

This Week in History

SEPTEMBER 9

1739 - Led by a slave named Cato, a slave revolt occurs in Stono, S.C.

1915 - A group of visionary scholars, including Carter G. Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, W.B. Hartgrove, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps, found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in Chicago, Ill. The association is the only organization of its kind concerned with preserving African-American history.

1934 - Sonia Sanchez is born in Birmingham, Ala. She will become a noted poet, playwright, short story writer, and author of children's books. She will be most noted for her poetry volumes *We a BaddDDD People*, *A Blues Book for Blue Black Magical Women*, and anthologies she edited including: *We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans*.

1968 - Arthur Ashe becomes the first winner of the newly established U.S. Open tennis championships at Forest Hills, N.Y.

1979 - Robert Guillaume wins an Emmy award for best actor in a comedy series for Soap.

SEPTEMBER 3

1847 - John Roy Lynch is born near Vadaia in Concordia Parish, La. He will serve in the 43rd, 44th and 47th Congresses representing the State of Mississippi as a Republican. He will also preside as temporary chairman over the Republican National Convention of 1884 and deliver the keynote address, the first African-American to do so.

1886 - Poet Georgia Douglas Johnson is born in Atlanta, Ga. Among her books will be *Heart of a Woman*, *Bronze*, *An Autumn Love Cycle*, and *Share My Love*. She will be anthologized in Arna Bontemps's *American Negro Poetry* and Davis and Lee's *Negro Caravan*, among others. Her home in Washington, D.C., will be the center for African-American literary gatherings.

1961 - Jomo Kenyatta returns to Kenya from exile to lead his country.

1965 - Father Divine dies in Philadelphia, Pa. Divine, born George Baker, was the founder of the Peace Mission, a religious group whose followers worshiped Divine as God incarnate on earth.

1973 - A commemorative stamp of Henry Ossawa Tanner is issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Part of its American Arts issue, the stamp celebrates the work and accomplishments of Tanner, the first African-American artist elected to the National Academy of Design.

SEPTEMBER 4

1721 - Angelo Solimann, African Warrior in the Holy Roman Empire, born.

1740 - An issue of the Pennsylvania Gazette reports on a Negro named Simon who reportedly can "bleed and draw teeth." It is the first mention of an African-American doctor or dentist in the Colonies.

1923 - Charles Evers is born in Decatur, Miss. He will be a civil rights worker who will assume the post of field director of the Mississippi NAACP after his brother, Medgar, is assassinated in 1963. He will be elected mayor of Fayette, Miss., in 1969.

1943 - Lola Falana is born in Philadelphia, Pa. She will become a dancer, most notably in Broadway's *Golden Boy*, and be a successful performer on television and in Las Vegas, where she will be called "The First Lady of Las Vegas."

1959 - Duke Ellington receives the NAACP's Spingarn Medal for his outstanding musical achievements and contributions to the field of music.

1977 - Quincy Jones wins an Emmy for outstanding achievement in musical composition for the miniseries *Roots*. It is one of nine Emmys for the series, an unprecedented number.

SEPTEMBER 5

National Revolution Day - Ethiopia

National Day - Republic of Guinea-Bissau

1913 - James Cleveland Owens is born in Oakville, Ala. He will be better known as Jesse Owens, one of the greatest track and field stars in history. Owens will achieve fame at the 1936 Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, where he will win four gold medals, dispelling Hitler's notion of the superior Aryan race and the inferiority of black athletes. Among his honors will be the Medal of Freedom, presented to him by

(See History, Page 20)

BUSINESS

It's high time to talk African reparations

John William Templeton
Special to Sentinel-Voice

When the Accra Declaration recently announced that the Western powers owed \$777 trillion in reparations to Africans worldwide for various atrocities over the past 500 years, it was a non-story in American media.

Racism is a taboo subject precisely because it opens the question of a remedy. However, the issue will not go away precisely because of the economic pressures being focused throughout the African Diaspora from welfare reform in the United States, to the banana war decimating Caribbean farming, to the layoffs across Africa due to declining gold and other commodity prices.

In the very near future, the affected groups will be angry enough to seek some solutions previously thought too radical. Most Blacks assume it will never happen because they are unaware of the legal precedents in international and American law or the decades-long struggle to bring about reparations. Many of those

efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

The History Channel recently aired "The Night That Tulsa Burned," an account of the White massacre of the affluent Greenwood neighborhood in Tulsa in 1921.

Legislative hearings on the riot recently heard from survivors. This story had been hidden from even newspaper archives for 75 years. And the NAACP passed a resolution in favor of Rep. John Conyers' long-stalled H.R. 40 to study reparations at its recent national convention.

Dr. Robert Brock, the Washington lawyer who actually won a default judgment for reparations from the U.S. government in *Ashton vs. IRS*, has uncovered the actual legislation (H.R. 29) introduced in the U.S. Congress in 1867 by Rep. Thaddeus Stevens (D-MA) the architect of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

It can be found on Brock's web site: <http://www.directblackaction.com>. Brock's Self Determin-

ation Committee is holding a conference on Black reparations Sept. 11 in Clarkston, Ga. near Atlanta at the African Spectrum Bookstore. The location is timely because Atlanta's affirmative action program has been attacked by the Southeastern Legal Foundation for which Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell has "drawn a line in the sand."

Georgia's Black Chamber of Commerce is threatening boycotts against the business supporters of the Foundation. HR 29 directed President Andrew Johnson to sell the property of former Southern slaveholders and to use the proceeds to pay reparations to "African slaves."

The bill also provided 40 acres to each Black male head of family.

It read, "That out of the lands thus seized and confiscated the slaves who have been liberated by the operations of the war and the amendment to the constitution or otherwise, who resided in said "confederate States" on the 4th day of March, A.D. 1861,

or since, shall have distributed to them as follows, namely: to each male person who is the head of a family, forty acres; to each adult male, whether the head of a family or not, forty acres, to each widow who is the head of a family, forty acres to be held by them in fee-simple, but to be inalienable for the next ten years after they become seized thereof."

Rep. Stevens said from the floor about this clause, "Whatever may be the fate of the rest of the bill I must earnestly pray that this may not be defeated. On its success, in my judgment, depends not only the happiness and respectability of the colored race, but their very existence. Homesteads to them are far more valuable than the immediate right of suffrage, though both are their due."

Four million persons have just been freed from a condition of dependence, wholly unacquainted with business transactions, kept systematically in ignorance of all their rights and of the common elements of (See *Reparations*, Page 13)

Community unity long overdue, has long way to go

Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Representatives from nearly two dozen civic organizations, community activists and minority business leaders met at the Urban Chamber of Commerce last month to talk up economic development in West Las Vegas.

Given the tenor of community meetings held in the recent past, the lack of acrimony accompanying the discussion at the Chamber meeting was almost too good to be true.

In all candor, our individual behavior has given the political and economic powers-that-be the excuse to do nothing, except utter the tired refrain "I don't know what they want?"

The answer to this question is simple: We want to know, "Where's ours?"

Culled from the meeting was a "Regeneration Plan for Historic West Las Vegas."

The plan will address a number of topical areas:

- Identifying potential in-fill and clear field development projects to serve West Las Vegas and Clark County.
- Locating the financial

resources to implement viable projects.

- Determining the strength of infrastructure to support development.
- Stimulating effective and sustainable community involvement.
- Highlighting historic preservation issues.
- Assessing the community's recreational needs.
- Examining health care delivery and other public service.
- Assessing of the past 10 years of public and private.
- Changing the image of crime-plagued areas.

Citizens will have an opportunity to demonstrate unity and chime in on school-related matters 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at West Middle School, 2050 Saphire Stone. The Clark County School District will hold public hearing on which of one of three West Las Vegas schools will get rebuilt — Booker, Kelly or Madison.

Which one of three schools should be rebuilt, as mandated by state law (AB 368), is important but not the most important issue. Ensuring the fledgling community unity fostered at

last month's Chamber meeting is paramount to getting anything done. We must be able to put past differences aside and work collectively to demand change.

Hundreds of millions of

dollars could be riding on our ability to stick together during the hearing. I will see you there.

Hopefully, we will learn together the answer to this question: Can we let the past stay in the past?

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