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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## 24th Ward Residents Meet 1st ten of 23 Total Aldermanic Candidates at St. Agatha Catholic Church

Nicholas Short



Ten Aldermanic Candidates at St Agatha Church for meet the candidate forum coordinated by William E. Kyle, community resident/activist. From left to right: Wilbert Cook, former Alderman Michael Chandler, Jimmy Lee Lard, Valerie F. Leonard, Wallace E. "Mickey" Johnson, Vetress Boyce, Melissa L. Williams, Patricia (Pat) Marshall, Shavonda Fields, and Regina D. Lewis. Also in front of and to the left of Regina (in red) is William E. Kyle.

Starting at 6 p.m., the forum offered each candidate 10 minutes to state his or her case. The church, located on 3147 W. Douglas, housed many potential voters from the 24th Ward who wanted to get to know their candidates. In alphabetical order, the candidates took turns stepping up to the crowd and briefly provided their history, listed their qualifications, and expressed their vision for the ward.

William E. Kyle, an electrician and the owner of Abacus Electric,

pulled together the forum to help 24th Ward residents gain more information about the candidates. "Many of the constituents around the neighborhood were very much confused by the election and actually a lot them did not

know any of the candidates that were running. So I started to think 'a good citizen cannot make good choices if they have no information.'"

One of the candidates arrived late to the forum and, as a result,

was not allowed to speak. She also claimed that she did not find out about the forum until it was too late. But Kyle did not accommodate her request to speak. Kyle stated, "the

See Alderman page 3

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NOT "POLITICS AS USUAL" FOR 24 IN 2011

**PAGE - 3**

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK - THE ROOSEVELT-CICERO TIF

**PAGE - 4**

MELANIN: BLACK HUMAN'S GIFT ~ WHITE SOCIETY'S THREAT

**PAGE - 4**

## FRONT BRAKE LIGHT – THE NEXT REVOLUTION IN AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

Nicholas Short



Steven Wright

Steven Wright is proud of his father and his idea—the Front Brake Light—and he understands the safety benefit of a forward facing brake light and is encouraging others to believe in the product as well.

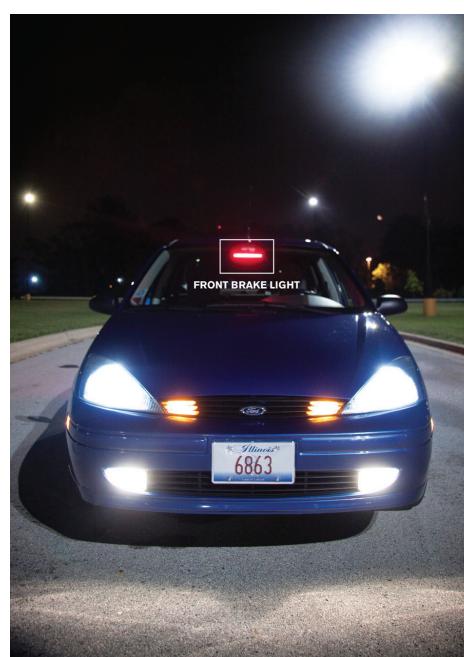
But Wright was not always a fan of the Front Brake Light, a forward-facing warning light that is attached to the front windshield of a motor vehicle and is designed to prevent accidents. His father received the inspiration for the front brake light after being in an auto accident around the year 2000. After the

accident, in which his car was rear-ended by another car, he realized that if the car that hit him was equipped with a front brake light, the accident could've been avoided.

He soon shared his new idea with his son. Steven, who was 15 years old at the time, did not think much of the idea at first. Today, looking back at that moment, Steven does not remember why he did not believe in his father's brainchild. "Sometimes 15-year-olds don't have any idea about anything," he said.

After a few years went by, Steven eventually realized that the Front Brake Light was an innovative and useful invention. "About four years ago, a light bulb blew up in my head and I thought 'that's not such a bad idea,'" he said. He decided to research the concept and develop a working prototype. Serving as the front man for the idea, he also initiated promotional tactics in support of the Front Brake Light. For guidance and support, he went to—among others—Secretary of State Jesse White. "He's been advising me for almost two years now on the project," he said. He has also been in communication with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Harpo Studios and many others.

For additional assistance, he became a part of the SYNC Technology Center, a start-up tech incubator in the West Loop. "With that incubator, they're helping me meet people and make connections. And ideally, the whole purpose of the organization is to



Display of front brake light

council me on my business and make it a pundit," he said. So far, he has been involved with them for about three months.

Another method that Steven uses to spread the word about his product is www.frontbrakelight.com, the website for the Front Brake Light. The website features a promotional video, documented proof of appearances in the press, and a section that defines the brake light and why do people need it. According to the website, the warning light, which is also connected to

the vehicle brake electrical system, serves as a forward facing light that informs other motorists of the intention of the motorist in oncoming driving situations. The point of the light is to greatly lower the likelihood of a vehicle being in an automobile accident.

Wright realized that thousands of vehicles are being added to the road every day, which leads to constant increases in chances that an accident will occur. Roads, he believes, are the most dangerous place in America and that the actions of one driver (or more) can immensely affect others using the same roadway. Lights and mirrors are the only line of defense against potentially hazardous accidents. He further explains the usefulness of the Front Brake Light by providing two scenarios:

*Scenario #1: A driver in the left-hand turn lane, preparing to make a left-hand turn.*

Wright's explanation: "If he had a front brake light in his vehicle, oncoming traffic would have a better idea of what the driver intends to do," he said.

*Scenario #2: A car in front of you suddenly stops, which forces you to stop.*

Wright's explanation: "Your front brake light will let them know that you are alert in braking."

The cost of a front brake light starts at \$29.95 with a deluxe model at \$69.95. Installation cost will range from \$50 to \$70 dollars.

You can visit [www.frontbrakelight.com](http://www.frontbrakelight.com) for more information about the Front Brake Light.

**North Lawndale Community News**  
Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award

**North Lawndale Community News**  
Winner of the 7th Congressional District 2004  
Education Champion Award  
Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
Residents of the 7th Congressional District

## NLCN 2010 Focus Youth & Reflection

Much has happened since October of 1999 when we first published the North Lawndale Community News more than eleven years ago. Many have contributed, supported, volunteered, written, taken photos, done research, and/or completed our workshops. We have helped many and many have helped us.

When the North Lawndale Community News began in October of 1999 as the North Lawndale Community Newsletter, a focus was established. First, we thanked God for making the newsletter possible. We stated that confidence in the good of the people was the motivating force behind it. Many resources and events are available to us and our neighboring communities and the role of this newspaper is to provide you with that information. Since then it has become a newspaper, larger in newsprint layout and organizational size.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". Many of us were then and are now concerned about the state of the family in our community. We focused on providing helpful and useful suggestions to strengthen and restore vitality to the family unit.

In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". Our hope was that everyone in our community join us as we moved in the direction of creating a balanced life in which family, work, recreation, community participation, and spiritual endeavors worked together in harmony.

In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". As a community, we are dominated by results of low educational levels, high unemployment, a hostile economic environment, and unbearable crime and murder statistics. Still, we pushed forward to improve life in our community on many levels and by many people from within the community, as well as concerned people from outside the community.

In 2004, the North Lawndale Community News focused on helping our community acquire a better quality of life through higher levels of reading and responsible wealth creation.

In 2005, it was Technology, Business Development, and Employment. We chose to include a strong focus on providing information and articles on resources in those areas because there was a growing unemployment rate in North Lawndale and some of its neighboring communities that are among the highest of all the 77 Chicago communities.

In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was Health, Education, and Welfare. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness especially in an economy driven society. Welfare is unavoidable in showing man's humanity (love) toward man.

In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN focused on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

In 2008, the primary focus for Strategic Human Services and the North Lawndale Community News during 2008 was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. There are many problems that face North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. Anyone of them are the most important to any individual when it is his, her, or their biggest battle.

In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NLCN was HEALTH & THE ECONOMY. One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of selfcare practices.

In 2010, our primary focus will be to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

## The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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Community Youth

**Circulation:** 15,000 copies

**Drop Site Distribution:** Reginald Lewis, Phillip Lewis, Dominique Mack, and Denzelle Gresham distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities.

**Weekly Mail Subscription Rates:** \$20.00 for 3 months. \$35.00 for 6 months \$60.00 for 1 year \$110 for 2 years

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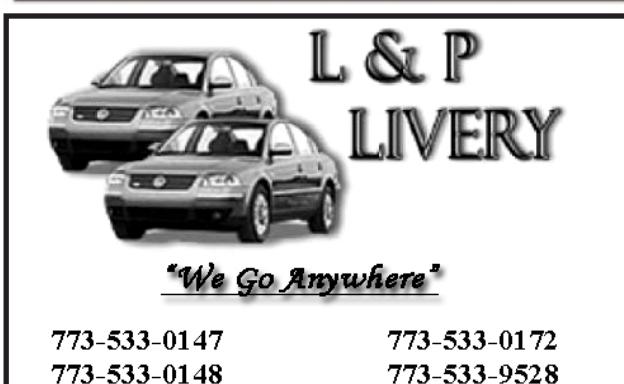


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**The North Lawndale Community News**  
**Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203**

**Time 6:00pm**  
**Date December 16, 2010**  
**Free Training in Community Journalism!**  
**Everyone is Welcome!**  
**For More Information Call**  
**312-492-9090**

## Not “Politics as Usual” for 24 in 2011

There are 23 Candidates running for Alderman in Chicago's 24<sup>th</sup> Ward; it just goes to show that residents realize how much is at stake. On the cold evening of November 30, 2010, Aldermanic hopeful Chauncey Stroud was submitting motions to challenge the nominating petitions of all his opponents (every other Candidate running for Alderman in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward), and non-candidate Cindy Sanders has challenged most, in order to knock each Candidate off the 2011 ballot.

That same night, five contenders: Vetress Boyce, ShaVonda Fields, Wallace "Mickey" Johnson, Regina Lewis, and Melissa L. Williams came together at the Lawndale Plaza McDonald's for a "Candidates' Circle." All 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Aldermanic hopefuls were invited to attend by Operation 24 CommUnity Improvement Association. (Letters were sent to each of them based upon the addresses they provided to the Chicago Board of Elections; Leonard, Cox, Lard and Cook reached out to express interest, but were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.)

In addition to the Candidates, Operation 24 invited "Circle Keepers" from the Community Justice for Youth Institute (CJYI) to facilitate the gathering. Circles are often used by Restorative Justice

practitioners to work with youth in Chicago Public Schools and the juvenile justice system as well as to address conflict, grief, to celebrate, and to facilitate discussions. The goal of this meeting, in

particular, was to bring Candidates together to discuss the community, the campaign, and a plan for the Candidates to work together beyond the 2011 Elections to make improvements for the benefit of 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Residents. Williams, who is the Coordinator of Operation 24, states that CJYI has often come to North Lawndale to keep Circles and so we felt it important to bring in a group that understands some of the dynamics in our community, but is not biased, to facilitate this session.

CJYI's presence also means that our Candidates are being exposed to this important method of communication, one that is supposed to be practiced in Chicago Public Schools for our youth as an alternative to court involvement, and one that we hope to utilize in our community.

Williams also says that she purposely left her name off of the correspondence to the other Candidates in order to promote the true purpose of the organization: which is to bring together all members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward CommUNITY, including this group of Candidates, to improve the quality of life for its residents.

"By the end of the night, each of us could see that Operation 24 is about all of us: our residents and community stakeholders; rather than any particular Candidate. If we can establish relationships, as the leaders we each claim to be, we can strike a mighty blow against the ills that plague our community—while only one of us can win, none of us can do the job alone.

### Chauncey Stroud Challenges Petition of Twenty other 24th Ward Candidates

Chauncey Stroud, Candidate for Alderman of the 24th Ward, filed objections to all 22 of the other candidates for Alderman of the 24th Ward, including the incumbent, Sharon Dixon. The challenges were filed late Tuesday November 29th in the afternoon, between 2:30 pm and 5:00. November 30 was the last day to file objections. This move comes less than 24 hours before candidates were expected to participate in a lottery for ballot position.

The hearings for all objections will begin Monday, December 6, 2010, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, IL, in the Chicago Board of Elections 8th Floor Conference Room, the Board's Lower Level Conference Room and the Building's Lower Level Conference Room. The administrative hearings are open to the public. The list of challenges is available



Chauncey Stroud

online at the Chicago Board of Elections website at [http://www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/document\\_3207.pdf](http://www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/document_3207.pdf)

### ST. Timothy House of Prayer

3440 W. Grenshaw Avenue

Chicago, IL 60624

Come One ... Come All  
And Share In Our Pre-Christmas Luncheon

\*\*\*\*

#### Table of Blessings

\*\*\*\*

This event consists of sharing a free home cooked traditional Turkey Dinner, along with the opportunity to apply for the CEDA/LIHEA Energy Assistance Program.

**Where:** St. Timothy House of Prayer, 3440 W. Grenshaw Avenue

**When:** Friday December 10

**Time:** CEDA/LIHEAP Program 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Luncheon Program : 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Elder Larthes Sam, Pastor

Strategic Human Services - CEDA/Liheap Program

Our residents deserve a better 24<sup>th</sup> Ward, and elected officials are called to be public servants who yield to the will of the people, not our own interests: residents want to see us coming up with solutions, not playing political games.

I commend the Candidates who are taking time out of their busy campaign schedules to do this (without an audience of voters or media presence). I was honored to sit in Circle with them and hope all other Candidates are able to join us so that we can begin to work together to bring about the change our community so desperately needs."

Boyce, Fields, Johnson, Lewis, and Williams are making plans to meet again. All other 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Aldermanic Candidates who would like to participate are encouraged to contact Operation 24 at 773-960-9269 or [chgo\\_op24@gmail.com](mailto:chgo_op24@gmail.com).

Contacts:

Vetress Boyce 773-257-7354

ShaVonda Fields 773-703-9935

Regina Lewis 773-710-6830

Wallace E. "Mickey" Johnson 773-722-8076

Melissa L. Williams 773-620-4456

Operation 24 773-960-9269

"It's Never the Wrong Time 2 Do the Right Thing 4 Our CommUNITY." Operation 24 began in 2010 and is a Community Improvement Association designed to partner with individual residents, organizations, block clubs, churches, businesses, and our supporters seeking to motivate our residents and improve the neighborhoods that make up Chicago's 24<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Op24 has begun to work on a number of issues that concern our residents and hosts events/activities around our commUNITY on the 24th of each month.

**Alderman from front page**

job of alderman is just too important and you just can't have people coming in anytime they want to." The day after the event, one person, also upset about receiving information about the forum on such short notice, posted a fiery comment on the website of EveryBlock, a group that filters an assortment of local news by location so people in such cities as Chicago can monitor the activities on their block, their neighborhood and all over their city. A person with the screen name "Concerned Citizen," wrote, "This is one of things that disturbs me most about Chicago politics and specifically politics in the 24th ward. One tends to find out about things at the last minute or even worse after events have taken place.

Great example is the fact I was sent the information below on Wednesday, November 17th, the day the event was taking place. Who can just drop everything to attend something on the same day? Even worse, I was working downstate this week until Wednesday evening. Had I known about this I might have been able to jump through a few hoops to get back in town a little earlier to get to the event. Why oh why can't there be better and more advance planning on things like this? This is just so frustrating."

"If I knew how to wave a magic wand, we would do that, but there is no way that we can do that," Kyle said in response to the complaints. "You're not going to please everybody."

Here is the contact information for

See page 7

**Joy someone.  
Holiday scratch-offs  
for everyone on your list.**

Have fun! Play responsibly! Must be at least 18 to play. For more info, call 1-800-252-1775 or visit [www.illinoislottery.org](http://www.illinoislottery.org). If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-426-2537.

# Your TIF Dollars at Work: The Roosevelt-Cicero TIF

Valerie F. Leonard

A tax increment financing district (TIF) is an economic development tool intended to spur neighborhood revitalization by providing funds to redevelop commercial, industrial and residential areas that (arguably) would not be developed otherwise. They are financed by holding back a portion of local property taxes to cover such costs as planning, administration, construction, financing, child care and job training in the local TIF district.

The purpose of this series is to examine the performance of every TIF that impacts North Lawndale; to explore strengths and weaknesses of the program, and how it may be improved.

Most importantly, we hope that you will gain greater insights into how your TIF dollars are being used for the local community. Any questions you have pertaining to this article may be directed to Valerie F. Leonard, 773-521-3137, or valerieleonard@msn.com.

The focus of this article is the Roosevelt-Cicero TIF. The following charts depict the boundaries, goals, objectives, project budget, financial performance and major projects implemented in the TIF from the time it was created until now.

#### About the Author:

Valerie F. Leonard is a community development consultant and Co-

Founder of the Lawndale Alliance. Her consulting practice focuses upon strengthening nonprofit organizations and helping them secure federal funding. Ms. Leonard is also the author of *The Time for TIF Reform is Now*, the Lawndale Alliance's report detailing the pros and cons of North Lawndale's TIFs and how the program may be improved. The Lawndale Alliance is a group of residents that have come together to

address a number of issues, including TIFs, education, the Olympics, mortgage foreclosure and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The group is most noted for minimizing the potential for up to 1,200 residents to be displaced from their homes as a result of the implementation of the Ogdensburg-Pulaski TIF. For more information about the Lawndale Alliance, visit <http://lawndalealliance.blogspot.com>.

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**Save the Dates!**

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**Valerie F. Leonard**  
Alderman, 24<sup>th</sup> Ward  
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**"To Know Me is  
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#### Town Hall Meeting Series

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All meetings will be held at Carey Tercentenary AME Church

1448 South Homan Avenue Chicago IL 60623

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Tuesday, December 7, 2010  
Education and Youth

Tuesday, January 11, 2011  
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Tuesday, December 28, 2010  
Jobs, Economic Development  
and Technology

Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
Housing

Join the team that will build community and restore trust.

Contact Valerie at 773-521-3137 or [valerieleonard@msn.com](mailto:valerieleonard@msn.com)

Website: <http://vote4valerie.voterspace.com> Blog: <http://vote4valerie.blogspot.com>

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Paid for Citizens to Elect Valerie F. Leonard

**Roosevelt-Cicero TIF**

- Boundaries**
- Project Goals**
  - Support existing employers and spur industrial employment through the redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized properties within the North Lawndale community.
  - Facilitate the assembly and preparation of vacant land and provide rehabilitation assistance and infrastructure investment to aid business viability.
  - Provide
    - assorted roadway improvements that facilitate the movement of trucks and other vehicles
    - access improvements that enable local businesses to operate effectively
    - utility upgrades
- Particulars**
  - Sponsors-City of Chicago
  - Consultant- Louik/Schneider & Associates
  - Wards-24,29
  - Date Created-2/5/98
  - Termination-2/5/21
  - Uses-Industrial, Commercial
  - TIFWorks Eligible

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**Roosevelt-Cicero TIF**

Vendors Paid in Excess of \$5,000 in 2008

Vendor	Service	Amount
City Staff Costs	Administration	\$35,939
Gibbons & Gibbons, Ltd.	Professional Service	\$9,800
Teng Associates	Professional Service	\$6,442
Allied Appraisal Co.	Professional Service	\$7,400
Kudrna & Associates, Ltd.	Professional Service	\$8,205
HNTB Corp.	Professional Service	\$11,963
Graef, Anhalt Schloemer & Associates	Professional Service	\$9,646
Bigane Paving Co.	Public Improvement	\$93,711
Jane Addams Resource Corp.	Job Training	\$12,168
Wright College	Job Training	\$92,142
New Age Services Corp.	Job Training	\$59,645

# MELANIN: BLACK HUMAN'S GIFT

Crystal X Hale

Known for its superior beneficial qualities towards protecting humans from harmful ultra-violet radiation, melanin is more than just nature's sunscreen.

"Melanin is the foundation for immunity. It is a free radical scavenger, aids digestion, antioxidant, bones, nerves, cellular and hormone functions," states Naturopath doctor and lecturer, Llaila O. Africa in his book, "African holistic Health."

In Melanin: The Chemical Key to Black Greatness, Volume 1, Senior Research Chemist Carol Barnes state:

"The Black human is blessed by nature in that he or she is endowed with a highly functional chemical that regulates essential all bodily functions and activities. The Black human is distinguished from other human species in that he or she tends to have a higher number of organs and body systems that contain high concentrations of a chemical that is Black in color."

This chemical is called Melanin and is responsible for manufacturing and sustaining life....It appears that "western scientists" are indeed interested in the Blackness of the Black human and have justified its importance by spending millions of dollars annually for its study.

At the same time, the Black human

is told and instructed that his Blackness is not important....Some people are afraid of Blackness and develop hypothesis to support their belief. This lie or fear is a continuation of the mental genocide that has hampered the Black human's progress for over 2,000 years or since the fall of the Black Egyptian civilization in 332 B.C."

Barnes continue his explanation of Melanin by expressing that Melanin (that gives Black skin its color and not Black skin) has a thermal resistance and can be exposed to 1225 degrees Farenheight while retaining close to 50% of its original properties.

Melanin is also known for its conversion of light energy to sound energy and the reverse, its toughness, stability, and semi-conductive properties. It is also present at the site of tissue regeneration, repair and infectious disease.

Importantly Barnes exclaims that toxic chemicals such as: caffeine, marijuana, cocaine and many others have a higher affinity for binding with, and are very similar to Melanin and the subunits of its make-up (tyrosine, melatonin, and other alkaloids), thus becoming more destructive in the Melanin-dominant individual.

The similarities in chemical structure between Melanin and these chemicals

cause toxic and addictive effects of the drugs to work faster in the body, cause a greater experience of 'highs and low,' and it remains in the Black person's system for longer periods of time.

This means that naturally the Black human has been given nature's most beautiful gift in the highest concentrations, towards sustaining life; as deficiency and health problems are greater in White babies than Black babies (under natural non-manipulated circumstances). However the old adage fits; a man's greatest strength is also his greatest weakness.

The Black human has been and continues to be introduced to harmful drugs that have damaging effects to his body. At best the lack of addressing this issue is at the very least, willful neglect towards the importance of life.

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## STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

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How do you find out what's going on in your community? What would like you to tell the journalists who cover your neighborhood? What stories do you think are being missed? How can we do a better job?

Join representatives from [AustinTalks](#), the [Austin Weekly News](#), the [North Lawndale Community News](#) and [WVON](#) for a free breakfast and conversation. Come with your questions and share your ideas!

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Sankofa Cultural Arts & Business Center, 5820 W. Chicago Ave.

QUESTIONS? E-mail [austintalks.org@gmail.com](mailto:austintalks.org@gmail.com) or call 312-369-8900.

This event is made possible with a grant from the [Society of Professional Journalists](#) and the support of the [Chicago Headline Club](#).



## NLCN Disclaimer

*The Views and Opinions Expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the North Lawndale Community News*

# Teaching The Youth The Real Reason For The Season

Tali Bahkit

The end of the year is here, and some of the most celebrated holidays stringently grab the attention of the youth. As the youth see the opportunity to receive expensive gifts, parents are pulled into the "WEB" of deception, forgetting the real reason of the season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Eid, and Hanukkah each are holiday's (based on it's evolutional meanings) to be celebrated with family and friends giving thanks, by way of caring and sharing and breaking bread together. But do the youth understand the full significance of each holiday?

Do they understand the meanings and why the gifts are given, or do they have more of a give me, give me, give me attitude? While advertisers continue to manipulate their brands based on festive songs and holiday dressings, the youth are more so drawn into the wrong understanding of what the holidays really mean, a lie and not the truth. So how does one help the youth understand the real reason for the season?

Some parents give expensive gifts to make up for the time lost---not being able to spend and share with their children due to busy work schedules, while others who don't have the money to spend on expensive gifts feel guilty about not being able to give material things---instead of understanding the significance of the miracle of love and the beauty of being able to purely share it not only during the holidays, but everyday.

Gifts of course are always nice, however, when gifts are the basis of whether you and your child's holiday was good or bad, this becomes a problem and instills the wrong idea about the holidays into the youth. And although history's definition of many holidays truthful explained are based on paganism and malicious intent, modern times/new aged thinking have cleansed much of what was created and celebrated out of pure evil.

Where many were sacrificed, bamboozled, and completely taken for their goods, as time moves along the healing process is what has made each celebration one to be thankful for by celebrating with family and friends in love. But this doesn't leave room for the truth to be whitewashed, however it does leave room for one to have a full understanding of the truth of each holiday, in order to understand why it is so important to celebrate with the gift of love based on the healing process.

As said by the first president of the United States of America, George Washington "I shall not tell a lie, but may the truth set you free." The truths behind the history of major world holidays, especially as they are celebrated amongst the majority of our nation should be told. For the real reason for all seasons is love----teaching our youth, the best things in life are free.

For more information about the history of holidays, log on to:

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## AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

**BLACK SWAN** (\*\*1/2) Following the box office and critical success of "The Wrestler" Director Darren Aronofsky takes a different look at another arena done as a psychological thriller that goers closed to the horror edge that is set in the competitive world of stage ballet in New York.

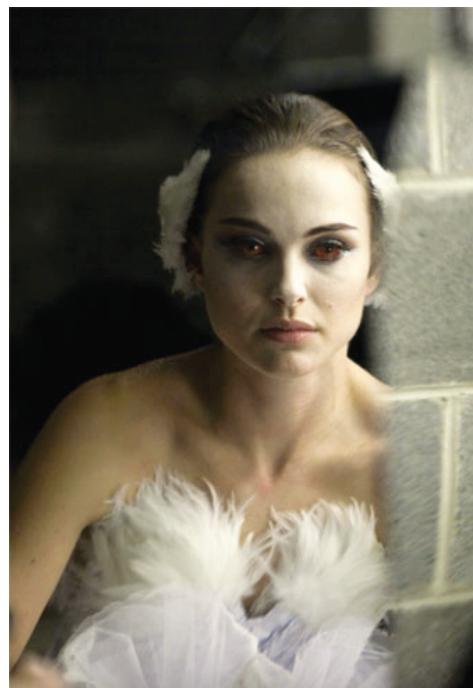
Aronofsky takes a more metaphysical approach than straight operatic that lessen the spectacle aspect that is traded in for a macabre exterior here that is bold and daring amidst some strong performances.

Even though, "Black Swan" plays a little like a stylish Dario Argento horror movie with a hint of cinematic influence of David Cronenberg in Aronofsky's directorial approach her his latest cinematic offering here. The film creates its own fascination whether or not one has a taste for ballet or not.

Natalie Portman gives one of her most memorable and physical performances as Nina, the young ballerina who has no life other than what she aspires to perfect as programmed by her controlling mother, Erica (Barbara Hershey).

Nina (Natalie Portman) is chosen and influenced by the svengali-like French ballet maestro impresario, Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel) who pits her competing for the coveted Snow Queen role against Lily (Mila Kunis) by mastering not only the role of the Snow Queen, but takes on the additional role belonging to Lily that of the Black Swan.

In order to replace the outgoing Beth McIntyre in the latter role whose now considered the dying Queen for Lincoln Center's upcoming re-imaged version of



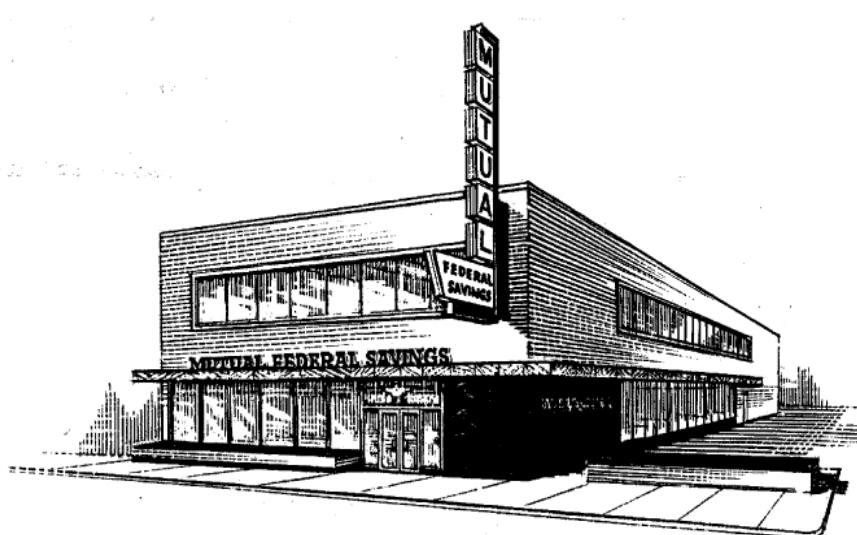
"Swan Lake"

But this is also symbolically to the theme within the story to show the dark side that is in us all that gets taken to surreal heights of manipulation and bloody violence by Nina who becomes obsessed for the role; enough to endanger herself and her rival.

The cinematic brilliances along with some Oscar worthy performances that rises to the demands of being ballerina than actors in a role that delivers strong impressions for this strange marriage between the classic and the macabre that provides for a unique and mesmerizing movie experience.

**R; 108min. A Fox Searchlight Picture Release – Presented at selected theaters**

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## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz



**EAT, PRAY, LOVE** (\*\*1/2) A bit overwrought and self serious adaptation to the bestseller under the direction of Ryan Murphy (TV creator of "Glee" and "Nip/Tuck"); Julia Roberts portrays an unfulfilled married writer who decides to follow the prophesy of a mystic medicine man in Bali to divorce her indecisive husband (Billy Crudup) and begin soul searching through a global odyssey and scenic locales to find and understand the three elements that help her live life and forgive her.

**PG-13; 142min. Sony Pictures Home Video**

**THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE** (\*\*1/2) Nicolas Cage stars in this elaborate CGI influence fantasy adventure that is meant as homage to the Mickey Mouse starred portion in "Fantasia" Cage plays the chief protégé assigned to protect Merlin's most dangerous spell, "The Rising" from falling into the hands of evil apprentice, Morgan (Alice Krieg) who's been imprisoned.

But she also has chief evildoer, Maxim Horvath (Alfred Molina) chasing after Balthazar Blake (Cage) who operates an antique shop and recognizes a bumbling ten yr old kid (Jake Cherry) as the "chosen one" who will save the world through the Dragon Ring that he must train.

**PG; 108min. Walt Disney Home Video**

**Disney's THE SEARCH OF SANTA PAWS** (\*\*) The latest canine caper from the off-springs and direct-to-video spinoff that started with "Air Bud" offers a seasonal prequel to last year's "Santa Buddies". Santa (Richard Riehle) receives the sad the news of the passing of a N.Y. toy shop owner who sent Santa a gift in the form of a plush toy dog that is transformed into a talking dog, Paws who travels with Santa to New York.

Santa suffers an accident losing his memory and is robbed by a homeless man (Chris Coppola). and Inadvertently, the real Santa becomes a storefront Santa to the deceased toy store owner's son, a married LA accountant and his wife whose contractually forced to operate the toy shop business before he can sell it after Christmas.

There is also a new kid, Quinn that arrives at an orphanage whose owner doesn't believe in Christmas who's befriended by older girl, who eventually end up help Paws search the streets for the real Santa and the crystal ice necklace needed to restore Santa back to life. A bit contrived but occasionally cute enough for kids and dog lovers alike.

**G; 96min. Walt Disney Home Video**

**Disney's A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (\*\*) Jim Carrey plays Scrooge and multi- CGI roles in director Robert Zemeckis' take on the Charles Dickens tale that is full of bright and scenic CGI animation and visual influences while staying faithful to the traditional moral story of brotherhood. Not a definitive revision on the classic Dickens tale, but handsomely mounted with occasional dark mood swings.



**G; 96min. Walt Disney Home Video**  
**FANTASIA** (\*\*1/2) **FANTASIA 2000** (\*\*1/2) 4 Disc combo pack - 2 movie collection- Special Edition

In an attempt to cross market and capitalize on the release of Disney's "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" that was inspired by one of the eight segments that Walt Disney boldly married classic music with animation that still holds up well in the 1940 original that the belated 2000 sequel makes an ambitious effort to duplicates. Instead of applying enough of the new contemporary influences that only serve as a reminder to how original and imaginative brilliant the original version was.

**G; Walt Disney Home Video**  
**WAKING SLEEPING BEAUTY** (\*\*1/2)  
**THE BOYS** the Sherman Brothers Story (\*\*1/2)

**WALT AND EL GRUPO** (\*\*1/2)

Each of the individual documentaries chronicles certain historic and personal aspects related to the studio, the creative forces and the man that was Walt Disney through the studio's animation rebirth of the mid 1980's that lasted a decade, that led into turmoil within the creative process between the old and new animators and the administrators.

A complimentary documentary fondly salutes; but doesn't explain well the riff between the successful songwriting duo/brothers, Richard and Robert B. Sherman who composed many Disney hit tunes that were polar opposites in private life,

While the third documentary is a home movie compilation that focus on a 1941 South American expedition led by Walt Disney and his animators researching for two animated projects in a country President Roosevelt was very over being influenced by fascism and the Nazis.

Each documentary feature offers priceless insight into the human conflicts, the collaborative successes, and the historical sufficient. Each offers a stroll down memory lane to a place and time that is represented by the finished product. But through its narrations and behind the scene footage gave us insight to what we didn't know.

**Walt Disney Home Video**

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** Idris Elba, Paul Walker Tip "T.I" Harris, Chris Brown gear up for the heist drama "Takers" due out Jan. 18....Milla Jovovich returns for "Resident Evil: Afterlife" arriving Dec. 28...Emma Stone scores in this coming of age comedy homage to John Hughes films in "Easy A" due out Dec. 21 .

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A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County under file no. D10124057 on November 8, 2010 under the Assumed Name of Keturah's Trendy Fashions with the business located 2926 W. Fulton, Chicago, IL 60612, 2nd fl. The true name and residence address of the owner is Keturah Haynes, 2926 W. Fulton, Chicago, IL 60612, 2nd fl.

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**Alderman from page 3**

each of the candidates who spoke at the forum:

VETRESS BOYCE

4240 W. Roosevelt Rd.

(773) 257-7354

vetressboyce24thward@yahoo.com

www.vetressboyce.com

MICHAEL D. CHANDLER

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Chicago, Illinois 60624

michaeldchandler.myspace.com

(773) 603-1200

WILBERT E. COOK III

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Chicago, Illinois 60624

<http://www.myspace.com/wilbertahandup>

(773) 799-7126

SHAVONDA FIELDS

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(773) 703-9935

[electshavonda2011@yahoo.com](mailto:electshavonda2011@yahoo.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Aldermanic-Candidate-Shavonda-L-Fields/135764259805024>

WALLACE E. "MICKEY" JOHNSON

Friends for Wallace E. "Mickey" Johnson

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Chicago, Illinois 60680-6748

(773) 265-8552

[wej4alderman24th@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wej4alderman24th@sbcglobal.net)

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<http://vote4valerie.blogspot.com>

REGINA D. LEWIS

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PAT (PATRICIA) MARSHALL

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Chicago, Illinois 60623

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Who-is-Pat-Marshall/153802444646120>

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MELISSA L. WILLIAMS

717 South Kedzie Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60612

[attmelwill@gmail.com](mailto:attmelwill@gmail.com)

[attymelwill.com](http://attymelwill.com)

(773) 620-4456

Another forum, this time for both the aldermanic candidates and the mayoral candidates, will be held at Lawndale Community Church, 3827 W. Ogden Ave., on December 8. Aldermanic candidates will get to speak from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the mayoral candidates will speak from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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