BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Collection of Tim Palomera
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Let’s Talk About it...

Cesar Chavez March

By Yvette Tello

Why is it that we could get over 300,000 people to the MLK march but we can’t get that support for the Cesar Chavez march? On more than one occasion, MLK sent a telegram to Cesar Chavez. As Chavez went through a hunger strike in the 60s, King encouraged him. “I am deeply moved by your courage in fasting and your personal sacrifice for justice through nonviolence,” the message reads. “Your past and present commitment is eloquent testimony to the constructive power of nonviolent action and the destructive impotence of violent reprisal. You stand today as a living example of the Gandhian tradition with its great force for social progress and its healing spiritual powers. My colleagues and I commend you for your bravery, salute you for your indefatigable work against poverty and injustice, and pray for your health and your continuing service as one of the outstanding men of America. The plight of your people and ours is so grave that we all desperately need the inspiring example and effective leadership you have given.”

Is it because what Cesar Chavez did not matter or is it something else? Was it because he formed the union and stood up against the federal government? Let’s talk about...

Shawn Armstrong:

“I think it just depends on what day it is. The MLK Day March is a holiday for a lot of companies and businesses and schools so those people are off work.....Now if the Cesar Chavez March is on a Saturday, Maybe people got to work on Saturday.”

Carmen Madariaga:

“All honor and respect due to Caesar Chavez. A truly great leader, a magnanimous man whose courage and sacrifice should never be forgotten! Perhaps his legacy is not being taught with the dedication his life and commitment deserve.”

Blue Rose Alvarez:

“I hear this all the time, even during the walk. Have you been to the Cesar walk? It’s been growing every year but yes, it is still a bit disorganized. Getting a ride back to the starting point is a hassle. I think once we work together to make it better, more people will be inclined to return year after year. Cesar Chavez Day is a state holiday, only recognized in a handful of states and people don’t get the day off to participate. Even if it’s on the weekend, many people still work. The only comparison to the MLK walk is that they both honor a man who worked hard to create change in the world that would improve the quality of life for others. Give it the respect it deserves. You want to make it better and bigger, then (and I agree with Ms. Madariaga) keep his legacy alive by continuing to educate people about Cesar Chavez, and why not come out to help on the day of the walk and other festivities in honor of him.”

Frank Pancho San Miguel:

“I’m going to the Cesar Chavez also doing security with my carnals, Carnalismo National Brown Berets.”

Priscilla Jones:

“Many years ago, this march was amazing. The march went blocks and blocks. Then, it became a political platform of self-interest. It no longer had a purpose. People stopped coming out.”

Elijah Gonzalez:

“This is not a parade or celebration. Maybe this year people will come out to make a statement. ‘Si se puede.’ ”

Penelope Perez:

“Farmworkers in Texas were organizing way before Cesar Chavez came on to the scene. The historical understanding of the labor struggle in Texas is completely overshadowed by the fixation on Chavez. I have a problem with the idolization of these people. The march is not really organizing or activism, it’s a parade. Chavez was an opponent of immigration of low skill workers from Mexico because he believed it did harm to U.S born chicanos, taking their jobs.” He and Dolores Huerta actually went to DC and lobbied Congress and the White House to end the Bracero worker program for Mexican Agricultural workers leading to the ending of the program and mass deportation of formerly legal status Mexicans. There is also an article written by Chavez in the late 50s referring to Mexican workers as “Wetbacks.” San Antonians should be celebrating the work of activists in Texas and expanding on their impact versus worshiping a false prophet and making no changes at all. The march is a tradition and it should be updated to include actual opportunities to make a change.”
About the Cover Artist:  
John Biggers

John Thomas Biggers (April 13, 1924—January 25, 2001) was an African-American muralist who came to prominence after the Harlem Renaissance and toward the end of World War II.

He was born in a shotgun house built by his father in Gastonia, North Carolina. His father Paul was a Baptist preacher, farmer, shoemaker, schoolteacher, and principal of a three-room school. His mother Cora was a housekeeper for white families. The youngest of seven, Biggers was reared in a close family that valued creativity and education. When Cora's husband died in 1937, she took a job in an orphanage for Black children, and John and his brother Joe were sent to Lincoln Academy, an American Missionary Association school in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

After graduating from Lincoln, Biggers attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University). Biggers planned to become a plumber (his Hampton application included boiler room drawings), but his life took a dramatic change of course when he took an art class with Viktor Lowenfeld, a Jewish refugee who in 1939 fled from Nazi persecution in Austria before World War II. Lowenfeld exposed his students to works by African Americans and was concerned with altering his students' perceptions toward their African heritage by introducing them to the Harlem Renaissance artists William Artis and Hale Woodruff, and writers W. E. B. Du Bois and Alain Locke.

In 1943, he was drafted and joined the U.S. Navy, which was at the time segregated. He remained stationed at the Hampton Institute and made models of military equipment for training purposes. In that same year, his talents were recognized when his work was included in a landmark exhibit Young Negro Art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Biggers was discharged in 1945.

He has worked on creating works critical of racial and economic injustice. He served as the founding chairman of the art department at Houston's Texas Southern University. Initially focusing on educating African-American students, the university's visual arts program stands out as an educational environment stressing how cultural awareness can positively impact the community. His ideas and images of Africa melded into the memories of his rural Southern life, his work became more geometric, stylized and symbolic. Quilt-like geometric patterning became a unifying element of his work and color became richer and lighter. However, it is critical to note that over the years, Biggers moved from creating works that were overtly critical of racial and economic injustice to more allegorical work.

About the Cover Art

An ancient African children's story about the never-ending chase between a rabbit and turtle inspired John Biggers' Salt Marsh. His display of African culture and the emphasis on children being our future is a common theme not only in his work but also in his actions, as he was the founding chairman of the art department at Texas Southern University. Initially focusing on educating African-American students, the university's visual arts program stands out as an educational environment stressing how cultural awareness can positively impact the community. Biggers' impact on African American education and art set the stage for other African American artists to pursue their dreams. He has had multiple pieces in groundbreaking shows such as the landmark exhibit Young Negro Art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 1995 Museum of Fine Arts Houston hosted a retrospective exhibition of Biggers' works The Art of John Biggers: View from the Upper Room. These exhibitions and more showed Biggers' role as an elder in the African American community and helped pave the way for other artists like him. His Salt Marsh piece represents the birthplace of Houston and its self-sustaining force.

On this mural, the artist is quoted as saying: "Through the rebirth of our children's understanding of themselves as a part of nature, the bayou will once again be a great force. As our children discover self-awareness, we also find a mirror image for all of us. They are all salvation and our hope for tomorrow." James McNeil, Harvey Johnson, and University of Houston students Susan Davidson, Tiziano Hernandez, and Mujexte Rahman assisted Biggers on this large-format work.
By R. Eguia

Last weekend, St. Philips college hosted the third annual Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCU) Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project.

The project uses the power of documented words to heal and create spiritual and social change by way of student-conducted interviews concerning experiences of racial discrimination of loved ones of color (African American and Latino/an origin).

“In our efforts to heal from the effects of racial discord in America we must be willing to expose and hear the experiences of those who have suffered. Only by truly listening to those most impacted can we begin the process of healing and reconciliation,” said Project Director and Founder of the HBCU Oral History Project, Rev. Steve Miller.

The event on Saturday was composed of 14 interview rooms with 2 students conducting interviews together in each room. About 40 people shared their stories of racism, leaders, and organizations in the area to promote the event.

“Some people might think because racism does not exist in their areas, then it doesn’t exist at all, but we have to bring everyone into the conversation,” said Jacobs.

“We must engage our heads, hearts, and minds. Oppression leads to depression and when you’re depressed you don’t want to do anything but lay in bed and cry. Before you can do something about it, you have to allow yourself to heal.”

He believes these stories and their related research, will be used to foster healing and reconciliation at the personal level and reconciliation at the national level to inform policy changes within the government and spiritual changes from a common person’s perspective. Additionally, Rev. Miller wants to use the evidence of this project to galvanize the Church, and its compassion, because it’s “morally” authoritative.

He explained that many church organizations are afraid to expand past charitable giving into “thornier issues” because they turn away from the problems at the root.

“There are multiple churches in every neighborhood. They [the churches] are one of the most powerful social assets sitting dormant,” said Rev. Miller.

He wishes to distinguish “Social Justice” from “Biblical Justice” by encouraging church communities to engage the root of social issues versus using charity to only treat the symptoms of social issues.

“These stories will be employed to encourage The Church to take a leading role in matters of racial equality and relationship building, because, as these stories will tell, people are hurting. The story of Exodus and of the Bible tells us the mere fact of being heard activates the compassion and healing power of God of which the United States and its current racial environment so desperately need.”

Miller recognized the importance of storytelling when he moved to Bastrop, Texas in 2009 where he began his humanitarian efforts working for human rights in the State of Texas.
His work resulted in Federal civil rights investigations by the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights and the United States Department of Justice’s Community Services Division within the Texas educational system. His work has brought increased equity to hiring processes, enlarged job opportunities, and fostered a greater understanding of institutional partiality through education.

He has coordinated and won legal actions at the Federal court level and has been the stimulus of rewrites of discipline policies, resulting in fewer loved ones of color being caught up in the educational system disciplinary apparatus, which highly correlates with elevated juvenile justice and mass incarceration rates.

Training for the event began earlier this month where students learned best practices for conducting emotionally charged interviews and how to operate video and microphone equipment for archival purposes.

Friday was dedicated to classes concerning the origins of racism and slavery in America, the role of music in social movement and chattel slavery. Chattel slavery is also referred to traditional slavery because people are treated as the chattel, personal property, of the owner and are bought and sold as commodities. Typically, under the chattel slave system, slave status was imposed on children of the enslaved at birth.

These classes were conducted by various faculty representing 8 HBCU and two Texas independent universities including Wiley College of Marshall, Texas and Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Southwestern Christian University, Jarvis Christian College, St. Philip’s College, Huston-Tillotson University of Austin and Baylor University.

The stories from this project will be published by Baylor Press and used to write a curriculum about racial reconciliation.

The event is also sponsored by the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the United States Christian Leadership Organization which Rev. Miller founded.

“Sometimes community organizers can be mean because of the nature of the work, they get jaded, but we cannot afford to lose compassion and empathy.”

Filmmaker Chelsea Landin participated in the event and said sympathy is so different from empathy and thinks America needs to make that distinction.

Rev. Miller hopes that next year each HBCU and Christian sponsor will host their own archival stations at their own campuses to collect more stories from all over Texas.

“Our overarching goal is to train these students how to be their own community organizers,” said Rev. Miller.
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Delicious Tamales
Legacy Business Selling Traditional & Vegan Tamales Nationally

By Isa Fernández

Isa Fernández, MPA is a Legacy Corridor Business Alliance Program Manager at Westside Development Corporation, a freelance photographer and peace and justice advocate.

Both of my Grandmothers made tamales – my maternal Grandma Concha had her recipe, which used Crisco, not animal-based oils. The recipe was shared with family in a book replete with photos of her and my cousin preparing them at the family dinner table. My paternal Grandmother, Guadalupe, added raisins in hers at times. They were both hands down, better than anything you could buy, anywhere. But today, when an occasion (or just a meal) calls for traditional tamales that could rival theirs of past, I go to Delicious Tamales for their vegan black bean, corn, red pepper and cilantro blend version, which is popular with health-conscious and meat eaters alike.

Making tamales is labor intensive – you must soak corn husks, mix corn masa by hand and spread it over wet hojas (corn husks) and carefully mix spices that will be added to the filling – various meats, beans, sometimes even vegetables and fruits for desserts, which are molded into a tamal and then steamed until cooked. Delicious Tamales owner Valerie Gonzalez did this annually in her hometown of Laredo, Texas like so many of us with her grandmother, aunts, cousins, and six siblings.

After completing her bachelor’s degree in Social Work in Austin, TX, where Gonzalez was active in the Chicano movement, she came to San Antonio in 1979 to complete her master’s degree in Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University, where she received a full scholarship, (the now defunct “Chicana Scholarship”). Bringing her love of serving the community with family, she invested $500 to open Delicious Tamales in 1980, with a second location opening in 1983. Today, she runs the successful business with her daughter, Herlinda Lopez, operating seven locations and even shipping products nationwide (1-800-TAMALE-1).

The success of the business is attributed to the fast-paced and over-scheduled lifestyles that make the age-old, time-dense tradition of preparing tamales with family less practical. Delicious Tamales is the leading manufacturer of tamales in San Antonio, producing 3.8 million individual tamales per year from its 30,000-square-foot factory, located on Culebra Rd. All tamales are gluten-free, with the exception of the dessert tamal, which includes raisins, pecans, and coconut. The dessert tamal, also has a restaurant, which opened in 2003, which serves traditional food like tacos, plates, rice, beans, sides, menudo and barbacoa. The interior of Delicious Tamales is decorated with flower-painted arched hallways that display the years of accolades received (Express-News Readers’ Choice Awards, Current “Best of San Antonio” Award, write-ups from AARP, the San Antonio Business Journal, and others. Walls display tamal husks fashioned into Mexican dolls, countertops that have flower baskets made of husks and hanging husk ornaments held by colorful ribbons. There are full-size, plastic sheet art of Mexican folklorio dancers and mariachis on walls and doors and Loteria cards underneath glass on the dining tables, where the San Antonio Spurs decal graces the napkin holder.

As a Latina-owned business, Delicious Tamales has become, over thirty plus years, a staple to the San Antonio community. And Gonzalez and Lopez, the mother and daughter owners of Delicious Tamales, are mentors to the small business community and the community at large, sharing their story of success and love of community by giving back through the “Laredo Martin High School Scholarship” for students from the Laredo, Texas high school (where Gonzalez graduated from), as well as through multiple fundraising programs that benefit community members living in and around San Antonio.

At 65, Gonzalez is in her fourth year of training with Cross Fit, the intensive constantly varied, high-intensity exercise training philosophy that coaches people to improve their physical well-being and cardiovascular fitness, which appears to be one secret to her success in thriving in a fast-paced environment as the owner of a multimillion-dollar family business, co-run by Gonzalez and her daughter and protégé, Herlinda Lopez.

1330 Culebra Rd., San Antonio, TX 78201; 210-735-0275 https://delicioustamales.com 210-735-0275 or nationwide, 1-800-TAMALE-1.
Americans rely on safe, reliable energy for everything from driving to weekend soccer games to spending quality family time at home. Thanks to the natural gas and oil industries America is becoming energy independent. In fact, nearly two-thirds of the energy Americans use comes from natural gas and oil. And we put safety first – protecting our industries millions of American workers and our environment. We are constantly improving our technologies, increasing our standards and implementing new programs that enhance the safety of our offshore operations. Safely and securely ensuring America’s energy independence.

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Esta es la razón por la que estamos invirtiendo en el desarrollo e infraestructura más eficiente y segura – reduciendo el número de camiones en las carreteras, para disminuir la congestión de tráfico y mejorar la calidad de aire. Progreso continuo y crecimiento de nuestra infraestructura de energía puede ofrecer 1 millón de puestos de trabajo con salario alto y hasta $1.34 trillones de inversiones en las próximas dos décadas.

Con gas natural y petróleo los Estados Unidos está garantizando un futuro de energía de forma segura.
Por Sendero Deportivo

Con la participación de seis equipos se efectuó la apertura de la Liga Potranco Veteranos 2019.

El circuito será coordinado por el presidente y compilador Simón Sánchez y el gerente general Eloy Rocha, propietario de Potranco Sports and Social Complex.

En la primera jornada Cachorros de Nava de Alejandro (Rábano) Becerra, le abolló la corona al campeón Broncos de Reynosa SA con pizarra de 6-4 carreras.


Resultados: Red Sox noqueo a Westsiders. Rieleros doblegó 7-3 a Cardenales. Rol de juegos: 11 a.m. Red Sox vs. Rieleros. 2 p.m. Cardenales vs. Broncos. 1 p.m. Cachorros vs. Westsiders.

En la liga Abierta dominical, se jugó la última fecha del rol regular, con victorias para el líder Mineros de Jesús Ramírez que dio cuenta del popular rival Cubs.

El campeón Piratas de Sabinas ante Broncos, se agenció el clásico con marcador de 5-3. Broncos tuvo oportunidades en el noveno capítulo para empatar los cartones, ya que su receptor Juan García Sr., dio jonrón solitario, sin embargo Piratas jugó gran defensiva dejando la pizarra a su favor. En este partido Piratas con su receptor Jonathan Vaquera en espectacular barrida (Foto) en la registradora puso la pizarra 3-2 a favor, lo cual abrió el marcador para no perder la ventaja.

“Se logró cerrar con éxito la temporada, Piratas se clasifica en el tercer lugar con récord de 8-2-4, por lo que volveremos a jugarle a Broncos en la postemporada), comentó el manager Sergio De Luna.

“El partido nos sirvió de práctica para ahora que comience el playoff. Broncos se clasificó en segundo lugar con marca de 10-4”, dijo Garza.

Por Sendero Deportivo

El legendario circuito Colt 45 Baseball League con sede en el estadio del mismo nombre bajo la administración del gerente general Jaime Guerrero, anunció la asociación con la liga San Antonio Men’s Senior Baseball League (SAMSBL) que preside Philip Galaway. “Con esta asociación equipos de nuestra liga serán registrados para competir contra rivales de SAMSBL en la categoría abierta. Ello es bueno porque equipos que se coronan campeones asistirán a competir en las Series Mundiales con sede en el estado de Arizona, en donde participan equipo afiliados a Men’s Senior Baseball League (MSBL), en diversas edades”, dijo Guerrero. A la vez Guerrero, dijo que se encuentra en pláticas con Grimaldo Martínez, gerente general del club Tecolotes 2 Laredos, para que acepten invitación de un partido de pretemporada que se jugará contra seleccionado de Colt 45, como se hizo en 2018.

Este domingo 24 de febrero Colt 45 rendirá tributo al comentarista y amplía Juan Gutiérrez en el horario de las 2:30 p.m. En resultados se dio a conocer que Indios de Nava de Juan “Pachin” Martínez y Rudy Barrientez, perdió lo invicto ante Highsox del Marine, Eddy Rodríguez que ganó con pizarra de 10-6.

En la foto Guerrero, presentó una de las tres bases nuevas que serán utilizadas durante la postemporada que tendrá series a ganar 2 de 3 partidos.
The summer of 1983 I decided I would not be attending UT in Austin and instead was determined to get out of Texas and study somewhere I had never been before and had only read about in books or seen on T.V. I left friends I had grown up with, played sports with, swam with, attended church with, studied and learned with . . . I wish I could tell you that all was peachy upon leaving Brownsville but it was not in large part because one of my friends has attempted to commit suicide that summer while she was away at camp. Part of the reason she made the gesture, as per her note, was that I was leaving Brownsville and I was leaving her. I was one of very few people that she had disclosed a lifetime of sexual abuse to, sexual abuse at the hands of her adopted brother, sexual abuse at the hands of my classmate. I was one of the even fewer people that believed her. When I learned of her abuse, she also told me that her mother and father knew of the abuse. She knew they were told to get her to a psychiatrist, medicate her and not to discuss their “family situation” with anyone. I listened. Then I decided to tell my mother.

Continue reading about Rosie’s Fall 1983 in the next issue. Manguera Memories is a series of short stories that will be published in a book this year with proceeds benefiting La Prensa Texas. Read past stories at LaPrensaTexas.com.
Emphasis on MLK March Numbers Eclipse Staggering Socio-Economic Inequality Reality

**The Radical Politics behind the Icon**

By Isa Fernández

Isa Fernández, MPA is a Legacy Corridor Business Alliance Program Manager at Westside Development Corporation, a freelance photographer and peace and justice advocate.

San Antonio, the seventh largest city in the nation, has higher than national average numbers for people living in poverty (19% versus 12%), with disabilities (11% versus 9%), without health insurance (19% versus 10%) and who live with a lower median income (49.7k versus 57k), (US Census, 2016)

We were also one of the last major cities of its size to “get” a state university, the University of Texas at San Antonio, in 1969 (Miguel De Oliver, American Journal of Education, Vol. 106, No. 2 (Feb. 1998), pp. 273-301). We have also earned the distinction of having the largest MLK march in the nation, for years in a row in fact.

Given these unique attributes of the city, one might wonder why San Antonio holds the largest march, displaying what appears to be a city declaring its support for egalitarianism, peace, and justice, yet one with such staggering numbers tells a different story, of a muffled workforce and community in need, begging to be heard, one day of the year.

San Antonio held its first MLK Day March in 1987, six years after the holiday was established. Since then, it has begun drawing up to 300,000 individuals every year on January 20th commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, on the day his famous “I Have a Dream” speech was given in Washington, DC. Today, march participants include families, individual community members, nonprofit organizations, schools, churches, civic groups, colleges, universities, corporations and lots and lots of politicians waiting for their photo ops. The march has, for the most part, become a safe place for moderate politicians and other individuals of prominence who might otherwise avoid anti-war, anti-capitalist rallies put on by social justice groups. Yet, King was those things, publicly protesting the war in Vietnam and promoting Socialist ideologies. In his famous but under-shared speech, “Why and skills and money, like some demonic, destructive suction tube. And you may not know it, my friends, but it is estimated that we spend $500,000 to kill each enemy soldier, while we spend only fifty-three dollars for each person classified as poor, and much of that fifty-three dollars goes for salaries to people who are not poor. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor, and attack it as such… I’m convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, militarism and economic exploitation are incapable of being conquered… A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our present policies… This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death…” (King, Martin, Luther. “Why I Am Opposed to the War in Vietnam.” Riverside Church, New York, 30 April 1967).

Before his untimely death in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was involved in organizing the “Poor People’s March” on Washington. He marched with striking sanitation workers, supporting their safety, dignity and livable wages as workers and strongly promoted the concept of universal basic income (UBI): the idea that humanity should be creative beyond capitalism in its ways to sustain human life.

He described the still radical concept of helping the poor in his last book written in 1967 called “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community”:

“...It is a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps... They find themselves impoverished aliens in this affluent society. And there is a great deal that the society can and must do if the Negro is to gain the economic security that he needs.

Now one of the answers it seems to me, is a guaranteed annual income, a guaranteed minimum income for all people, and for all families of our country. It seems to me that the Civil Rights movement must now begin to organize for the guaran-
sanitized, depoliticized and presented in faux post-civil rights terms by powerful entities for their own benefit? Because if the march had a true socioeconomic impact, most politicians and business owners would run screaming from the event instead of anxiously posing for pictures. Because everyone knows that most politicians are rarely daring, with few exceptions. There are those that call themselves Democratic Socialists (Bernie Sanders) and those who run on a UBI platform in the 2020 Presidential Election (Andrew Yang), but mostly, politicians aren’t change-makers and they don’t support the type of individuals that work tirelessly to do the kind of work that King did then, today. Like King was then, these individuals are considered troublemakers (who unless they are lionized by some turn of historical timing, will not even be falsely commemorated in any way).

So, given the radical nature of King and the shameless self-promoting by politicians and the prominent business class that goes on at the MLK March, this begs the question, “Why is there such a massive turnout in San Antonio, considering the US Census numbers? Does it mean because we have higher than national numbers (of people living in poverty, with disabilities, who don’t have health insurance coverage and who subsist on a low median income) that the community is more engaged, inspired and passionate about social change because of our low living conditions? Or does it mean that the march is a once-a-year social gathering co-opted for show by local government, police, military, corporate business and other entities wishing for free PR? Is it both?”

Perhaps. Give someone who suffers the indignities displayed by the US Census the day off and works multiple jobs free transportation to a government and media supported march and likely they may consider going. This helps explain the large numbers. But the fact that these very same people (paraded on TV, counted on government websites, corporate newspapers, social media and otherwise tallied for purposes of declaring “San Antonio has the biggest MLK March in the country”) return to their multiple, high stress jobs are the people whose needs are likely to be ignored by the same politicians who posed for pictures at the MLK march, is hypocrisy at its finest. Let’s see the political and business class join marches and campaigns for higher wages, single-payer health care, sick and vacation leave for workers, universal basic income and other initiatives that support the working class. That would be truly emulating and building on the work of King, not just a one-day-of-the-year occasion for a shameless self-promoting and embarrassing photo op. True change comes from the ground up, not the top down and it takes foresight and daring to be different. King knew that. If the political and business leaders of San Antonio knew of the impact they could have on the livelihoods’ of their community for generations to come simply by working with the community, year-round, daringly, and not just on January 20th, that is something Dr. King would be proud of which would be a true distinction of merit for our city.
Friends of SAAACAM is a volunteer auxiliary committee, whose members generously give their time and resources to help preserve San Antonio’s rich cultural history. Volunteers play a crucial role in SAAACAM’s heritage tourism development and are a vital component of collaboration with the community.

At this time, the organization is seeking volunteers to serve in the following capacities: Communications-PR Committee Vice Chair, Digital Content Creator, Education Committee Vice Chair, Fiesta Events Coordinator, Finance Committee Vice Chair, Grants Manager, Graphic Designer, Historian, History Harvest Coordinator, Juneteenth Programming Coordinator, Museum Events Manager, Programs Committee Vice Chair, Stewardship-Membership Committee Vice Chair, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Volunteer Engagement and Training Manager.

Submit letters of interest ahead of the application deadline of 5:00 PM this Thursday on February 28, 2019. Interested participants can review the complete position details and apply https://saaacam.org/volunteer/volunteer-roles-opportunities/.

The organization is housed in the Historic Sutton Family Homestead in Dignowity Hill. The home has been visited by distinguished people like Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Thurgood Marshall. Even more distinguished than its legendary visitors was the Sutton Family themselves. Local literary icon, Cary Clack said, “For [the] number of children, their range of interests, the scope of talents, levels of educational attainment, personal successes and societal contributions, the Suttons are the most accomplished family produced by San Antonio and [most] accomplished American family birthed by this nation... The marriage of Samuel J. Sutton Sr. and Lillian Viola Smith created a home that nurtured ambition and achievement. Their 12 children (three others didn’t live to maturity) would excel — and sometimes make history — in the fields of education, medicine, science, law, business, politics and social service. All of them would earn college degrees and 10 of them would receive postgraduate degrees.”

The Sutton family had a large impact on history: Oliver Sutton was the first African-American on the New York State Supreme Court. Garlington Jerome was the first black person in the South to win a metropolitan elective seat when he was elected to the San Antonio Junior College Board in 1948. Percy Sutton was the attorney to Malcolm X.

Tours of the Historic Sutton Family Homestead in Dignowity Hill occur on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and also by appointment.
Fans Listos para Darle Bienvenida a los Spurs

Los fanáticos del pentacampeón Spurs de San Antonio (NBA), se encuentran listos para darle la bienvenida tras haber concluido su 17ª gira por el Rodeo San Antonio 2019. Spurs bajo el mando del timonel Gregg Popovich, tuvo una extensa gira que los llevo recorrer más de ocho mil millas (así como su merecida vacación por las actividades del NBA All Star Game 2019, celebrado en Charlotte, casa del equipo Hornets), por lo que en su retorno a su sede el estadio AT&T Center, tendrán gran recepción de bienvenida en sus tres consecutivos partidos a jugarse en las fechas del 27 de febrero vs. Pistons, sábado 2 contra Thunder y lunes 4 ante Nuggets. En las fotos aparecen fans que fueron captados en los momentos que se transmitió el programa de comentarios realizados por Dan Weiss y Matt Bonner (Plaza Level del AT&T Center-Partido Spurs vs. Pelicans).

Weiss, incursiono al equipo de comentaristas a principios de la campaña 2018-19, dejando atrás brillante carrera comentando partidos del club Rampage de San Antonio (AHL-propiedad de Spurs Sports & Entertainment), Bonner, ex delantero de Spurs ostenta par de argollas de la NBA ganadas con Spurs en las temporadas de 2007 y 2014.

Ambos se han acoplado en sus respectivas actividades frente a las cámaras de la cadena deportiva Fox Sports Southwest, que oficialmente transmite los partidos de Spurs y sus comentarios previos y después de cada encuentro local.

(Fotos por Franco)

Latinos observe Black History Month at arm’s length, as if it were strictly a celebration of black culture, having nothing to do with Latino culture. But Latino history has much in common with black history. Both were oppressed; both fought for civil rights; both fought for their freedom. They often both fought together. They promoted and re-envisioned American history as a shared story of struggle -- for justice, dignity, and equality for all.

-Yvette Tello
NBA Electrifies Fans During All-Star Weekend

By Jessica Duran

NBA Electrifies Fans During All-Star Weekend

Last weekend the NBA’s best showcased their talents during the NBA’s annual All-Star weekend. This year, the All-Star game and events were held in Charlotte, North Carolina, home of the Charlotte Hornets.

Last Friday kicked off the weekend with the Celebrity game featuring various celebs, former NBA players, and current WNBA players. WNBA legends Sue Bird and Dawn Staley were head coaches for the teams.

Following the celebrity game, the Rising Stars Challenge game showcased the best rookies and sophomore NBA players currently in the NBA.

Team World was led by last year’s rookie of the year winner, Philadelphia Sixers guard Ben Simmons. Simmons was also the first Australian ever to compete in the event; he finished with 28 points. Team USA was led by Los Angeles Lakers sensation and Rising Stars game MVP Kyle Kuzma. Kuzma would go on to score 35 points and lead Team USA to a 161-144 victory over Team World.

All-Star Saturday Night is always one of the highlights of All-Star weekend that includes the Skills Challenge, 3-Point contest, and the Slam Dunk contest.

Boston Celtics guard Jayson Tatum won in a close showdown against Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young to win the Skills challenge title. Joe Harris won the 3-Point Contest, loving up to his ranking of the 2nd ranked 3-Pointer shooter in the NBA. OKC Thunder guard Hamidou Diallo electrified the crowd winning the dunk contest, including one dunk over NBA legend Shaquille O’Neal.

The actual NBA All-Star game brought all the entertainment it typically brings every year. This year’s captains were Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, and Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo.

After entertaining the fans with alley-oops, flashy dunks, and fancy ball handling, the halftime score was 95-92. After some defense, and knowing $350,000 goes to the winning team’s charity, players turned the game a bit competitive.

Team LeBron would go on to win the game 178-164. Golden State forward and Team LeBron member, Kevin Durant, was voted by the fans as the All-Star MVP. It would be Durant’s 2nd All-Star MVP. Team LeBron won $350,000 for Right Moves for Youth of Charlotte, but Team Giannis would not go away empty-handed. Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, represented by Team Giannis would receive $150,000.

Both charities, in the NBA All-Star tradition, directly help the community of the host city which was Charlotte this year. The 2020 NBA All-Star game and weekend next season will be in Chicago, Illinois.

Commanders Fall in First Loss Against Orlando Apollos

By Jessica Duran

The Commanders lost their first game of the season at the hands of the Orlando Apollos this past weekend at the Alamodome, ending in a thrilling 37-29 loss.

The Commanders’ 2nd week of action had the team’s offense shining brightly while their famous defense, especially their secondary, struggled against the Apollo’s high powered offense. The Apollos quarterback Garrett Gilbert threw for 393 yards and 2 touchdown passes. Apollos receiver Charles Johnson finished with 192 receiving yards and one touchdown.

Commanders quarterback Logan Woodside finished with 223 yards, one interception, and one touchdown pass. Running back Kenneth Farrow finished with 74 yards rushing and one touchdown.

The crowd support was present once again. 27,000 were in attendance for the season opener the previous week. This week there were over 29,000 in attendance, proving San Antonio and the Alamodome might be the toughest place to play in the league.

Unfortunately, the Commanders will be on a four-game road trip starting this week with a trip to Salt Lake to face off against the Stallions. The Commander won’t return to the Alamodome until March 23rd in their second season meeting against the Stallions.

This week the Commanders visit the Fleet in San Diego. Hopefully, a repeat win and great performance against San Diego is in the future for the Commanders. The game is set for Saturday night at 7 pm CT and will be broadcasted on the NFL Network.
COMISIÓN DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DE TEXAS

AVISO PARA UN PERMISO FEDERAL PARA OPERAR PRELIMINAR

PERMISO PRELIMINAR NÚMERO: 01118

Solicitud y Permiso Preliminar. Capitol Aggregates, Inc., PO Box 33240, San Antonio, TX 78265-3240, ha presentado una solicitud ante la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, o TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) para la renovación del Permiso Federal para Operar (en adelante denominado el Permiso), número 01118, Solicitud número 23268, con el propósito de autorizar la operación de la Capitol Cement Plant, una planta de producción de cemento. El área a la cual se refiere la solicitud es ubicada en 11551 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, Condado de Bexar, Texas 78217-2337. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. Puede encontrar un mapa electrónico de la instalación en:


El propósito de un permiso federal para operar es mejorar el acatamiento general de las reglas que gobiernan el control de la contaminación atmosférica, claramente definiendo todos los requisitos aplicables como están definidos en el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Tejas § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10, por sus siglas en inglés). El permiso preliminar, si es aprobado, establecerá las condiciones bajo las cuales el sitio deberá operar. El permiso no autorizará construcciones nuevas. El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha concluido el análisis técnico de la solicitud y ha preparado un permiso preliminar para la revisión y comentarios del público. El director ejecutivo recomienda la expedición de este permiso preliminar. La solicitud de permiso, la declaración de base, y el permiso preliminar estarán disponibles para ser revisados y copiados en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building (Edificio) E, First Floor (primer piso), Austin, Texas; en la oficina regional de la TCEQ de San Antonio, 14250 Judson Rd, San Antonio, Texas 78233-4480; y en la San Antonio Central Library (Biblioteca Central de San Antonio), 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205-1208, empezando el primer día de la publicación de este aviso. El permiso preliminar y la declaración de base están disponibles en el sitio de la TCEQ:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnnotice

En las oficinas central y regional de la TCEQ también podrá revisar y copiar todos los demás documentos pertinentes al permiso preliminar, así como los permisos para el Examen de Nuevas Fuentes que han sido incorporados por referencia. Personas que tengan dificultades obteniendo estos materiales debido a restricciones para viajar pueden comunicarse con la sala de archivos de la Oficina Central de la TCEQ al teléfono (512) 239-2900.

Comentarios del Público / Audiencia de Notificación y Comentarios. Cualquier persona puede someter comentarios por escrito acerca del permiso preliminar. Comentarios relacionados a la exactitud, lo completo, y lo apropiado de las condiciones del permiso pueden resultar en cambios al permiso preliminar.

Cualquier persona que podría ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área del sitio del permiso puede peticionar una audiencia de notificación y comentarios. El propósito de la audiencia de notificación y comentarios es proveer una oportunidad adicional para someter comentarios acerca del permiso preliminar. El permiso puede ser cambiado a razón de los comentarios relacionados a si el permiso provee el cumplimiento con el 30 TAC Capítulo 122 (ejemplos pueden incluir que el

permiso no tiene todos los requisitos aplicables o si no se cumplieron los procedimientos de aviso público). La TCEQ puede otorgar una audiencia de notificación y comentarios con respecto a esta solicitud si una petición por escrito es presentada dentro de los 30 días después de la publicación de este anuncio. La petición para audiencia debe incluir la razón por la petición, incluyendo una descripción de como la persona puede ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área de la solicitud. La petición también debe especificar las condiciones del permiso preliminar que son inapropiadas o especificar porque la decisión preliminar para expedir o denegar el permiso es inapropiado. Todos los asuntos razonablemente verificables deben ser planteados y todos los argumentos razonablemente disponibles deben ser entregados a no más tardar al final del periodo de comentarios públicos. Si se concede una audiencia de notificación y comentarios, todas las personas que presentaron comentarios por escrito o peticiones para audiencia recibirán confirmación por escrito de la audiencia. Esta confirmación indicará la fecha, hora, y lugar de la audiencia.

Comentarios públicos por escrito y/o peticiones para audiencia de notificación y comentarios deben de ser presentados a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ), Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of the Chief Clerk), MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, o por el internet al www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, y recibidos dentro de 30 días después de la fecha de publicación en el periódico de este anuncio. Por favor tenga en cuenta que cualquier información de contacto que usted presente, incluidos su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico, y dirección física, formará parte del registro público de la agencia.

Un aviso de la acción final propuesta que incluye una respuesta a los comentarios y denotando cualquier cambio al permiso preliminar, será enviado a todas las personas que hayan presentado comentarios públicos, una petición para audiencia, o que hayan solicitado ser incluidos en la lista de correo. Este aviso también proveerá instrucciones para hacer peticiones públicas a la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés), para solicitar que la EPA se oponga a la expedición del permiso preliminar. Después de recibir una solicitud, la EPA solamente podrá objetar a la expedición de un permiso que no cumple con los requisitos aplicables o los requisitos del 30 TAC Capítulo 122.

LISTA PARA ENVÍO DE CORREO. Además de presentar comentarios públicos, usted puede pedir ser incluido en una lista para envío de correo con respecto a esta solicitud enviando su petición a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of the Chief Clerk) a la dirección que se encuentra arriba mencionada. Personas en esta lista de correo recibirán copias de futuros avisos (si los hay) enviados por la Oficina del Secretario Oficial sobre esta solicitud.

INFORMACIÓN. Para más información con respecto a esta solicitud para permiso o el proceso para permisos, favor de contactar la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas), Public Education Program (Programa de Educación del Pública), MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 o llamar sin cargo al 1-800-687-4040.

Puede obtener más información sobre Capitol Aggregates, Inc. llamando al Sr. Paul Detterline al (210) 871-7214.

Fecha de expedición: 7 de febrero del 2019
The Keyhole Night Club is unforgettable as “The Jazz Club” of the time, 1950’s, and for the legendary jazz greats that visited the club. Duke Ellington, America’s greatest jazz composers and band leader, is seen on the right and opposite him, sitting on the table, is Nat King Cole, one of the best known vocalists in the world. Pictured on the left, on stage, is a Jazz vocalist with Don Albert Dominque, the club owner. The listing is from the 1957 San Antonio Telephone Book.

The Keyhole Night Club has “a new floor show” was advertised in the San Antonio “SNAP” May 28, 1954; “SNAP” was a weekly pictorial. Don Albert, the personable manager of the club and popular San Antonio D.J. Scratch Phillips of KAPE radio are with singers Verna Arlette, Ann Henry, and Big Bertha Henderson.
MacArthur “Genius” Award Recipient Terrance Hayes Presents free public reading and Q&A this Thursday

By Anisa Onofre
Terrance Hayes, National Book Award winner and MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship recipient will present a free public reading and Q&A on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 7 pm at Trinity University’s Laurie Auditorium as part of Gemini Ink’s Autograph Series. A ticketed luncheon featuring Mr. Hayes will be held the following day, on Friday, March 1, at Pearl Stable, at 11:30 am. Tickets start at $100 for the luncheon. The free public reading is made possible by Gemini Ink in partnership with the Carver Community Cultural Center and Trinity University.

One of the most compelling voices in American poetry, Terrance Hayes is an elegant and adventurous writer who addresses racism, sexism, religion, family structure, and stereotypes with disarming humor, grace, tenderness, and brilliant turns of phrase. He fearlessly investigates what it means to be an artist, a black man, and an American in the 21st century, and is a writer not to be missed. His work has been featured in The New Yorker and New York Times Magazine, and who is friends with Mr. Hayes. Their conversation will touch on topics such as the creative process and the role of literature and poetry in the 21st century. The free reading is scheduled for 7 pm to facilitate attendance by a wide range of students, teachers, and the general public. Immediately following the reading, books will be available for purchase and signing.

Terrance Hayes in a conversation with award-winning poet Michelle Whittaker, whose work has been featured in The New Yorker and New York Times Magazine, and who is friends with Mr. Hayes. Their conversation will touch on topics such as the creative process and the role of literature and poetry in the 21st century. The free reading is scheduled for 7 pm to facilitate attendance by a wide range of students, teachers, and the general public. Immediately following the reading, books will be available for purchase and signing.

The Autograph Series free reading will featureTerrance Hayes at Pearl Stable features an intimate reading by Mr. Hayes, followed by an interview and Q&A with San Antonio author and groundbreaking journalist Cary Clack. The luncheon takes place from 11:30 am–1:00 pm to accommodate audience work/school schedules. In the past five years, middle, high school, and college students have been able to attend the luncheon free of charge thanks to generous sponsorships by local corporate and private donors. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to experience a program featuring a remarkable contemporary literary voice and presence. Gemini Ink’s Autograph Series presents writers of national and international stature, many recipients of major prizes such as the Pulitzer or National Book Award, in free public performances followed by audience Q&A and book signing. This Series, one of Gemini Ink’s signature literary events, is partially supported by a ticketed colloquium luncheon with the visiting writer. Previous Autograph writers have included Grace Paley, Tim O’Brien, Edward P. Jones, Ha Jin, Sandra Cisneros, Luis Alberto Urrea, Philip Levine, U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera, and world-renowned novelist Margaret Atwood.
Safe Ticket Purchasing

By Jason Meza
Regional Director
Better Business Bureau
425 Soledad St., #500
San Antonio, Texas 78205
p: 210.260.9843
bbb.org Start With Trust®

Spring is near, and it’s an exciting time here in Texas. Basketball season is in full swing, SXSW and Fiesta are on their way, and there are always a constant stream of concerts and events. With so much happening, it can be easy to get caught up in trying to find the best deal or getting sold-out tickets. But unfortunately, in the process you could also find yourself getting ripped off.

Last year, BBB received nearly 400 reports on Scam Tracker related to ticket scams. One Texas victim lost $700 in 2018 trying to buy Cotton Bowl tickets through electronic transfer, and another lost $500 trying to get tickets to ACL from an individual online. This issue has also caught the attention of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is holding a workshop next month to examine online event ticket sales. You can go here to learn more about the upcoming workshop.

It’s important to check that your vendor is trustworthy before deciding to purchase a ticket to the next event you want to attend. Luckily, Better Business Bureau is here with some tips to make ticket buying easy:

• **Purchase from the venue.** Purchase tickets from the official venue, or their secondary sales options, whenever possible.

• **Consider the source.** It helps to know the difference between a professional ticket broker (who is a legitimate and accredited reseller), a ticket scalper (an unregulated, unlicensed ticket seller), or a scammer selling fake tickets.

• **Use trusted websites.** The lock symbol next to a web address when buying tickets online indicates the site is more than likely secure. Also, use sites with ‘https’ where ‘s’ stands for secure. Online ads or emails may be unsafe sources. You can also look up ticket sellers and brokers on bbb.org to review their complaint history, customer reviews and any potential advertising concerns. You can also check if they’re a member of the National Association of Ticket Brokers.

• **Know the refund policy.** Terms of the transaction, as well as when the tickets will be available and where the locations of the seats are, should be clearly disclosed prior to purchase.

• **Use safe payment options.** Payment options like credit cards allow you to potentially get your money back in a certain time frame if something goes wrong.

• **Beware of ads.** Advertisement popups might appear if you search for tickets online. They may advertise low prices, but you should use your judgement and know these could be scams.

• **Verify your tickets.** If you’re worried about your tickets, visit the event venue and talk to customer service. They’ll know if your ticket is legitimate and show you how you can tell if a ticket is fake.

For more information on avoiding ticket scams, visit bbb.org/tickets.

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**OBITUARY**

**Luis Prieto Patlan**

Luis Prieto Patlan was called to be with our Lord on February 11, 2019, at the age of 72. Luis is preceded in death by father Jose Patlan; mother Soledad Patlan; and brother Reyes Patlan. Luis is survived by wife Evangelina Patlan; daughters Lisa J. Patlan-Macias and son-in-law Andy Macias; stepdaughters Isabel Alvarado, Debra Urrea, Teresa Jacobo, Antonia Almaraz, and Jessie Whitfield; brother Antonio Patlan, Sr., David and Janie Patlan, and Joaquin and Mary Patlan; sisters Ramona Hernandez, Victoria Hernandez, Juanita Rodriguez, Socorro Camarillo, and Angelita Ordonez; grandchildren Steve Macias, Lauren Elizabeth Macias, Karina Soledad Macias; and numerous step-grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and friends.

Luis enjoyed the outdoors, playing board and card games and liked working with his hands which included building things, working on cars and servicing the northwest side of town as owner/operator of his tire shop, The Tire Doctor. he was also a sci-fi fan and loved watching star trek. Luis was a hard-working man who enjoyed life. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Please come and join the family of Luis Patlan as we come together to celebrate a wonderful life lived and pay tribute to his memory.
Sólo un Pensamiento:
Recordando el Mes de la Historia Negra

Por Steve Walker

Quedan cuatro días para completar la celebración del Mes de la Historia Negra en febrero, podemos mirar hacia atrás a través de la historia cultural de las contribuciones de los estadounidenses de raza negra a nuestro país. Es seguro asumir que en algún nivel hemos recorrido un largo camino. También se supone que todavía tenemos que completar el viaje para convertirnos verdaderamente en un crisol de culturas y razas.

La historia nos recuerda la decisión histórica de la Corte Suprema de Brown contra la Junta de Educación de 1954 que declaró que las leyes estatales establecían una escuela pública separada para estudiantes blancos y negros inconstitucional. En la mayoría de los lugares en ese momento, también incluía a estudiantes hispanos. Yo tenía ocho años en ese momento.

Como ex maestra que también enseñó una clase de historia o dos a lo largo de los años, cubrí algunas de esas estadísticas e información en el aula. El triunfo allanó el camino para la integración y fue una gran victoria del movimiento de derechos civiles en ese momento.

Como una persona que ha visto cambios importantes en mi vida, desde la segregación hasta la agitación de los años sesenta y el eventual nacional Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Un día festivo que se convirtió en ley en 1983, todavía me sorprende nuestro progreso.

Recuerdo cuando el presidente Ronald Reagan lo firmó, y fue observado por primera vez tres años después. Me gustaría señalar que al principio; Algunos estados se resistieron a observar las vacaciones.

En 1964, el año en que me gradué de la escuela secundaria en junio, el Congreso aprobó la Ley de derechos civiles de 1964 el 2 de julio que prohibía la discriminación por raza, color, religión, sexo u origen nacional.

Terminó la aplicación desigual de los requisitos de registro de votantes y la segregación racial en las escuelas, en el lugar de trabajo y en las instalaciones que atendían al público en general conocido como “alojamiento público”. Ese mismo día, el presidente Lyndon B. Johnson firmó la Ley de Derechos Civiles en la Casa Blanca. De hecho, todavía recuerdo haber visto al presidente en vivo en nuestra pequeña televisión en blanco y negro, al hacerlo.

El año antes de que el presidente Johnson firmara esa legislación, también vi el discurso del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Tengo un sueño” en TV en vivo, en el verano de 1963, el 28 de agosto. Quién podría olvidar ese discurso de Dr. King en Memphis, Tennessee, el 4 de abril de 1968?

El verano después de graduarme en la universidad, justo antes de unirme al Ejército, tomé una clase de Historia Negra en la Southern Methodist University. Terminó la aplicación desigual de los requisitos de registro de votantes y la segregación racial en las escuelas, en el lugar de trabajo y en las instalaciones que atendían al público en general conocido como “alojamiento público”. Ese mismo día, el presidente Lyndon B. Johnson firmó la Ley de Derechos Civiles en la Casa Blanca. De hecho, todavía recuerdo haber visto al presidente en vivo en nuestra pequeña televisión en blanco y negro, al hacerlo.

¿Sabía usted como lector, por ejemplo, que fue Charles R. Drew, un cirujano negro, pionero en técnicas para preservar el plasma sanguíneo, el que salvó innumerables vidas durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial? Más tarde se convirtió en director médico del Freedmen’s Hospital en Washington. En su investigación, descubrió que el plasma puro podía usarse para transfusiones de sangre. ¿Quién sabe? No lo hice hasta que tomé esa clase hace tantos años.

El Mes de la Historia Negra nos recuerda que las personas de todos los colores o razas siguen siendo parte del sueño americano de ser todo lo que podemos ser y agregar al tejido de este país.