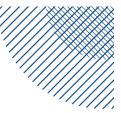
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FEBRUARY 2020 | VOL. 22



SEMAJI

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BCRC

BCRC is a growing, resource-based organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need.



Join us for the exhibition of Living History for Black History Month in collaboration with Concordia University

In collaboration with Concordia Library and the support of Canadian Heritage, we are proud to present the BCRC's *Living History: 100 Years of Black History, Culture and Heritage*' exhibition. A history often overlooked and rarely told of the Black immigrants that made significant cultural, artistic and social contributions to present-day of the Montreal's English-speaking Black community. Through the creation of 15 memoryscapes, they provide a collective memories of the past, but also preserve these stories for generations to come.

Join us on February 6th, 2020 at 6 PM at Concordia Webster Library 1400 Maisonneuve Blvd W, 3rd floor room 361. There will be a panel discussion with the participants of Living History project and refreshment. It will be a unique opportunity to come together and discuss about the organizations and the significance to the Anglo-Black population.

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Living History for Black History Month - 1

Black Theatre Workshop at Vision Gala - 2

My experience as an intern from the project Woke - 3

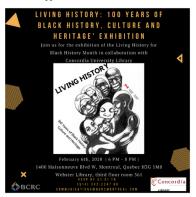
Montréal Black Youth Conference 2020 - 4

New web series "Amours d'Occasion" by Évangeline Kabuya - 5

Héma-Québec Blood Drive - 5

A Global goodbye to Elysia Bryan-Baynes - 6

Upcoming Events Job Opportunities



Past Issues

literary leader H. Nigel Thomas at the Vision Celebration Gala!

by Karl Gouabe-Richer

Montreal, 10 January 2020 – Black Theatre Workshop will be honoring writer and educator H. Nigel Thomas with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award at the annual Vision Celebration Gala, on February 1, 2020.

Kicking off Black History Month, the glamorous gala celebrates Black cultural contributions and artistic excellence while paying homage to the vision of growth and solidarity inspired by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.H. Nigel Thomas will be recognized for his significant contribution to the development of Black arts and cultural life. A prolific writer, educator and activist, Mr. Thomas has been instrumental in providing a nuanced perspective of the inner lives of marginalized voices in Canada.

" Mr. H. Nigel Thomas has been a long-time supporter of Black Theatre Workshop and has dedicated his life and work to the promotion and elevation of Black voices in literature. We are thrilled to pay tribute to his extraordinary achievements at this year's Vision Gala."

- Quincy Armorer, Artistic Director of Black Theatre Workshop

H. Nigel Thomas emigrated from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1968. A graduate of Concordia University, McGill University, and Université de Montreal, he taught for 18 years at the Université de Laval.

Dozens of his essays in literary criticism, short stories, and poems have been published in journals and anthologies worldwide. He is the author of five novels, three collections of short fiction, and two books of literary criticism. His sixth novel, Easily Fooled, will be published in 2021.

Mr. Thomas is a dedicated activist and advocate for Black writers. In the late 70s and until 1988, he tutored students and advocated for justice for Black students in the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. During this time he co-founded The Free South Africa Committee which organized vigils and protests in support of Black South Africans living under apartheid. He also co-founded Kola Magazine to provide a platform for the works of Black writers. He later founded Logos Readings, a bilingual reading series for writers of diverse origins. Most recently, in cooperation with The University of the West Indies, Mr.Thomas established and is the principal patron of two prizes: the Shake Ellsworth Keane Poetry Prize and The UWI Open Campus Fiction Prize. Mr. Thomas has received many awards including the Montreal Association of Business Persons and Professionals' Jackie Robinson Award for Professional of the year and Université Laval's Hommage aux créateurs.The evening will also recognize Leon Llewellyn with the Dr. Clarence Bayne Community Service Award for his significant volunteerism in arts and education within the Montreal Black community.Leon Llewellyn is a community driven arts educator, activist, and multi-disciplinary artist. Born on the island of Grenada, he obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University and a Diploma in Art Education. In addition to working as a political cartoonist, he has created imagery for many Black community organisations including the UHURU, Focus Umoja, Black Theatre Workshop, The Negro

Mr. Llewellyn worked as a high school art teacher for EMSB for 35 years, encouraging his students to examine the relationship between art and personal experience. He continues to volunteer his time teaching art to seniors at the Cote-des-Neiges Black Community Association and running inter-generational art collaborations.

Every year two youth awards are presented to talented Black artists. This year the Cloria Mitchell-Aleong Award will be presented to musician and drag performer Athena Holmes and the Victor Phillips Award will be presented to Méshama Eyob-Austin. The gala will begin with a cocktail reception, followed by a four-course meal with wine. Festivities include special guest performances, door prizes, music, dancing and the awards presentations. The live jazz project Kalmunity Collective will be kicking off the dancing with their funky music blended with spoken word poetry! The VISION Gala is a fundraiser for Black Theatre Workshop, Canada's longest running Black theatre in Montreal, while guaranteeing attendance at what promises to be a truly unforgettable evening.



Past Issues

My experience from the project Woke

by Sarai Edwardville

Project Woke has been designed to equip young people with skills and knowledge to execute change in their community. Through leadership and civic literature training, they will be aware of the power they possess as Black youth in society.

Prior to our first workshop from Démoskrastos, I was feeling a mixture of emotions, I was excited because I would be learning about politics and leadership, who would not? However, I was also nervous of what that entails. Politics and leaderships seemingly require unique skills all of which seem unattainable (to me at least) I asked myself, do I have what It takes to stand for what is just? Because of the simple yet profound explanation of government, I now know that I can! The speakers firstly explained how our governmental system is run. This information was an imperative to understanding my position as a member in society.

Notwithstanding, knowing how, why and who to vote for is complex. Getting involved has never interest me. I was not drawn to voting because the government sent me a letter "Your Vote Matters" or because I see faces of potential Mp's on billboards. Not only so, but they do not represent me. As a black woman facing all sorts of subtle, if not, blatant oppressions. I did not care to be involved in caring about what occurs in government. This explain why I did not know the power I possessed. If I was uninterested before, even more after being asked. Racism and all sorts of injustice has been going on for decades. How relevant is voting to me? Can I really lead change? What I have learned from Démocrastos is simple. How we vote, where we vote is an easy affair, who to vote for is a personal choice? How to evoke change. requires unity and determination. Believe it or not, Canada is a democratic country. Change is possible.

Democratic comes from the Greek work *démocratie* which means "popular government " and the word demos " common people" I cannot help myself but to notice the word people. The system is set up that people are heard and not a person. No matter how intelligent or self-sufficient one feels, change cannot occur this way. This is clearly seen in how a federal government is elected, people with the same interest win. Measurement are implemented to give people a voice. Protesting, writing letters, and petitions are effective when people come together and this is, on a regular basis. It is true that racism still pollutes the minds of people today, however, it took years for change to come. Gradual, persistent and precise movement is possible.

In Canada the federal government has Jurisdiction (power) over the entire country and each province has its own responsibilities over the set of people. They are three levels of Government, Federal, Provincial and Municipal. Federal government has governance over affairs such as citizenship, immigration, national defense and trade. The provincial and governmental responsible for things such as education, health care and highways. The municipal government has authority over the city and other local affairs. This system is set up to serve people. Whether or not everyone is served equally is an issue. Or does everyone benefit from these services in the same way? Hence, institutionalized racism and other injustices occur persist. However, I now understand that change requires unified people who are willing to use the tools government has permitted, which I have mentioned above. These first workshops from Démoskratos has ignited by belief that I can be an agent of change.







Montréal Black Youth Conference 2020

by Lorie Geddes-Reid

On Sunday April 5th 2020 at the **Concordia University Conference Centre (MB9)** 1450 Guy Street, 9th Floor in the heart of downtown Montreal, the **Youth Leaders of Tomorrow Project** will be hosting their **1st Montréal Black Youth Conference 2020.**

The Youth Leaders of Tomorrow Project is a collective effort between the Youth Star Foundation, the Montreal Community Cares Foundation and the Monnaie Money Financial Literacy Project.

The objective of **Montreal Black Youth Conference 2020** is to provide the youth of the Greater Montreal area with the opportunity to express their ideas for a better future and seek solutions to common challenges. They will also have the chance to connect with community mentors as well as to access resources and information that will help them with their career pursuits.

There will be panel discussions throughout the day for the youth to participate in.

The event will start at **10:00am** sharp and finish at **4pm**. A plan of action for the future will be proposed at the end of the Conference.

The Montréal Black Youth Conference 2020 is just one part of the overall Youth Leaders of Tomorrow **Project** that was launched in September 2019 with the support of **Canadian Heritage Community Support for Black Canadian Youth Initiative**. By providing financial literacy & civic participants workshops, information sessions, creating networks, social educational events and conferences. The **Youth Leaders of Tomorrow Project** is looking to change the lives of **Black Youth** and make them full productive and contributing members of Canadian society.

The **Montréal Black Youth Conference 2020** is a free event. To register and participate please go to Eventbrite.ca (Black Youth Conference) or call (514) 817-3941.

For more information on the Youth Leader of Tomorrow Project please visit www.youthleadersoftomorrow.com

This event is made possible with the support of Canadian Heritage and the Office of Community Engagement of Concordia University



Past Issues



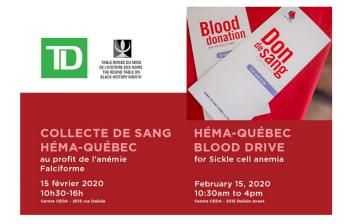


NEW WEB SERIES "AMOURS D'OCCASION" BY ÉVANGÈLINE KABUYA

Now available on Ici.TOU.TV PHOTO: FRED GERVAIS DUPUIS

Born in Montreal to congolese parents, Evangéline Kabuya wanted to show the architecture, the shops, but also the little-known stories of members from the black community who have lived in this neighborhood for more than a hundred years.

She dreamed of making films and at 26, her wish came true. The young director was inspired by *Bonheur Opportunity,* the work of Gabrielle Roy. The web series she made, *Amours D'Occasion,* is now available on Tou.tv. The eight episodes were entirely shot in the Montreal neighborhood where she grew up, in Saint-Henri.



HÉMA-QUÉEBEC BLOOD DRIVE

The Round Table on Black History Month

In collaboration with Héma-Québec, we encourage our Black communities to actively support the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Quebec (SCAQ). Since 2010, the need for donors from black communities has increased. Today, about 200 patients come from these communities, especially those affected by sickle cell anemia, who regularly need blood transfusions. From February to March 2020, join our team on **Saturday, February 15 from 10:30 AM to 4 PM at Centre d'Éducation Des Adultes (CEDA), grande salle 2515, rue Delisle, Montréal.**

Give Blood, Give Life

Past Issues



A Global goodbye to Elysia Bryan-Baynes

Image credit: Global News

After 17 years with Global, veteran reporter and anchor Elysia Bryan-Baynes is retiring. Global Montreal station manager Karen Macdonald joins Andrea Howick and Kim Sullivan to take a look back on Elysia's trailblazing time at Global.



by Ashley Joseph Philipeaux

February 2020 marks the 29th anniversary of Black History Month in Montreal, and this year's edition features a little more of 200 activities, as panel discussions, film screenings, art exhibitions, theater play, concerts and other special events. This year's theme is *Here and Now (Ici et Maintenant)*. Here are some choice events during and beyond BHM 2020:

Past Issues

Translate -

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						FEBRUARY 1 BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP: ANNUAL VISION GALA
FEBRUARY 2 PUBLIC MEETING POLICE STREET CHECKS, RACIAL PROFILING ATHALL 6767 COTE DES NEIGES	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY S	FEBRUARY 6 BCRC'S LIVING HISTORY: DO YEARS OF BLACK HISTORY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE EXHIBITION. AT 6 PM - CONCORDIA WEBSTER LIBRARY	FEBRUARY 7 PANEL DISCUSSION: ROUND TABLE 'ARTS AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AT 2 PM - THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ACENAP)	FEBRUARY 8 THEATHCAL PERFORMANCE ON BLACK MONTLL HEALTH CONFABULATION CENTRE ONNERTON FILE CONSECTOR FILE FILE CONSECTOR FILE CONSECTOR FILE FILE CONSECTOR
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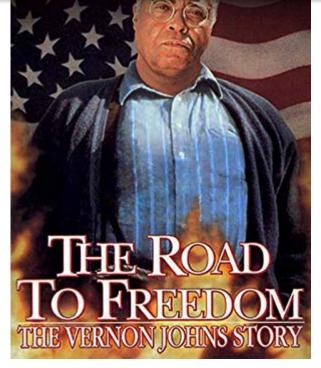






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Past Issues



GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL Presents 2020 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Reverend Dr. Vernon Johns was a very influential "negro" minister in the earliest days of the N.A.A.C.P. and other African-American groups fighting for civil rights. Johns is considered by many to be the father of the 20th Century Civil Rights Movement. Before Malcolm X, before Martin Luther King Jr., Vernon Johns took the first step on the long road to freedom. Reverend Johns had a lasting effect both personally and professionally on Martin Luther King Jr.

Open to the General Public

Venue:

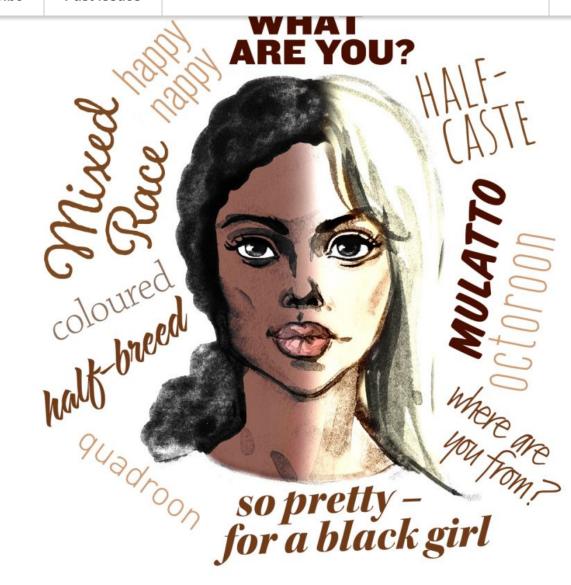
Date: February 23, 2020 4.00 p. m –7.00 p. m Time: St. Paul's Anglican Church 3970, Cote-Ste Catherine Road. H3T 1E3 Bus 129. Ste.-Catherine

Metro-Cote-

Refreshments will be served.

SEE YOU THERE!

Past Issues



Simone, Half and Half

by Christine Rodriguez Our 2020 Black History Month School Tour

Simone, Half and Half is about a teen caught between cultures: Canadian, Québécois and Trinidadian. She's also torn between projects: the talent show and the Black History and Culture Committee. As pressure mounts on seeing her projects through, her friendships start to feel the strain and her loyalties are tested. Simone must find the courage and the strength to stand up to her friends for what she believes in and what really matters to her. Will they listen? Will they accept her for who she really is?

This is a touching story about reaching out to the past, uncovering hopes and dreams for a better future and discovering one's identity, told through theatre, music, dance and poetry.

Bring this show to your school!

Email schooltour@blacktheatreworkshop.ca or call 514-932-1104

Public Showing: Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 3pm

Black Community Resource Centre - 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, Montréal

Tickets: \$12 for adults; \$6 for children 12 and under

Past Issues

JOBS OPPORTUNITIES



the upcoming YES Career + Job Fair Mixer, taking place on February 12th at the Centre St-Jax. Please see attached image and post/circulate this information to your clients, students >>>

Are you 18-40 years old, looking for work and a recent CEGEP or university graduate?

On February 12, we're giving you a chance to get ready, get out there and get hired!

Along with the opportunity to apply for current job openings from over 20 established companies in Montreal, our free **Career + Job Fair Mixer** will give you the chance to put your best foot forward in your job search and expand your network.

Attend this free event and you will have the opportunity to connect with experienced professionals from companies like **Shopify, BAM Strategy, Lufa Farms** and many more, all looking to hire new talent! Our participating companies will be on hand to meet with you between **11:30AM-2:00PM**.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! You'll meet face-to-face with local company representatives offering employment opportunities.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE FAIR:

Prepare and bring copies of your résumé. And a smile! Dress to impress - what you would normally wear to a job interview. Come visit us at YES. Get refreshed and inspired by attending our Jump Start Your Job Search Express Information session. Takes place each Tuesday and Friday at 2:00PM) More information on this free orientation here>>> http://bit.ly/jsyjs2020

You can RSVP here for the Career + Job Fair Mixer >>> http://bit.ly/yesmixer

Centre St-Jax is situated at 1439 Saint-Catherine St W in Montreal

Merci! Thank you!

SEMAJI FEBRUARY 2020 - HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Past Issues

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COORDINATOR - PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Montérégie West Community Network is a non-profit community-based organization whose mission is to develop a strong and vibrant English-speaking community in the Montérégie West through Education, Health and Social Service Culture and Partnerships.

MWCN is in the process of recruiting a Program Coordinator in the Montérégie West region whose general mandate will be to work with public and community partners to facilitate intergenerational activities.

GENERAL TASKS: Assist ED with various tasks and ensure that all projects and activities under his/her responsibility are completed according to plan, on schedule and on budget, and that narrative reports required are prepared according to specifications and reviewed by the ED

Program with the following activities: Arrange and coordinate all aspects of the Quebec Ministry funding, Arrange and coordinate all aspects of the Quebec Ministry funding, Arrange and coordinate a 12-week mentoring program between at-risk adolescent youth and community members. The goal is to promote self-esteem and confidence, build fursting relationships between participants to help encourage the youth to continue their education. All activities are to be based around literacy. Develop and implement activities and tools to promote intergenerational activities within the territor. Develop, implement and provide Lingenerational activities within the territory. Develop implement and promote intergenerational activities within the territory. Write narrative and financial reports required by our different funders. Ensure that objectives of the program are met on time and on budget. Execute any other related tasks.

INFORMATION TOOLS

Prepare and review the content of the MWCN website. Arrange and coordinate all activities under the supervision of the Executive Director while overseeing the programs Develop and maintain harmonious collaboration with all partners

CONFIDENTIALITY: The employee must exercise complete discretion in dealing with confidential and/or personal information.

depending on experience. The ideal candidate will meet the following criteri

High School Diploma, College or University degree in a related field of study Knowledge of the local community Experience in a coordination capacity Works well independently Evention computients intervenent and eventuation of the Excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills Good computer skills (MS Office, excel) Fluent in both French and English Have a valid driver's license and access to a car

If this position interests you, please forward your curriculum vitae by 4:00 p.m. February 10, 2020, to the above-mentioned address or by Email.

Co-coordonnatrice de projet

Prévention CDN-NDG



DESCRIPTION DU POSTE

Titre du projet

Cultivons la Culture du Consentement : vers un changement systémique en matière de harcèlement sexuel dans les écoles

Description

La mission de Prévention CDN-NDG est d'offrir des services de proximité aux personnes rencontrées dans l'arrondissement Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, et de leur transmettre l'expertise et les outils nécessaires pour améliorer leur qualité de vie. L'équipe de Prévention CDN-NDG s'engage à incarner dans son travail les valeurs de compassion, communauté, diversité, égalité, flexibilité, responsabilité et esprit d'équipe.

Le projet Cultivons la culture du consentement : vers un changement systémique en matière de harcèlement sexuel dans les écoles s'inscrit dans le cadre du programme Genres et Égalité, dont le mandat est de sensibiliser les jeunes de Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce à différentes thématiques dont l'exploitation et les violences sexuelles, la sexualité, ainsi que les enjeux se rapportant à l'égalité entre les genres. Le programme Genres et Égalité vise également à renforcer l'estime de soi, l'empowerment et l'esprit critique des jeunes afin qu'ils et elles puissent s'épanouir pleinement, sans limites liées à leur genre.

Le projet Cultivons la culture du consentement, vise à prévenir et contrer le harcèlement sexuel ainsi qu'à favoriser une culture du consentement dans les écoles secondaires et les milieux communautaires du territoire couvert -Côte-des-Neiges, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Outremont et Ville Mont-Royal - par la création et l'implantation d'outils de sensibilisation et d'intervention

Mandat

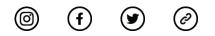
En collaboration avec le co-coordonnateur du projet, il s'agira principalement d'assurer l'implantation des outils de sensibilisation et d'intervention dans les milieux scolaires et communautaires du territoire ciblé.

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SEMAJI FEBRUARY 2020 - HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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