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Serving Our Community in the DMV

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CBCF SUPPLEMENT
Center Section



◀ D.C. Council member and Democratic mayoral nominee Janeese Lewis George offers brief remarks on Sept. 1 at Union Temple, the first stop on her "Building the People's Government" listening tour. She called her priority of Ward 8 intentional in creating policy objectives. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informen)

An Inside Look: Ward 8 Speaks to Democratic Mayoral Nominee Janeese Lewis George

Union Temple Serves as First Stop of 'Building the People's Government' Listening Tour

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr.
WI Senior Staff Writer

Ward 4 D.C. Council member and Democratic mayoral nominee Janeese Lewis George recently kicked off her month-long, citywide listening tour at Union Temple Baptist Church, a well-regarded house of worship located in one of the District's

most historically underserved communities.

Many of the Ward 8 residents, organizers, and affiliates who filled the pews and other rooms of Union Temple spent more than an hour pouring out their hearts about the current state of affairs and what they would like to see in what Lewis George is calling "The People's Gov-

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At 43 Years Old, KanKouran Positions Next Generation to Preserve African Dance and Culture

Co-founder/Executive Artistic Director Eyes Eventual Launch of Permanent Space

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr.
WI Senior Staff Writer

KanKouran Dance Company recently marked 43 years of existence with an annual concert that brought hundreds of revelers to Howard University's (HU) Cramton Auditorium for hours of nonstop West African

drumming and dancing.

During that evening, Gen-Zer Lyric Hunte counted among the dozens of young people who showcased their artistic prowess on stage. As Lyric explained, preparation for this year's concert allowed for

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▶ Lyric Hunte at KanKouran's 2026 concert, themed "Sunugaal: Our Boat." (Courtesy Photo/Zama Cook)

Once More With Culture: Afro Plus Fest Returns

Black Diaspora Comes Alive with Music, Food, Unity

By Jada Ingleton, Micha Green,
and DeMarco Rush
WI Content Editor,
WI Managing Editor and
WI Contributing Writer

Despite storm overcasts and last-minute pivots, Afro Plus Fest didn't miss a beat in emulating the heart of the diaspora over Labor Day Weekend.

As music, food, and fashions took over Prince George's County, Maryland, Sept. 4-6, an estimated crowd

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▶ Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore present Afro Plus Fest Founder and Executive Producer Michael Awosanya with a governor's citation on the second day of the three-day festival at Northwest Stadium in Landover, Maryland. (Courtesy Photo/Polly Irungu, Office of the Governor)

SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

Leaders of the New School

A New Sickle Cell Coalition Rises, This Time, They're Doing It Themselves

By Dr. Patrise Holden
WI Contributing Writer

The first thing Vanessa Finch wanted after her son died was simple: to continue to hear his name.

Kahleeb Beckett, affectionately called Leebo, lived with sickle cell disease, genotype SS, for 23 years. As a concerned mother, Finch spent much of those years learning how to navigate a health care system that she found did not always listen.

"Health care is a business, but for us, it is deeply personal," she said. Having a chronically ill population from which billions are made, yet the treatment is unequal, means that those of us from



▶ In homage to the son she lost, Vanessa Finch teaches elementary school children a basic understanding of sickle cell disease. (Courtesy Photo/Leebo's Sickle Cell Support Group)

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