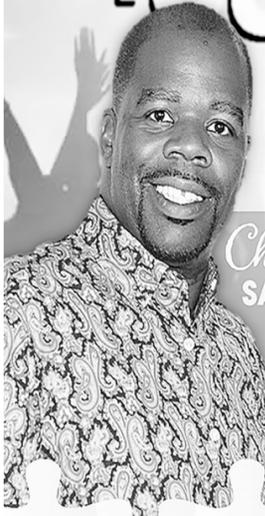





SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2019



Let's Church TOGETHER WEEKEND



Church Cookout SATURDAY AFTERNOON

7000 Pinellas Point Dr. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

Bay Vista PARK

Join us for Worship BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

MORNING WORSHIP 9 AM Centering Service (Quiet & Meditative) 940 5th Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33705	AFTERNOON WORSHIP 2 PM Cultural Integration Worship Experience 5107 N. Central Ave. Tampa, FL 33603
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MORNING WORSHIP | 10:30 AM
Creative Expressions Worship Experience
940 5th Ave. South | St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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Where mentorship and education meet the outdoors

FISHING, from front page

youth have found it easier to relate to him. "It's very hard for these kids to say, 'Hey, you don't know what I'm going through,'" offered McNeill.

Personal experience with what it means to "make it out," is the reason, said McNeill that "I made this program to help others make it out—to push them to be better in life, and in their education."

He's especially proud that all the program's seniors have graduated from high school, and all have gone on to college or trade school, at Pinellas Technical College and Hillsborough Community College.

Today, Cloud Nine Outdoors, Inc. is a fully insured 501(c)3, year-round nonprofit impacting hundreds of youth annually and offering a variety of ways that youth and single-parent families can engage in nature. The organization also teaches archery, holds wild hog hunts (that provide families with up to 60 lbs. of meat) and offers family camping opportunities.

Its mission is to provide a year-round program that helps inner-city youth with mentorships in school and access to out-

door activities to keep them out of trouble, off the streets and to see them advance in life has reached children through partnerships with Pinellas County Schools (including Melrose and Academy Prep), the Boys and Girls Club, and has attracted a variety of partners throughout Tampa Bay.

Beginning in October, the organization will be offering a series of two-day fishing camps to inner-city youth. "We're the first to do anything of this kind, of this magnitude," shared McNeill.

Each free camp will be open to 50 youth. The first day of camp will cover the ecosystem, how to cast different fishing poles, which baits and other important aspects of fishing.

"The second day we'll go out to Hubbard's Marina in John's Pass for a five-hour offshore trip in which the kids get to fish for five hours and catch fresh fish. We'll clean it for them, and they can take it home, cook it, and feed the family good fresh dinner right out of the ocean."

A myriad of studies reveal the positive impacts of spending time in nature on children and adults, includ-

ing decreased anxiety, less hyperactivity and fewer acts of aggression. Conversely, research also abounds on the impact of a lack of exercise and out-of-control use of electronics—whether kids are playing video games or parents are forced to use the television as a babysitter.

Yet, any urban parent or caregiver, whether in a single-family home or one where there is more than one caregiver, can attest to the challenge of trying to carve out time to spend in nature. Even in Florida, recent studies show that most people interviewed said they spend little time outdoors.

Cloud Nine Outdoors, Inc. is changing that. Want to see more? Check them out on Facebook, Instagram @cloudnine-outdoorsfl, or YouTube.

The first Youth Two Day Fishing Camp is set for Oct. 12 and 13. Interested parents should email Info@CloudNine-Outdoors.org or call Jovan McNeill at 813-943-6646 for more information on participating in the upcoming two-day fishing camps and other programs.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com



New Jerusalem's Missionary Baptist Church presents...

100 WOMEN

WILLING TO ANSWER THE CALL...

Sunday, September 22nd
3:00pm—5:00pm

GENESIS 22:1-18 (NKJ)

Being called to go on a journey for God is a conversation between God and us. To answer such a call may mean that we would be required to make major life changes, which can be quite the experience. Join us to see if you're willing to answer the call.

Keynote Speaker Sis. Kimberly Brown-Williams

New Jerusalem M.B. Church • 1715 18th Avenue South
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Father Photo Contest

The Healthy Start program is hosting their 3rd annual photo contest and this year's theme is celebrating fathers and fatherhood. Please share a photo with us that reflects what you love most about your relationship with your child.

Share your best photo for a chance to win the cover of the 2020 Healthy Start calendar and bragging rights—that you're the Most Valuable Father (M.V.F.).

How to enter:

- Go to link online.
- Complete form and submit a recent photo (within 6 months).

Contest winners will participate in a photo shoot with their child (ren).
The grand prize winner will be featured on the 2020 Healthy Start calendar cover!
Runners-up will be featured as a different month within the 2020 calendar.
Calendar scheduled to be released December 2019.
Register and submit photos online at www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/photocontest
Registration ends on September 6th.
FMI, please call 727-767-6780 or visit www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/HealthyStart

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Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Her inner drive

There is a saying: "When you know better, you do better." Often people want better, but for whatever their reasons, they simply do not know how to obtain the knowledge to do better.

This is one of the reasons why the idea of having mentors and coaches is so important. Still, effective matches are not always guaranteed. How can she do better? Sometimes, the answer resides in being propelled by her inner drive.

Meet Gail Pankey-Albert, who made history when she became the first African-American female New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) seat holder in 1981. She was representing York Securities, a discount brokerage house.

Interestingly, Pankey-Albert's childhood

dream was to attend college. Education has always been important to her, and she believed it could help her get out of poverty. Her parents, however, could only afford to send one of their three children to college. She was not that one.

Instead of tossing in the towel, Pankey-Albert readjusted her plan on how she would achieve a better life. Her inner drive would not let her settle. She was determined not to remain in Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood, and she knew that she could not afford to wait for an opportunity to come to her.

In preparation for life after her high school graduation, Pankey-Albert interviewed with the NYSE. This courageous decision changed her life.

She graduated from high school on a Friday night. On the following Monday morning, she was reporting to work at the NYSE. By June of 1971, Pankey-Albert was working as a carrier there. Her responsibilities included traveling among traders gathering computer punch cards that were then fed into the NYSE's ticker system.

Her employer noticed her drive. It did not take long for her to be promoted to a squad messenger. That promotion put her on the trading floor where she moved correspondence, stock quotes and transactions between various members and their respective clerks.

At that time, the NYSE floor could be populated with 3,500 people

at any given time. Only a few women were on the floor at all.

Between 1971 and 1981, Pankey-Albert worked for several Wall Street firms. By doing so, she maximized her professional value by obtaining professional securities and exchange licenses.

First, she was a computer operator. Next, she was an institutional clerk, and later she was an elected floor official. Pankey-Albert learned from her more senior colleagues, people who took the time to help guide her.

By 1981, Pankey-Albert was ready and made history. By doing so, she was met with both well-earned respect and intense hostility. Everyone was not a fan, but she handled her circum-



Gail Pankey-Albert

stance well.

Pankey-Albert continued to excel. At one point, she was vice president and director of floor operations for Fahnestock and Co. Inc. Eventually, she successfully launched her own institutional trading firm.

To the surprise of some, her inner drive began to take her in a completely different direction after a 30-year affiliation with Wall Street. In March 2001, she closed her firm. In 2006, she enrolled in Thomas Edison State University. Pankey-Albert finally

achieved her childhood goal of earning a college degree when she graduated in 2010. As a result, she developed an interest in helping adult learners achieve their academic goals.

Pankey-Albert is a reminder that inner drive provides fuel to accomplish mind-blowing feats, as well as to achieve childhood dreams — especially if you are open to the possibility of life's non-conventional order.

Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant. www.emergingfree.com

Resource center serves more than just the Campbell Park area

CENTER, from front page

ners include the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County Schools, and Duke Energy, who provided a \$1 million grant so services could be offered at no cost to the community.

Johnson, 36, said he has no doubt that others will donate to the center to ensure services continue at no cost for many years to come.

"We are going to make it work," he said. "We have made a 10-year commitment to this area."

Finding a way to make a difference is something Johnson is all too familiar with, making his way to this area as a global ambassador for Beyonce's BEY-GOOD Foundation, an organization dedicated to finding ways to make a difference in communities all around the world.

Though Beyonce's

foundation, Johnson, in partnership with United Way, began a one-day empowerment seminar for teenage girls in Tampa Bay. Now in its fifth year in Hillsborough, the program has caught the eye of the Pinellas County school district with officials researching the idea of making it a school field trip in April 2020 for girls interested in participating.

"We could potentially go from serving about 500 girls to 5,000," Johnson stated.

Johnson's partnership with the United Way as Beyonce's ambassador gave him the chance to work with organizations former CEO who asked him to manage the center.

"With my experience in higher education and as an administrator, the CEO told

me about the program (resource center) and asked if I would build it up," Johnson said.

Two years later, the center has grown, and while the initial target area began with Campbell Park, Johnson said any resident of St. Petersburg in need of assistance is welcomed.

The Campbell Park Resource Center is located in building 7 on the John Hopkins Middle School campus with a separate entrance on Ninth Avenue. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8-5 p.m. and on Fridays from 8-3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.unitedwaysuncoast.org/campbell-park.

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Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts exhibition runs through March 1, 2020

EXHIBIT, from front page

the Deuces," she said. "Everybody knows about 22nd Street and the Deuces, and that was actually the last African-American community to be established."

There were 111 thriving businesses, black-owned and operated, along with Jewish-owned establishments in a 10 block radius along 22nd Street, Reese pointed out.

Speaking of Tampa's early community, Hearn went back to May 5, 1864, "the date that freedom came to some 100 enslaved African Americans in Tampa." Most of those enslaved people lived around the downtown area, which was residential then.

"So those blacks lived close to their masters," Hearn said.

That was the beginning of what came to be known in the 1890s as the Central Avenue District. Even into the late 1920s, half the African-American population of Tampa still lived in this district.

There were some significant civil rights struggles right here in Sarasota, St. Pete and Tampa, though they did not get the publicity of places such as Birmingham or Selma, Ala.

Oldham spoke of a time in Sarasota when

black children could only swim in swimming holes or even a train car full of water, but not on the beach, which was reserved for whites. Then a man named Neil Humphrey, the first NAACP president in Sarasota County, said enough is enough and organized "wade-ins" at Lido Beach in 1955.

African Americans would pile into cars, pick up people along the way, and head toward the beach to take "a stand in the sand," Oldham said.

"It wasn't one time that they did it," she explained, "it wasn't one year that they did it, but from 1955 until a couple of years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act passed, they were doing those wade-ins for over ten years on Sunday!"

Segregation on the beaches was not even a law on the books, Oldham pointed out, but one of those unspoken Jim Crow laws. After the wade-ins helped change things, it opened up the beaches to countless more tourists.

Reese pointed to the sanitation strike of 1968 as a pivotal moment for the St. Pete black community. Primarily African-American sanitation workers fought for fairer wages, working hours and conditions.

These workers went on strike from May through August 1968 and were represented by black attorneys. They marched down the Deuces on their way to city hall that summer, fighting for their fair due.

"That didn't come easily at all," Reese said. "We actually had disturbances. The St. Petersburg Police Department actually had an armored tank that went down streets spewing tear gas."

Hearn mentioned the sit-in movement as the most significant demonstration in Tampa, notably the efforts of Clarence Ford, a 20-year-old barber in 1960. He was also president of the NAACP youth group at the time. Even the older leaders of the NAACP tried to talk young Ford out of organizing his lunch counter sit-ins, as they did not want to challenge the power structure.

Ford didn't listen, Hearn said, and went to various Tampa high schools to recruit like-minded young people. These students peacefully sat at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter for months — in the face of some bullying and taunting — until later in 1960, when the counter was finally desegregated.

"Charismatic leaders served in to inspire, but it is the foot soldiers giving their blood, sweat, and tears that make dreams and ideas a reality," noted Elizabeth Gelman, executive director of the Florida Holocaust Museum. "One of the goals of this exhibition was to give our local foot soldiers their due. To make sure that people knew their names and got a small sense of who they were."

Community leaders attending the opening included Sen. Darryl Rouson, Seminole Mayor Leslie Waters and St. Pete Police Chief Anthony Holloway. Rouson pointed out that it is appropriate that the exhibition opens during September when Rosh Hashanah begins.

"It marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year," he said. "Both a day of judgment for mankind and a time of closeness and reconciliation with God. A time of reflection when we come to understand that the journey traveled by so many of our ancestors has been similar in its cruelty, its inhumanity and its senselessness."

The original exhibit has made rounds at Bay area schools as well, helping to bring to light the struggles

of the civil rights era to today's young students. Hillary Van Dyke, senior professional development coordinator for Pinellas County Schools said that last year it traveled around various St. Pete high schools and this year it will be shown at St. Pete middle schools.

"Not only has the exhibit been up in these media centers for students to come see, so teachers are bringing their students through," Van Dyke explained, "we also have built an entire professional development around this particular exhibit, so we are getting the teachers' hands dirty as well."

Michelle Anderson, K-8 social studies specialist, said that several teachers have been "shocked and surprised" at what they've seen in the exhibit.

"The exhibit does such a wonderful job at building a context for understanding," Anderson said.

Students can see historical documents for themselves, such as a letter from outspoken activist Robert Saunders demanding a construction company to take the "colored" sign down at a port-o-john at a construction site.

"What we're ultimately hoping," Anderson said, "is

that it also builds this context for our students so that they understand better the community that they live in and the neighborhoods that they live in, and they have a richer connection to their own history."

The museum also bestowed its Upstander Award to Leon Jackson, the last surviving member of a group of African-American policemen that came to be known as the Courageous 12. Those dozen officers fought back against the status quo and successfully sued the city of St. Pete for discrimination within the police department in 1968.

Chief Holloway was quick to give credit to the trailblazing efforts of Jackson and the other men.

"Because of Mr. Jackson and those 11 other foot soldiers, or courageous men, I am standing here today before you because of this," Holloway said, adding that African Americans were afterward able to rise to any rank within the force, not only in St. Pete but in the state and even the country.

The exhibit runs at the Florida Holocaust Museum through March 1, 2020.

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Elizabeth Gelman, executive director of the Florida Holocaust Museum



Left, Hillary Van Dyke, senior professional development coordinator for Pinellas County Schools and Michelle Anderson, K-8 social studies specialist



Police Chief Anthony Holloway and Leon Jackson, the last surviving member of the Courageous 12



Judge Charles Williams moderated the panel discussion.



One of St. Pete's infamous green benches, where black people were not allowed to sit.



Doors from a segregated doctor's office waiting room in Ybor City

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