

# Voice of the Highlander

February 2020 – No. 8

## Black History Month Edition

**Editor's Note:** The newspaper staff was asked to write about an African American who has made an impact on their lives.

### **BUILDING BRIDGES**

By Demarion Wreh



**Ruby Bridges was the youngest of her family, but the bravest. She did things some kids her age wouldn't even have thought about. Brown vs Board of Education was decided which caused the schools to be segregated.**

**Bridges was the female, child version, of MLK. All she wanted to do is**

**integrate, not only elementary schools but, everybody in the south.**

**She inspires me so much I aspire to be her. Her story tells me that I can do anything at any age and it's never too early or late to break chains and BUILD BRIDGES.**

### **Becoming a trailblazer**

By Frank Cochran



Michelle Obama was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 17th, 1964. Her father was a city pump operator and a democratic precinct officer. Her mother was a secretary, yet she mostly stayed at home to take care of

Michelle and her brother, Craig. Obama learned to read at four years old. She was so smart that she even got to skip the second grade. By sixth grade, Obama was in the gifted classes and was learning the French language and was taking advanced biology classes.

Michelle married Barack in 1989. When her husband was elected president of the United States, Michelle became the first black first lady. She passed a law that said school lunches had to be healthy.

Obama has impacted my life in a positive way. I am grateful that she stands up for the minorities, as I, myself am part of one. I think that everyone deserves an equal opportunity in life, and Obama certainly fights for that.

## Fighting for freedom

By Breanna Bailey



Harriet Tubman was born a slave on a plantation in Maryland. Historians think she was born in 1820 or possibly 1821, but she took the name of her mother, "Harriet", when she was thirteen.

Life as a slave was difficult. Harriet first lived in a one-room cabin with her family that included eleven children, when she was only six years old, she was loaned out

to another family where she was beaten and all she got to eat was table scraps.

In 1849 Harriet decided to escape. She would use the Underground Railroad for help.

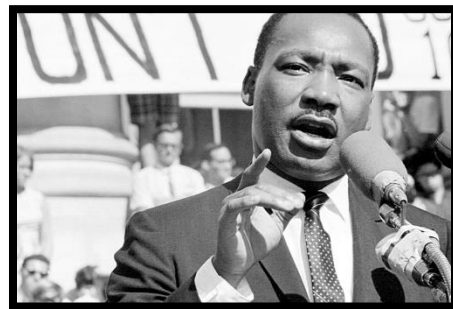
Harriet became famous as an Underground Railroad conductor. She led nineteen different escapes from the south and helped about 300 slaves escape.

Harriet was truly brave. She risked her life and freedom to help others. She also helped her family, including her mother and father, to escape.

She was never caught and never lost a slave. Harriet is a role model and a brave woman to always look up to.

## Civil Rights Icon

By Julissa Gomez



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. He was an American Christian who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He was married to Coretta Scott and had four kids with her. He went to Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston University.

He was against racism, he gave speeches, and was arrested after leading a boycott in Alabama. When he gave his 'I have a dream' speech he became even more famous. Many people were agreeing with him on being against racism, but one day James Earl Ray killed him with one single shot.

This person had a huge impact because he showed us that skin color does not matter. If I could be like him or do something like him, I would because he did many good things for us.

## The Actor

By Ian Marchand



Michael B. Jordan was born February 9, 1987 in Santa Ana, California. He is an actor, model and producer. His family was very religious and spiritual. He is also into anime, such as Dragon Ball and Naruto.

At a young age, Jordan worked as a model for several companies such as Model's Sporting Goods and Toys "R" Us. He started his acting career in 1999 when he got a small role in Sopranos. His first movie he acted in was, in 2001, called Hardball.

Michael to me is an example of a hard worker. He shows the hard work you must do to make it in the industry and how to maintain it. Jordan is someone I look up to and I aspire to have his success.

## My favorite comedian

By Jaime Batista



Peele was born on February 21, 1979 in New York City. He was a son of a white mother and a black father. He was single handedly raised by his mother and he later attended a computer school and graduated at the Calhoun School on Manhattan's upper west side.

Jordan Peele dropped out to pursue his comedy career with his roommate and would later be his future writer for the show Key & Peele, Rebecca Drysdale. When he was hired as a cast member for a Fox sketch Mad TV series, he spent five seasons, then later leaving 2008.

In the next several years, he and Keegan-Michael Key, both created their

own Comedy Central sketch comedy series Key & Peele.

As a frequent viewer for his comedy show, and as a fan of thriller movies, like Get Out made 2017, he both taught me that we can be flexible with what we do and enjoy. If you are also interested in his stuff, head onto YouTube and subscribe to Comedy Central.

## **The first African American president**

By Victoria Kenny



Barack Obama was the 44th President of the United States of America. He was born on August 4, 1962 in Honolulu, Hawaii. His parents are Dunham and Barack Obama Sr. He has two daughters, Milia Ann Obama and Sasha Obama.

It's self-explanatory why his life is exceptional because he was the president and he was a good one. I think it was cool he was born in Hawaii.

I do not really think he has impacted me personally, but he has impacted other lives

just by being president and doing good things.

## **The Leader**

By Corlynda Malvern



**Malcolm X was born as Malcolm Little in 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. His family moved to Lansing Michigan after the Ku Klux Klan made threats against their family.**

**Malcolm went to Pleasant Grove Elementary in Washington and for middle school he attended West Junior High School in Ada County Idaho. He went to high school at William Mason High School from 1939-1941 in Mason, Ohio.**

**Malcolm X was a minister, human rights activist, and prominent black nationalist leader.**

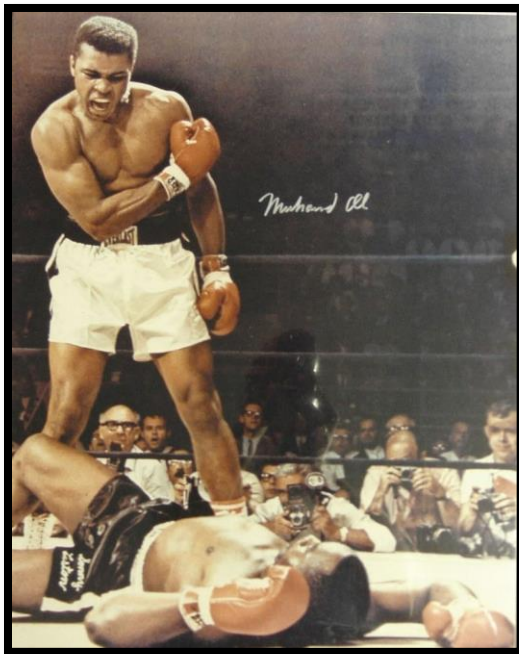
**Malcolm fought against racial segregation.**

**He urged his fellow black Americans to protect themselves.**

He and many others made it to where there are unsegregated places.

## **The life of Mahammad Ali**

By Evaristo Hernandez



Mahammad Ali was an American boxer, activist, and philanthropist. He earned the title "the greatest" regarding to his many wins and knock outs. He had nine siblings.

Ali was a leading heavyweight boxer in the early 20th century. He became the only person to qualify three times in a row for heavyweight champion.

I loved watching his fight as a little kid, even when he did not fight anymore. He inspired me by his drive to the best heavyweight of his time with his

fearlessness and drive while he was in the ring. But unfortunately, he died back in 2016. His legacy will live on forever.

## **The Singer**

By Moo Paw



Aretha Franklin was born on March 25, 1942 in Memphis, TN. She went to the Juilliard School and Northern Senior High School. She has four kids. She was pregnant with her first kid at age 12.

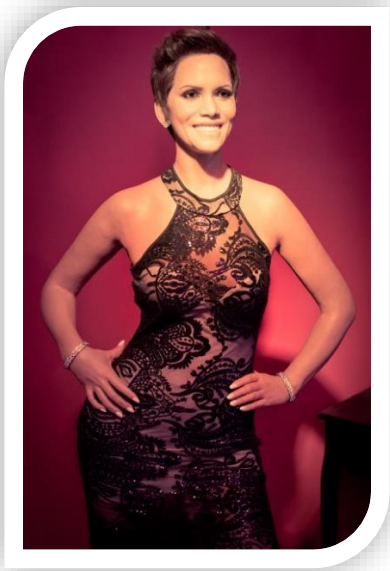
Franklin was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and a civil rights activist. She began her career as a child singer gospel at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan where her father was a minister.

She was a supporter of civil rights and women's rights. I want to be like her because she inspired millions of people.

She was considered a symbol of black pride and soul music.

## The first African American woman to get an Oscar

By Katie Dotson



Halle Berry was born Maria Halle Berry; legally changed to Halle Maria Berry when she was five. She grew up in Oakwood, Ohio. She graduated from Bedford High School where she was a cheerleader.

In 1989, she moved to New York to pursue her acting ambitions. During her early time there she ran out of money. She lived in a homeless shelter, but over time she got better.

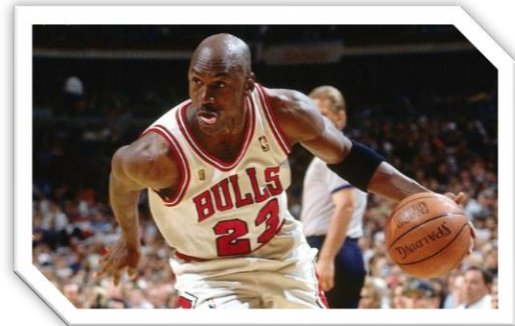
She was the first African American woman to win an Academy Award. She won it for the movie *Monster's Ball*.

She has shown me that you can bring yourself back up from bad times. I don't

want to be an actress, but I want to be like her.

## Air Jordan

By Angela Tapia and Hillary Martinez



Michael Jordan was born February 17, 1963 in Brooklyn, New York. He has five kids and is married to Yvette Prieto. He went to North Carolina college and played 15 seasons in the NBA. He won six championship titles with the Chicago Bulls.

He is the fourth richest African American.

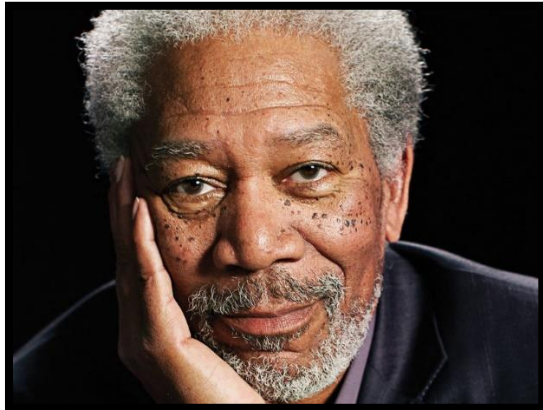
He impacted my life because he has made Jordan's and they are popular. I want to be like him because he is a role model for young teenagers.

He has inspired many people around the world that are into basketball.

We can't wait to see what he'll do next.

## The man who played God

By Kaylon Edwards



**Actor Morgan Freeman was born in Memphis, Tennessee on June 1, 1937. His mother, Mayme Edna, was a teacher. His father, Morgan Portrfield Freeman, was a barber before he died of Cirrhosis.**

**The most notable part of Morgan Freeman's life is his acting career. Morgan Freeman has played many roles in his acting career such as the role of "the Chauffer" in the movie "Breakout". Or his role as "Fast Black" in "Street Smart".**

**Morgan Freeman has affected my life by making me consider being an actor.**

## The back of the bus

By Ty'Liyah Smith



Rosa Parks was an American Civil Rights activist. She was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee Alabama. She was a very small and sickly child, but she pulled her weight.

I'm pretty sure everyone knows Rosa's story, but I'm going to tell you anyway. Rosa refused to give up her seat to a white man. She was arrested and held in jail. Her being arrested caused a lot of commotion during the Civil Rights act.

Rosa Parks made a huge impact in the United States. I want to change things just like she did. Rosa Parks is my idol.

# King Lebron James

By Ceferino Cruz



Lebron James was born in Ohio on December 30, 1984. He grew up in Akron where he had a difficult childhood. His coach, Frankie, took LeBron and let him stay with his family where he could get away from his problems.

James first garnered national attention as the top high school basketball player in the country. Because of his unique combination of size, he became four-time NBA MVP.

Lebron James impacts people's lives because he helped set up a LeBron James family foundation. This foundation raises and donates money for kids and adults that need it.

# A Born Singer

By Jocelyn Shoumbert



Beyoncé is an American singer, songwriter, record producer, and actress. She was born September 4, 1981, in Houston, Texas.

She also performed various singing and dancing competition as a child.

She married hip hop recording artist Jay-Z in 2008 and the couple have three children.

Beyoncé first captured the public's eye as head vocalist of the R&B group Destiny's Child. She later did a solo career with the album 'Dangerously in Love', becoming top selling album.

She kept doing music and did what she loved most.

Beyoncé did a global campaign to raise funds and awareness for girls and women around the world. She inspired me and many



females and boys. She was a role model to a lot of people and impacted our generation.

## **The man with the guitar**

By Azalia Gonzales



**Jimmy Hendrix was born as Johnny Allen Hendrix. Soon then changed by his father to James Marshall. He was born on November 27, 1942, in Seattle Washington.**

**Jimmy Hendrix was recognized for one of the most creative musicians of the 20th century. Jimmy Hendrix was also known for playing the electric guitar. He was influenced by, B.B King, Muddy Waters, Albert King, Howlin Wolf.**

**This person has impacted others on becoming who they want to be and influenced other musicians and inspiring them, making people admire him and look up to him as a role model.**

# **Soccer Superstar**

By Savannah David



Crystal Dunn is one out two kids. She was born to parents, Vincent and Rhonda Dunn, in the New Hyde Park, New York. She also has a brother named Henry Dunn. She attended college at the University of North Carolina.

Dunn has gained fame because of her athletic ability and because she plays for the US Women's National Team for soccer.

She is one of the best players along with Alex Morgan, Tobin Heath, and Megan Rapinoe. She had started as a left back and is now flexible to be a striker and a left back.

Dunn has made an incredible impact in

my life because she is a huge role model for me athletic wise and personality wise. She is just very talented and very funny. She also plays for a well-known team that is one of the best teams in the country for women's soccer.

## A man to follow



By Cody Fuenwider

Kobe Bryant was born on August 23, 1978 in PA, Philadelphia. He had a loving wife and five daughters. Kobe was an American professional basketball player that was very accomplished.

Kobe entered the NBA immediately after graduating high school. He was named MVP in 2008 which is a huge accomplishment that very few NBA players achieve. Kobe managed to be

both an all-star shooting guard and a loving father.

Kobe had a great personality that many people respected. He was. Kobe set a great example that all of us should follow. Kobe used his life wisely and made an impact in the lives of many people of all ages.

Kobe died in a helicopter crash in 2020.

## The funny guy

By Emely Rodriguez



Kevin Darnell Hart is a highly known actor. He's a comedian in most movies. He is married to Eniko Parrish and has three kids. Their names are Heaven Hart, Hendrix Hart, and Kenzo Kash Hart.

Kevin became famous after being a stand-up comedian. Hart was

featured in “About Last Night”, and “Get Hard”. He is a movie star.

Hart has inspired me because even though he makes mistakes, he gets back up. He is open about making huge mistakes and how it's normal because we're all human.

## **His name is Lil Uzi**

**By Andrew Sivess**



**Symere Woods was born in Philadelphia on July 31, 1994. He dropped out of high school but was able to excel at rapping. He also liked rock music.**

**Lil Uzi Vert is a famous rapper. He is known around the country. He also makes his own lyrics.**

**Lil Uzi has impacted my life by providing me with good music. He makes amazing music. When I grow up, I want to be famous like him.**

## **The First**

**By Evelyn Sanchez**



Barbara Charline Jordan was born on February 21, 1936 in Houston, Texas. Her childhood was centered on going to church. She had three siblings. She graduated from Philies Wheatly High School with honors. She went to Boston University School of Law and graduated in 1959.

Jordan was the first African American woman to be in the Texas Senate. She is best known for her speeches. She was the first African American to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

Jordan impacted people's lives by showing that African Americans and women can do anything if they believe in themselves.

## Who is Billy Porter?

By Stephanie Pantoja



**Billy Porter was born on September 21, 1969. He is an American Broadway performer, singer, and actor. He attended the musical theater program at Pittsburg Creative and Performing Art's school of drama.**

**Porter won best actor in a musical at the 67<sup>th</sup> Tony awards. He also won the Drama Desk Award for outstanding actor in a musical. He won a Grammy award for best musical theater album. He**

**was also nominated for a Golden Globe award and won the 2019 Primetime Emmy award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for his show 'Pose'.**

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