



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

AMERICA, AMERICA

NATION TIME: For more than a week, African Americans and their leaders at the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Action Network, listened in disbelief to president-elect Joe Biden's cabinet nominees. Hey, something was amiss. The original, coveted cabinet posts State, Treasury, Justice and Defense seemed elusive for African Americans. Secretaries of State and the Treasury were announced. They are white. Yes, Blacks were named to the Economic Council, US Ambassador to the UN and deputy secretary posts, some of which require Senate confirmation. Then we learn that the nominees for Secretaries of Homeland Security and Health And Human Services are Hispanics, Alejandra Mayorkas and Xavier Becerra, respectively. Something

was not right with President-elect "who was going to have our (Black) backs." To add insult to injury Black leaders complained about Biden's inaccessibility. They were not reticent about their discontent and shared same with mainstream media. They got an appointment with Biden on 12/8. However, something miraculous happened on 12/7 when media started circulating info that African American Lloyd Austin, a retired Four-Star Army General would be the Biden nominee for the Pentagon.

Lloyd Austin, 67 was the Commander of the US Central Command from 2013-2016 responsible for the Middle East. A 40 year Army veteran, he attend West Point and Auburn University. When Austin is confirmed, he becomes the first African American



Lloyd Austin

to oversee the US Department of Defense. Defense Department.

The Biden/African American leaders summit was held after press time. Hope that Biden was pressured into considering an African American to head the Justice Department.

BUSINESS & MEDIA NEWS

The Black Virtual Career Fair hosts its General + Tech winter fair, December 10, 9 am to 1 pm PST. The Black Career Fair will match Black professionals with more than 25 national, forward-thinking, cutting-edge companies. Some of the Career Fair sponsors include Accenture Federal Services, Credit Suisse, Freedom Financial Network, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Intuitive Surgical, Pocket Gems, Shutterfly and X-the Moonshot Factory. For free registration, visit www.virtual.blackvcf/en/



Jonathan Capehart

vide another platform for in-depth conversations re: arts, culture and entertainment.

MSNBC TV has hired savvy GenXers political analyst/author Tiffany Cross and WAPO journalist and editorial board member Jonathan Capehart to host its Saturday/Sunday 10 am -12 pm time slot, beginning December 12/13. They replace Joy Reid's AM Joy, which has morphed into

REIDOUT a show which begins MSNBC weekday prime time lineup. Erstwhile regular AM JOY guests, Cross will host the Saturday show; and Capehart will host the Sunday show. Shows title is to be determined.

The Harlem Business Alliance partners with AT&T and Experience Harlem to introduce the SHOP HARLEM VIRTUAL FAIR, where you can shop for holiday gifts while supporting local entrepreneurs, small businesses, artists and artisans, on Thursday, December 10 from 6-9 pm. RSVP: bit.ly/35WV3RZ. Review the Shop Harlem Gift Guide and visit <https://bit.ly/2JBsJFE>

The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ) Hybrid Microloan Program offers microloans to qualified small businesses and non-profits in Upper Manhattan impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Capitalized at \$2 million, with a \$50,000 cap over 5 years, the UMEZ Microloan Program monies can be converted into a grant after 48 months. The UMEZ Microloans Program partners include The Harlem Business Alliance and the Washington Heights. Visit umez.org/hybrid-microloan-program.

Marcia Pendelton, founder of Walk Tall Productions and Black Theater Online Weekly, two NY based theater production and promotion outlets, adds another feather in her professional cap. She will produce/host a new 60-minute radio show, BACKSTAGE STORIES, which airs on WBAI-FM (99.5) and will stream internationally on WBAI.org and which begins on December 10, at 9 pm. Show will pro-

ARTS/CULTURE

Three literary lions among the CENTER FOR FICTION Awardees last Thursday.

LUSTER, a first novel by Raven Leilani about a Black woman involved in a ménage à trois with a white couple; James McBride's historical novel THE GOOD LORD BIRD, about American abolitionist John Brown, and ONE WORLD imprint editor Chris Jackson whose writers portfolio includes Ta Nehesi Coates

The Classical Theatre of Harlem presents its re-imagined version of the Charles Dickens' holiday classic, titled A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN HARLEM. Scrooge is an African American real estate baron and the story is wonderful for children of all ages. The CTH presents a free stream of the 2019 version of the play, from 12/7 to 1/3. Visit cthnyc.org.

The Women's Media Center WMC elected New

Yorker Janet Dewart Bell as its new Chairperson. Dr. Bell boasts extensive experience as a communications strategist, a radio and television producer and as a management consultant. The founder/president of LEAD Inter-generational Solutions, a non-profit which identifies multi-generational leaders as social change agents. Dr. Bell also organizes the Derrick Bell Lectures on Race in American Society at the NYU School of Law, now in its 25th year. Her non-fiction book "LIGHTING THE FIRES OF FREEDOM: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement," was nominated for a 2019 NAACP Image Award in Literature. The WMC was founded by Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and Robin Morgan in 2005 to raise the visibility and decision-making power of women to insure that their stories get told.

COVID 19 UPDATES

The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had nothing but good news about the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID19 vaccine on Tuesday. Their double dose vaccine had an efficacy rate of 95% after dos-

es were administered three weeks apart. Protection seems to kick in early with comparable efficacy for all races and age demos. On 12/10 FDA will review its assessments in advance of a vote to recommend use

of the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine. Now for the hard part, distribution of the vaccine to the states and convincing many Americans, especially Black Americans, of the drug's efficacy.

NEW YORK/NY

Students of NY power politics must read the 11/30 City and State NY issue, guest edited by Sheryl Huggins Salomon which focuses on HOW BLACK WOMEN BECAME NEW YORK'S POWER PLAYERS, including a sidebar piece, "How Powerful Black Women Are Correcting Inequalities." Issue is a compendium of interviews and profiles about 43 distaff leaders making a difference in NY and beyond. Some of the women profiled include luminaries like NYS AG Letitia James; Rep. Yvette Clarke; NYS Senate leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Bronx DA, Darcel D. Clark; Mara Gay, NY Times; Mayor Lovely Warren; NYS Assembly members Inez Dickens Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Rodneyse Bichotte, Hazel Dukes; NAACP;

Celeste Morris, Public Affairs; Arva Rice, NYUL; Maya Wiley, NYC Mayoral hopeful; Attorney Rose Pierre Louis, NYU; Kia D. Floyd, Facebook; Hasani Pratts, Higher Heights; Yvette Buckner, 21 IN 21; and Stacy Lynch, 2021 NYC Council hopeful. Visit cityandstateny.com, How Black Women Become NY Power Players.

Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order on Wednesday delaying the sale of the NYC tax lien sale through January 1. If the NYC Council fails to renew that law by 12/31, the sale is dead. That's good news from Santa for the city's small landlords, mostly Black and Latino.

NYC: Former NYC Council member Donovan Richards was sworn as Queens Boro President on 12/6 who is the second African American to man that post.



Darcel D. Clark



Donovan Richards

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