FALL 2015

THE

YP Beat

An organ created for and by the Economic Development Committee*

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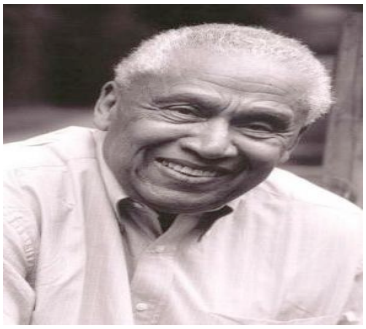
Remembering A Giant:

Mr. James H. Gilliam

Founder of the the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League



Mr. James H. Gilliam, Sr., who spent a lifetime serving as a dedicated, inspirational community leader and role model, passed away on September 10, 2015. He was 95.

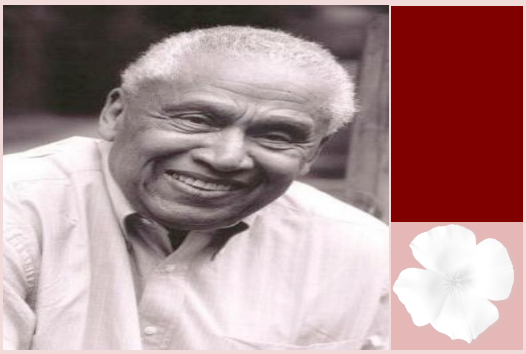
He was born on August 6, 1920 in Baltimore and earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Morgan State University and a Master's in Social Work from Howard University. He married the late Louise Hayley Gilliam in 1944 and they had two children, Jim Jr. and Patti.

After he graduated, he joined the U.S. Army, where he served from 1944 to 1948 in the African-American WWII division known as the Buffalo Soldiers. He was a combat veteran of the North Apennines and Po Valley campaigns on the Italian front.

He was decorated with two Bronze Stars, the American Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII (Continued on Page 2).

* The Economic Development Committee, a branch of the Metropolitan-Wilmington Urban League for Young Professionals, has created this quarterly newsletter to keep each other abreast of breaking and helpful news. As a Committee, our overall mission is to empower our community through engagement with financial literacy practices and overall uplift.

Remembering A Giant, Continued
Mr. James H. Gilliam
Founder of the the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League



In 1950, he was recalled to duty as a Captain in the Korean War. He was stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army 147th Quartermaster Truck Company and earned the Army of Occupation Medal with the Germany Clasp.

After his tour of duty, he returned to Baltimore and began a distinguished career of public service. In 1954 he became a psychiatric case worker supervisor for the Maryland State Department of Health, then a management aide for the Housing Authority of Baltimore in 1955 and Chief of Renewal Operations for the Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency in 1963.

In 1965, he moved to Wilmington as Director of Neighborhood and Housing Services for the Greater Wilmington Development Council. In 1968, he was one of a very few residents authorized to walk the Wilmington streets to help quell the unrest during the National Guard occupation following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He joined Leon Weiner & Associates as Executive Vice President in 1970 and a year later, took a leave of absence to carry out Governor Russell Peterson's request to overhaul Delaware Family Court. Three years later, he became the first director of the New Castle County Department of Community Development & Housing, a position he retired from in 1990. Nine years later, he founded and served as Chairman of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

His numerous contributions were recognized throughout his illustrious career. He was named Delaware's "Social Worker of the Year," in 1969; awarded the Order of the First State by Governor Pierre DuPont, the Distinguished Delawarean Award in 1982; and the Kiwanis Club of Wilmington's J. Caleb Boggs Community service Award in 1990. He received many other honors throughout his career.

He loved jazz. In 2001, Morgan State University named its new, 2,000-seat renowned concert hall for him and his wife Louise.

Along the way and throughout his life, he negotiated, fundraised and helped develop numerous community organizations, serving in various leadership capacities, including President of the National Urban League Development Fund, Board President of the Children's Bureau of Delaware, Board Member of the Medical Center of Delaware, President and Chairman of the Board of Community Housing Development Inc., Member of the Wesley College Board of Trustees, Commissioner of Speer Trust, Director of United Way of Delaware, and Elder of the First & Central Presbyterian Church. He also served on the State of Delaware Board of Parole.

Jim was predeceased by his father James E., mother Pocahantas, his wife Louise and his son Jim Jr.

Remaining to cherish his memory and build on his legacy are Daughter Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson and Grandson Micah of Wilmington, Granddaughters Alexis Gilliam-Lerner and Leslie Gilliam of Los Angeles, and Great Grandchildren Charlie, Asher and Julien of Los Angeles as well as a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to the James H. Gilliam Fund for Social Justice & Equity c/o the Delaware Community Foundation PO Box 1636 Wilmington, DE 19899

Note: This article was originally printed here: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delawareonline/obituary.aspx?pid=175817563#sthash.baQwP9IH.dpuf

The Building Continues: Our Financial Literacy Conference

(Ms. Nicole Cowan moderating the Entrepeneur's Panel)

On Saturday, October 17th, the Economic Committee of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League Young Professionals (MWULP) hosted the first Financial Literacy Conference at Delaware Technical College in Wilmington, DE.

With over 40 attendees, the event began at 9am with a welcome and introductions of the Economic Committee by Mr. Jason Rodriguez. Dr. Michael Casson provided the opening address about the state of Black Delaware. Concurrent sessions followed with several dynamic voices. Titles and speakers for the sessions were as follows:

Cash Flow and Bank Rolls: Serious Money Management - Presenter: Curtis May

The Importance of Understanding and Managing your Credit - Presenter: Alexander Washington

Taxes: What you Need to Know – Presenter: Shelby Jones

Protecting yourself by Understanding the Basics of Insurance and Getting Yourself Ready for Home Ownership
Presenters: Gary Taylor and Michael Fields

Resources for Women in Business -Presenters: Jessica Gibson, Denita Thomas, A. Scott Henson

Branding yourself to Increase Workplace Viability -Presenter: Ken Briscoe

The event continued with a working lunch that included a panel of established business persons. Pictured above, from left to right, is Nicole Cowan, moderator, followed by Ken Briscoe (A6 Media), Shawonna Ward (Lash Bar by Doodles), Rasheeda Steward (Rapunzel's Hair Care), Eric Ames (Zoup! Restaurant Services), and Shelby Jones (Liberty Tax Services). All entrepreneurs provided useful information for the community to consider about starting and owning a business. Along with each session, there were several vendors who offered services and tips in Del Tech's foyer. The event concluded at 4pm.

Sponsors for the Event:

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League
Young Professionals

Featured Local Black Businesses for the Fall

September's Feature

Molly's

Ice Cream Café and More

900 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone:(302) 984-2773

Website: http://mollysicecream.com

October's Feature

Levitea

Delaware's Only Tea Bar and Loose Leaf Tea Shop

228 W 9th Street Wilmington Delaware 19801

Website: http://www.leviteawilmington.com/

November's Feature

Jerry Deen's

Family Restaurant – Breakfast and Brunch

Address: 4304 N Market St, Wilmington, DE 19802

Phone: (302) 764-3000

Be sure to Nominate your Business to be featured through YP social media sites

Register using Google Docs:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CFRjE3uYnJDW6ZrolPilZ-jRmAkDXma6E9JKeaqFznU/viewform?c=0&w=1

Four Year-End Tax Tips from Experts to Maximize your Refund in 2016

by: Matthew Frankel, USA TODAY

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2015/09/29/5-year-end-tax-tips-maximize-refund-2016/73027110/

Selena Maranjian: There's a big mistake that many investors make at the end of a year: buying into mutual funds just before those funds make their annual distribution of dividends and capital gains. It might seem smart to buy just before those payouts are made, but it's not, because even though a fund might pay, say, $3 per share to its investors, the value of the shares drops by exactly that amount. So, you don't really end up with a gain. Even worse, you are on the hook to be taxed for that payout -- even though you may not have held the shares during the time they appreciated, creating the capital gain.

The smart move is to find out when, or if, the mutual fund will be making a significant distribution to shareholders -- and to buy into the fund *after* that. These distributions often occur in December, and most major funds will publish the date of the distribution on their website. If you can't find it, give the fund company a jingle and ask.

All this doesn't hold for mutual funds held in tax-advantaged retirement accounts, such as 401(k)s, so don't worry about those. It *does* hold for any distributions that you (wisely!) reinvest in extra shares. You might not collect any cash, but Uncle Sam will still tax you.

Sean Williams: Although it's not exclusive to the end of the year, one smart tax tip that everyone should consider is adjusting their tax withholding status to match their taxable income.

Put plainly, Americans are addicted to receiving a refund from the IRS. In recent years, close to 80% of taxpayers wound up getting money back from the IRS (an average of roughly $2,800), which for many Americans is a way of forcing themselves to save money. However, allowing the federal government to hang onto money that you are due for extended periods of time (weeks or months) is actually bad news for you since that money earns no interest. What you're really doing by not adjusting your tax withholding status is allowing the federal government to borrow money from you for free.

What should workers do instead? As we edge toward the end of the year, take the time to use a tax withholding calculator to gain a rough estimate of how much you might owe in taxes. Or, if you're brave enough, consider making the calculations on your own by using the IRS's federal tax tables to help calculate your tax liability. As a reminder, don't forget your tax liability for Social Security or Medicare, especially if you're self-employed.

Once you have a rough estimate of your federal tax liability you'll be able to make the appropriate adjustments to minimize the amount you owe, and most importantly, minimize the amount of money the federal government is keeping without paying you a dime.

Dan Caplinger: In taking an early look at your taxes, it's important to make sure you get the full benefit of any deductions you're entitled to take. For many, that involves making year-end charitable gifts. To deduct those amounts, you need to make sure the gifts are done by Dec. 31.

If you're planning to give cash or write a check, then waiting until the last minute isn't that big of a problem. Where you can run into trouble, though, is if you take advantage of a useful strategy that involves giving away appreciated stock as a charitable gift. Ordinarily, if you sell stock that has gone up in value, you'll owe tax on the capital gains. Yet if you give away that stock, you can deduct the full market value, and you won't owe any tax because it's the tax-exempt charity that ends up selling the stock after the gift.

The thing to keep in mind is that the process of making a charitable stock gift takes longer than a simple cash gift, so you should get the ball rolling well before the end of the year. By doing so, you can do good and give yourself some great tax savings in the process.

Jason Hall: One of the best tax-reducing tools at the disposal of many people is your employer-sponsored 401(k) or similar retirement plan. You can contribute as much as $18,000 of your salary (up to $24,000 if you're 50 or over) in 2015, and if you contribute pre-tax contributions, then your taxable income would be reduced by the total amount of your contributions for the year.

In other words, if your tax rate is 25% this year, you'd reduce your federal income taxes by $4,500 this year by making the max $18,000 contribution. If you're in the 50-and-over club and max out at $24,000, that's worth $6,000 in tax savings at a 25% rate.

If you're in the situation where you can benefit from increasing contributions over the next few months, you should be able to crank up your payroll contribution percentage for the rest of the year, and then back it down at the beginning of 2016. Some employers may also allow you to make one-off deductions to "catch up" for the year. Check with your human resources folks to find out if this is an option for you.

Little Known Black History Fact:

National Black Independent Political Party

By D.L. Chandler

The National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) was formed in November 1980 as a response to the growing concerns of the African-American community and their place in the political ecosystem. To date, the NBIPP remains as perhaps the most prominent example of Blacks breaking with the major two-party system of Democrats and Republicans.

The NBIPP was formed on the heels of a three-day convention held in Philadelphia, Pa. at Benjamin Franklin High School between November 21-23. Over 1,500 delegates consisted of leaders from the Black Power Movement and other related progressive groups gathered to officially form the party. The gathering was held just after the 150th anniversary of the first Black political convention of September 1830, which was also in Philadelphia.

Keeping true to its overall mission, the national charter expressed its concerns and aims in pointed fashion.

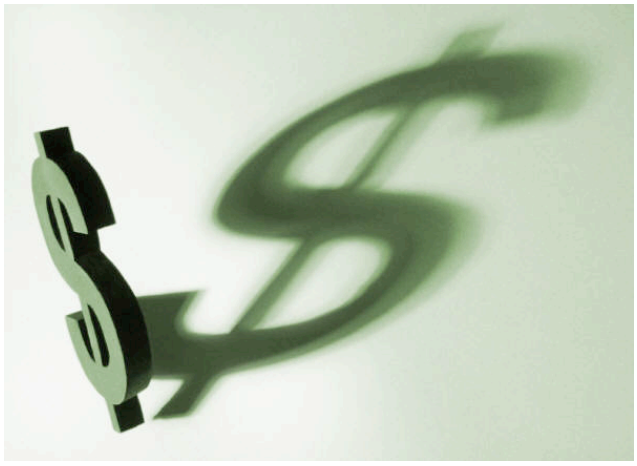
"The National Black Independent Political Party aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-economic order. That is, to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalist exploitation," the charter stated.

Much of the NBIPP's language was taken from the same concepts enacted by the aforementioned Black Power Movement and Pan-Africanist leaders. The group has been studied as an example of how the fight for equal rights among Blacks has evolved over the decades.

The NBIPP disbanded after just six years with little in the way of explanation. Although several books have since been written about the rise and fall of the NBIPP, few outside documents point to the machinations behind the party's end.

The late scholar Manning Marable was a notable leader of the party.

Support Black Owned Businesses
Tis the Season



Fashion

LaureNicoleDesigns.com

Jewelry

https://www.etsy.com/shop/Zarephath?ref=hdr_shop_menu

Independent Black Owned Businesses (350 +)

http://www.afrobella.com/2015/11/28/350-independent-black-owned-businesses-to-support/

36 Black-Owned Etsy Stores

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/22/buy-black-friday_n_2176509.html

30 Online Stores Owned by Black Women

http://www.mycoloures.com/2014/12/30-black-woman-owned-online-stores-to.html

6 Black-Owned Wine Brands For the Holidays

http://www.blackenterprise.com/lifestyle/sip-support-6-black-owned-wine-brands-for-the-holidays/

Top 30 Writers of Color and Novels to Consider

*Note: These suggestions span several genres and reflect the opinion of J. Edwards.

"People don't realize how a [person's] whole life can be changed by one book." — Malcolm X

1. Toni Morrison's *Sula*, *The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon*, *Love*, *Beloved*, *Paradise*, and *Jazz*
2. Audre Lorde's *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*
3. James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time, Giovanni's Room*, and *Another Country*
4. Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
5. Sandra Cisneros' *House on Mango Street*
6. Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony and Storyteller*
7. Nadia Hashimi's *The Pearl that Broke its Shell*
8. Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and *Smoke Signals*
9. Toni Cade Bambara's *The Salt Eaters*
10. Margaret Walker's *Jubilee*
11. Alice Walker's *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*, *Meridian, and The Color Purple*
12. Ann Petry's *The Street*
13. Langston Hughes' *Simple Stories, Not without Laughter,* and "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"
14. Chester Hines' *If He Hollers Let Him Go*
15. Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*
16. James Weldon Johnson's "The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man"
17. Nella Larson's *Passing*
18. Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns*
19. Mohja Kahf's *Girl with the Tangerine Scarf*
20. Maya Angelou's *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings*
21. Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez's *All that Glitters*
22. Zora Neale Husston's *Their Eyes were Watching God*
23. Richard Wright's *Native Son*
24. Octavia Butler's *Kindred*
25. Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*
26. Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Warrior Woman*
27. Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak! and Breath, Eyes, Memory*
28. Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
29. Chimamanda N. Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* and *Purple Hibiscus*
30. Tsitsi Dangerembga's *Nervous Conditions*

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories ..." — Kofi Annan

The Power of the Black Dollar

Source: http://blackamericaweb.com/2015/10/26/monday-mondays-the-power-of-the-black-dollar/

Mellody Hobson, President of Ariel Investments, talks with Radio Personality, Tom Joyner about the Black Dollar.

Tom: A very interesting topic today: we are talking about the changing profile of America's Black consumers.

Mellody: We certainly are, Tom! Nielsen recently released a report on the growing influence of Black households in the United States, and the results are really quite stunning. Across a broad range of topics, Black Americans are making their presence felt as consumers and growth agents. This is especially true for Black families in the middle and high income brackets. overall, the report points to the major – and in some aspects outsized – role that Black americans play in the economy, and I thought we should explore that.

Tom: We certainly should! What did you find most interesting?

Mellody: There were a few items that stuck out, but the big one was income growth rates. African-American income growth rates outpaced those of non-Hispanic whites at every annual household income level above $60,000, and the largest increase for African-American households occurred in the number of households earning over $200,000, with an increase of 138%, compared with a total population increase of 74%. That is a really incredible comparison, and it is key to understanding the influence that Black consumers have on a number of sectors and trends.

For example, income growth leads us to consumption patterns, and the average dollar amount spent per household annually for African-Americans with household incomes of $100,000+ shows the incredible influence our community wields in some key industries. Take toy stores: Black families spend 40% more than the general population at toy stores. Bookstores are similar, with Black households spending 32% more. In the auto sector, upper income Black households spend 15% more than their peers, and 14% more at department stores. All of this means that these industries would be smart to take their leads from our community when it comes to advertising and marketing, and product development.

Tom: So Black America stood out as key consumers in many ways. What else was notable in the report?

Mellody: The incredible depth of engagement Black America has with media and entertainment. Take television: each week, compared to all Americans, African-american adults spend 42% more time watching TV. The same trends hold for other means of media consumption. Black Americans spend 13% more time on the computer, and 15% more time on a smartphone than any other demographic. And that last number is not surprising, as 83% of Black Americans own a smartphone, compared to just 61% of the general population.

And this consumption has also led to new channels of influence as well. This year has seen media consumption combine with social events and demographic trends to create powerful cultural movements. Look no farther than Twitter, where some of the major hashtags have included #blacklivesmatter with 4,756,536 mentions, #ferguson with 2,421,801 mentions, and #freddiegray with 2,087,080 mentions. in 2015, the impact of Black america on a broad range of industries, particularly in television, music and social media, as well as on social issues, is truly massive.

Tom: What is driving this momentum?

Mellody: There are numerous factors that underpin these trends, but a few stand out. The first is that the push to get our kids a good education has started bearing fruit. For example, while Black kids still graduate high school at a lower rate than the general populous, those who do graduate are actually more likely than the general population to enroll in college, with 70.9% of high school graduates doing so.

Secondly, Black America is young. The average age of African-Americans is 31.4 years old, compared to 36.7 years for the total population. A younger population has meant that young Black individuals are more influential than their parents' generation in creating and harnessing mainstream trends, as well as being key consumer demographics.

The Power of the Black Dollar, Continued

Mellody: Finally, in the past few years, Black America has seen an influx of diverse, educated and affluent immigrants that is helping to amplify Black political and economic influence across the country. Black immigrants now account for 8.7% of the nation's Black population, nearly triple their share in 1980. Our community is no longer as monolithic in its experience as it once was, and as the profile of our community expands, and so too does our impact as consumers and stakeholders.

Tom: Very interesting to learn about these developments. Thanks for joining us, Mellody!

Mellody: Great to be here, Tom!

Editor's Note: Thank you for engaging the 2nd issue of our newsletter, The YP Beat. I am excited about the possibilities of our work as we continue building a better tomorrow, using this publication as a sounding board. In an effort to keep our publication diverse and effective, submit your ideas. Please e-mail your idea (s) or submission (s) to edwardsj@udel.edu. Have a wonderful holiday!

Please, Love, and Blessings,
J. Edwards, Ph.D.
Published 12/9/2015

Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League
Young Professionals

MWULYP's
Economic Development Team 2015-2016

YP President: LaTisha Bracy
YP Vice-President: Cimone Philpotts

Economic Development Co-Chair: Jason Rodriguez
Economic Development Co-Chair: Joe Cobb

Economic Development Team Members
Nicole Cowan
Jessica Edwards
Shelby Jones
Larry Lambert
Larry Morrow
Ronnell Page
Grace Stockley
Gary Taylor
Greg Whilby