



Issue NO. 27

FEBRUARY 2020

# THE DRUM

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

February 16, 2020

2:00-4:00 pm

\*NEW LOCATION\*

Neighborhood Defender Services

500 Griswold St, 29th Fl. Detroit, MI 48226

In celebration of Black History Month, join us at our entrepreneurship workshop as we present to you a panel of entrepreneurs and professionals who will share their journeys into entrepreneurship and the workforce.

### FEBRUARY ASSEMBLY- VOTING RIGHTS

February 19th, 2020

6:00-8:00pm

Your Emerging Space

7 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac MI 48342

Discussion about voter registration and voter education. Key Speaker, Ulanda Caldwell, a Voter Protection Organizer.

The evening's *Take Action Mini-Training* will focus on how to talk to voters about the new voting laws that make voting easier.

RSVP is helpful but not required

[deb@miliberation.org](mailto:deb@miliberation.org)

### ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEON

February 26th, 2020

11:00 am-1:00 pm

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St. Lansing, MI 48912

Power in Passion is excited to announce that they are hosting their 1st annual Roundtable Luncheon for Offender Support Organizations. The Roundtable is being held one month before the 2nd quarterly Reentry Resource Fair. Coming together prior to the fair allows to brainstorm as a group.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO ELLA BAKER

BY ASHA BURNS

In honor of Black History Month, we would like to highlight Ella Baker and her contributions to the Civil Rights movement. When one hears the phrase "Black History Month" it is common for the infamous Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X to come to mind as leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. However, there were many strong Black women who worked alongside them and contributed to the successes of the movement. We would like to acknowledge Ella Baker as one of the many women who helped build the foundation for the movement that assisted in establishing more legal rights for Black Americans through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



In 1957 Ella moved to Atlanta to help organize MLK's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In addition, she lead a voter registration campaign called the Crusade for Citizenship to help register Black voters. After the occurrence of the Greensboro sit-ins, she noticed a need to focus on student activists. She viewed students as both a resource and an asset to the movement. To assist these emerging activists she organized a meeting at Shaw University for the student leaders of the sit-ins in April 1960. It was from this gathering that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was created. Her committee achieved many successes and in 1964 the committee helped create "Freedom Summer, an effort to focus national attention on Mississippi's racism and to register Black voters" (Ella Baker Center). With Baker's guidance and encouragement, SNCC became one of the leading advocates for human rights in the United States.

Ella Baker is also known for her nickname "Fundii," a Swahili word meaning a person who teaches a craft to the next generation. She acquired this nickname through all the hard work and mentorship she gave to young activists. She remains a respected and influential leader in the fight for human and civil rights. Ella Baker once said, "This may only be a dream of mine, but I think it can be made real" (Ella Baker Center). Baker saw a vision for herself and the work she aspired to do. Through hard work and dedication she was able to make her dream a reality. Now we encourage you to create a dream and to push towards achieving those goals. Utilize the methods used by past inspirational leaders or create your own. The path is yours and you have the power to shape it.

# RESOURCES OF THE MONTH:

## STARTING A NEW BUSINESS

Online and in-person mentorship, guidance, and resources to help you start your business. Both of the websites below are partners with the Small Business Administration.

### SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES

([WWW.SCORE.ORG](http://WWW.SCORE.ORG))

Take a Workshop! SCORE offers free live and recorded webinars and interactive courses on demand on small business topics. Or attend in-person business workshops and events near you.

Find a mentor! Small business owners who receive three or more hours of mentoring report higher revenues and increased growth

Upcoming Event:

Leadership Skills for First Time Managers  
February 26, 2020, 11:00am  
Northwest Activity Center 18100 Meyer Rd. Detroit, MI, 48235



### MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

([WWW.SBDCMICHIGAN.ORG](http://WWW.SBDCMICHIGAN.ORG))

All consultants are certified small business counselors. Access an online, detailed guide on how to start and operate a small business. Regional coverage directory that services all counties in Michigan. Free and low cost workshops as well as online webinars

### PROJECT REENTRY & EVOLUTION ART STUDIO

SADO Reentry Coordinator Allison Gorine met with Jay Elias, cofounder of Evolution Art Studio. Jay is passionate about creating change through art and he's developing a platform where people suffering from PTSD can use art to heal. Jay puts his personal and professional experience into his business and craft and creates each part of the program with intention. Evolution Art Studio believes in giving back to the community and is donating a metal working workshop to Project Reentry. The workshop will take place at the studio this spring! Stay tuned for details. If interested in learning more about Evolution Art Studio, contact Jay Elias on LinkedIn or email [reentry@sado.org](mailto:reentry@sado.org)



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## THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND MASS INCARCERATION

SADO's Reentry Specialist, Jose Burgos, was invited by Jackson College to be a panelist for their MLK day event, "The African American Community, Law Enforcement, and Mass Incarceration." Four of the eight panelists including Jose Burgos, were juvenile lifers. They were chosen to participate because of the impactful work they are engaged in statewide. Jose Burgos, Demetrius Knuckles, Machel Pearson, and Daniel Jones are setting examples for people to be positive role models in their communities. They are defying anyone who thought they couldn't succeed beyond prison walls. They sat with a diverse group of panelists, which included correction and State police officers and answered questions pertaining to criminal justice reform.



There was tension in the room when one panelist promoted abolition over reform. People disagreed about what side people who have been directly impacted by the legal system should be on, reform or abolition. Some people argued that in order to make change you must be at the table where change is needed. One example was if you want to change how corrections are managed, then you should start by working for corrections. Another was if you want to change court outcomes, then you should strive to go to school and become a judge. Is it that simple? Counterarguments detailing data, which highlighted the more complex issue—years of systemic and institutional racism—was an educational moment for people in the room. And by the end of the discussion, we learned that it's possible for abolition and reform efforts to take place simultaneously.

### WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

### WRITE TO US....

**STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER  
OFFICE**

**645 GRISWOLD, SUITE 3300  
DETROIT, MI 48226**

**OR EMAIL US**

**AT [REENTRY@SADO.ORG](mailto:REENTRY@SADO.ORG)**





# CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

**GAMELIEL WARE**  
**HOMETOWN: DETROIT**

## HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Exercising and traveling

## STRUGGLES AFTER INCARCERATION

Employment is a reality for returning citizens. Things like "Ban the Box" still has its loopholes and end up still checking your background after the interview process. Also, many of the certificates I have earned are still stamped with MDOC seal and don't translate well to jobs that hire felons in the workforce.



## SUCCESS AFTER INCARCERATION

I'm starting barbershop school this year in Michigan and will be applying for my license by next year!



## HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I like professional wrestling, music, reading, and volunteering. I like R&B, rap, and country music. My favorite country musicians are Carrie Underwood, Florida Georgia Line, and Jason Aldean. I find volunteer work very gratifying. I volunteer at A Brighter Way and mentor peers through with Washtenaw County's engagement team.

## STRUGGLES AFTER INCARCERATION

I am very busy and lack time for relationships. When I started going to school, I realized how much being locked up affected me... I had to change one of my classes because all the material was on the computer and had to carve out time to take a computer basics class at the library. Also, someone used my credit while I was locked up. I eventually got that straightened out and the debt was removed but it was stressful. The other struggle has been transportation. I am very involved in different organizations, but I don't always have the transportation to get to events I'd like to be at.

**MALACHI MUHAMMAD**

**HOMETOWN: DETROIT**

**CAME HOME: NOVEMBER 19, 2019**



## SUCCESS AFTER INCARCERATION

I have had many successes since November. I opened a bank account and have a great job with good benefits. I like the work I do and my coworkers. I've spoken at many events and have engaged with many organizations that do work related to criminal justice reform. I work with the Youth Justice Fund and A Brighter Way. I was also chosen to be the Washtenaw Coordinator for Righteous Son. I am in school at Washtenaw Community College and it just feels good to be out here. I have my own business card as a Criminal Justice Reform Speaker. I try to speak about the topic as much as possible to raise awareness and educate others about important issues.



# FOUR YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MONTGOMERY V. LOUISIANA

January 24th 2020

*Montgomery v. Louisiana* (2016) held that its previous ruling in *Miller v. Alabama* (2012) should be applied retroactively. Making more than 2,000 incarcerated individuals nationwide eligible for re-sentencing.

In celebration of this monumental decision that gave a second chance at life, a group of Michigan's juvenile lifers and supporters, which included our clients, staff, and interns, walked with pride in the cold rain. The walk started at Hart Plaza, then to the juvenile justice centre, and ended at Frank Murphy 36 district court in honor of the 200+ juvenile lifers who are still awaiting a new sentence.



*Rain does not fall on one roof alone*



# CAREERS & OPPORTUNITIES

## CADILLAC ASPHALT JOB FAIR

February 15th 2020, 10:00am-2:00pm  
Laurel Manor  
39000 Schoolcraft. Livonia MI, 48150

Looking for Experienced:

- Equipment Operators
- Laborers
- Plant Operators
- Density Technicians



## MITIGATION TECHS WANTED

Full-time and Part-time positions are available  
Skilled Restoration- \$15  
General Labor- \$12

If you are not already registered with the office, you need to go into the office and fill out an application. Walk in applications are welcome Monday-Friday from 9AM-3PM, all you need to bring with you is TWO valid forms of ID!

LaborMax Staffing  
8212 Telegraph Rd. Taylor, MI 48180  
734-404-8510

## TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM

Suburban Truck Driver- Training School

Dedicated to making the transition from overseas to over the road a smooth one. Let an experienced admissions counselor assist you in processing educational benefit requests.

Do you qualify? Call the Admissions Dept.  
734-229-0000

SuburbanCDL.com

## MICHIGAN UNITED

Organizers Wanted!!

Michigan United is excited to announce that they're growing their team of organizers working for justice and defending the dignity of everyone in Michigan. Join to fight for racial and economic justice and against corporate greed!

Positions:

- Criminal Justice & Environmental Justice Organizing Manager
- Full time Immigrant Rights Organizer in Detroit
- Full time Immigrant Rights Organizer in Grand Rapids
- Full time Elder & Disability Justice Organizer in Detroit
- Full Time Environmental Justice Organizer in Wayne County
- Part Time Environmental Justice Organizer in Wayne County
- Full and Part-time Community Political Organizers & Managers statewide

Find Out More @ <https://www.miunited.org/job-openings>

## BEST VERSION MEDIA

Ypsilanti, MI  
<https://www.bestversionmedia.com/apply>

BVM is searching for outgoing, self-motivated people with an entrepreneurial mindset for our Publisher opportunity. The sales responsibilities include prospecting, scheduling appointments, meeting one-on-one with business owners, and maintaining superior customer relationships. This position requires limited travel and operates during standard business hours of your own choosing. Accepted individuals go through a complete national training program, and then have the consistent guidance of on-going training and field support. Advancement and leadership opportunities are available in our growing, dynamic organization.

Requirements:

- Ability to operate within deadlines
- Goal & performance driven
- Past sales experience encouraged, but not required
- Positive attitude
- Professional demeanor



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### PASTA PUTTANESCA

#### INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
4 cloves garlic, smashed  
4 anchovy fillets, chopped  
1 (28-oz.) diced tomatoes  
1/2 cup kalamata olives, pitted  
1/4 cup capers  
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes  
Kosher salt  
1 lb. spaghetti  
Chopped parsley, for garnish  
Freshly grated Parmesan, for serving

#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large skillet or pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add anchovies and cook until fragrant, another minute. Add tomatoes, olives, capers, and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer, 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add spaghetti and cook according to package directions, until al dente; drain. Toss spaghetti in sauce. Sprinkle with parsley and Parmesan and serve.

*Note: I made this for a friend it was easy and delicious! - Emma*



## APP OF THE MONTH



### Stop, Breathe & Think

Are you feeling stressed, overwhelmed or are just completely out of tune with your emotions? Just pull out the Stop, Breathe & Think app. With over 55 short exercises to choose from, you can easily find peace and refocus your thoughts.

Practicing mindfulness is a great form of self-care because it allows you to escape from the chaos of life and to really connect with one's inner self. Our mental and emotional wellness is just as important as our physical.

**STOP:** Take a break from whatever it is that you are doing and check in with your thoughts and emotions.

**BREATHE:** Do a mindful breathing exercise to help draw in your focus and to create space between your thoughts, emotions and reactions to them.

**THINK:** Broaden your perspective, and strengthen your force field of peace with personalized meditations and activities.

#### User Reviews:

*"I never would have expected my phone would actually disconnect me from all the insanity, until I found... SBT." - Cool Mom Tech*

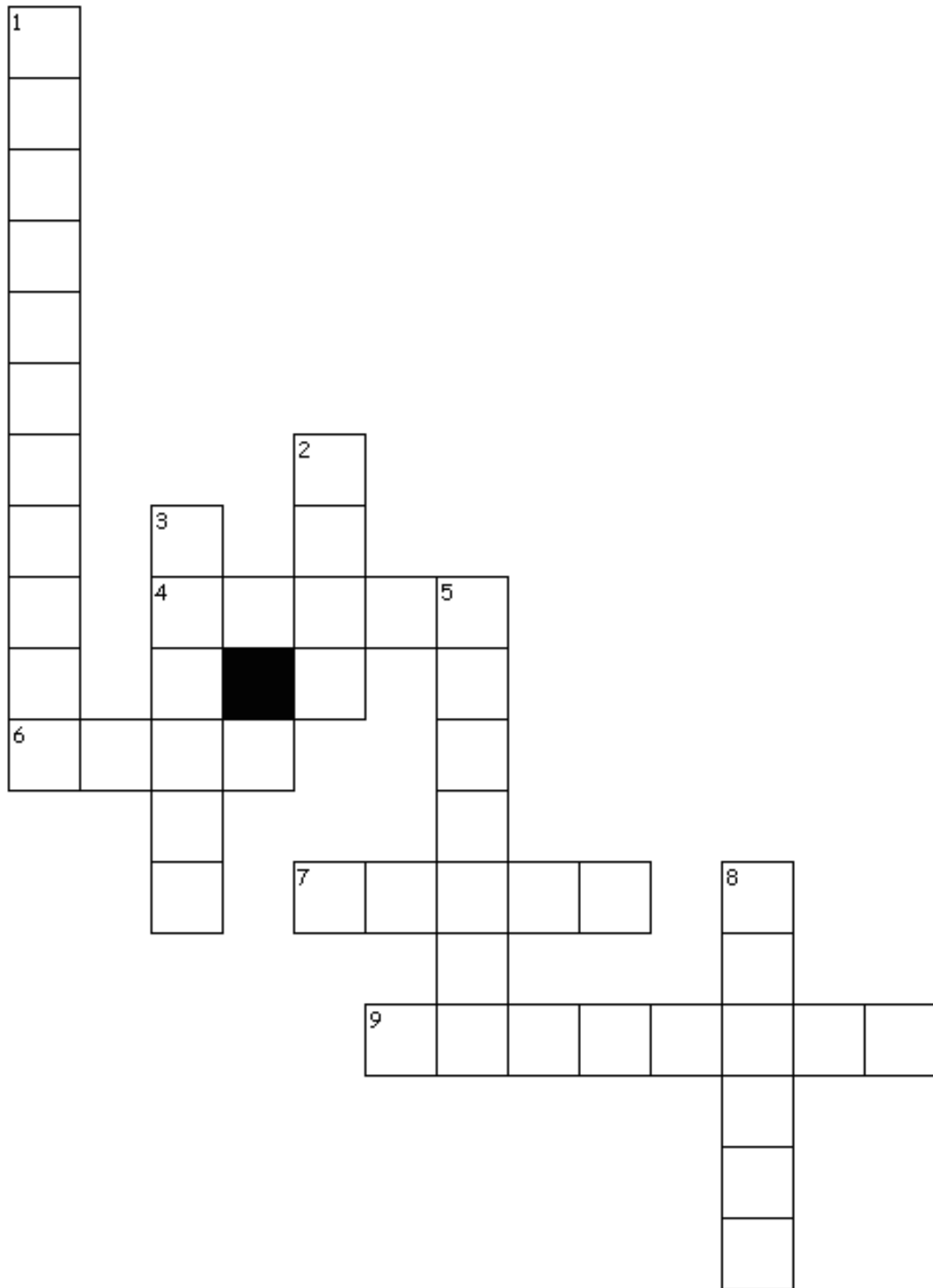
*"You can change your whole frame of mind with just a few minutes of meditation." - Fast Company*

## 2020 VISION

With the new year upon us, what do you envision in 2020 for yourself?  
Use the space below to make a list

"After everything you have been through, today is still brand new. Let the morning sun remind you that you are more than what's behind you." -Morgan Harper

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CROSSWORD



## Down

1. "My Girl"
2. Performed the First successful Open Heart surgery.
3. The Seven days following Christmas
5. Word of the Akan People of West Africa, meaning "Go back and get it".
8. Iconic record label

## Across

4. She was a journalist and co-founder of the NAACP
6. "Lift every voice and \_"
7. Black
9. "A dream Deferred"