

What's Happening and Where

- Financial Literacy Course (Virtual): April 27, 7-8pm, Virtual (Info: 813-420-1255)
- Love Me Summit: May 13, 10am-2pm, Port St. Lucie (Info: 772-634-4516)
- Spring Forward: Assisting Women to become "Unstuck", May 20. Pompano Beach (Info 954-274-3415)
- 2nd Annual Dripped in Pearls July 14-16, Palm Beach Gardens (Info: 321-285-6297)
- 2nd Annual Black Push Unsung Hero Award honors Salandra Benton, Sep 16, Atlanta, GA



Message from our Convener

*Salandra Benton*

As I traveled back to the United States from Colombia on International Women's Day, I thought about how Colombia did not recognize Black people

until 1993, yes I said 1993. I think about the women I met in Colombia. I will always remember their faces and their stories, because their stories remind me of Black women's stories in the United States. Black women may live in different countries and far apart in distance, but our struggles are not at all different. The women in Colombia reminded me that I've got so much to fight for, so much to pray for, and so much to be grateful and thankful for. The women in Colombia reminded me never to underestimate a Black woman and to celebrate Women's History Month. I encourage you to march on and celebrate your story and your history. And don't do it alone, celebrate with other women in the spirit of sisterhood.



**Civic Engagement & Education  
Women of Color - By the Numbers**

- 1 - 5 people in the US is a Woman of Color comprising 20.39% of the population in 2021 an increase from 18.4% in 2010.
- The labor force is comprised of 9.4% Black, 26.4% Hispanic and 2.9% White women.
- 79% of Women of Color reported having to alter their appearance or demeanor to fit in at work.
- Women of Color are overrepresented in frontline roles: 28.8% in the hospitality and leisure sector, 31.9% working in retail trade, 19.8% in the manufacturing industry.
- Women of Color have the highest rates unemployment but, in the US 17% of Black women are in the process of starting a new business!

**5 Tips on FL Vote By Mail :**

- Your mail-ballot request on file at the end of 2022 has been cancelled.
- Submit a request to your local SOE NOW to receive a new mail-in ballot.
- Mail-in ballots expire every 2 years after each General Election.
- You must provide a state ID# or the last 4 of your SSN when requesting mail-in ballot.
- Check with your SOE to see what was on file with your last mail-in ballot request or get info.
- It's "All Hands on Deck" to make sure people know what they have to do!

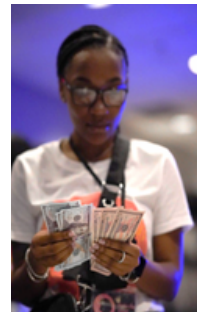
**Fierce and Fearless**

Melanie Campbell is President/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, convener Black Women's Roundtable. She is recognized as one of the hardest-working leaders in today's Civil Rights, Women's Rights and Social Justice Movement. She focuses on building power for Black women and girls, families and communities to live their best lives by focusing on four strategic platforms: health and wellness, economic security and prosperity, education, and global empowerment.



**SMART SISTAS KNOW**

**What is the Debt Ceiling?**



It is the limit on how much debt the U.S. government can have. It's a lot like a credit card limit (shudder) where you've only been approved for a certain amount of debt. The American government's spending cap is set by Congress. So it takes a vote by Congress and a passed law before the debt ceiling can be raised. And why does the government even have to borrow money anyway? Turns out, the money that the government brings in from taxes alone isn't enough to cover everything. To make up the difference and be able to pay the current bills, the government uses debt. As of Apr 2023, the national debt clocked in at close to **\$31.5 trillion!**



## UNDERSTANDING THE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Too many Black families experience pain, neglect and loss during what should be one the most joyous times of their lives.

- Due to systemic and overt discrimination, Black people are disproportionately affected by high maternal and infant morbidities and mortality.
- Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women.
- Black people fared worse than other racial and ethnic groups in all maternal health indicators measured.
- Black women are more likely to have preterm births and have low birthweight babies compared to other racial/ethnic groups.
- Black women experience higher rates of preventable and chronic disease including diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease.
- Black women are three times more likely to have fibroids (benign tumors that grow in the uterus and cause postpartum hemorrhage) than white women.
- Black women display signs of preeclampsia earlier than white women.
- Black infants are twice as likely to die as White infants, and
- Black people are more likely to die while pregnant or within a year of giving birth compared to all other groups.

For more info and locating Black Birth Workers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsDkoNf07Mk>  
<https://www.blackdoulas.org/>  
<https://www.sistamidwifedirectory.com/locations>

**BWR** Table Talk  
 "Bans off our Books" Read-In  
 AATB and the Lake Black Women's Roundtable is joining in the African American Policy Forum's "Freedom to Read," National Day of Action by holding a "Bans Off Our Books" Read-In on May 3rd. The event focuses on recent Florida legislation that restricts the freedom to learn, fights the "anti-woke" disinformation campaigns, and demonstrates support for equity in our schools, campuses, and workplaces. The Mt. Dora city mayor, local educators, students, librarians and civic organizations will participate and stand in solidarity. Every student deserves to see themselves represented as successful, thriving, accepted, celebrated, and loved on the pages of books, in all forms of art, in music, in leadership roles and in schools.



## Sis★s of the Month Palm Beach County

From the time we met our organizer-Pastor Deanna Smith and our fearless leader - Florida State Convener Salandra Benton - the Palm Beach County BWR had gained so much more wisdom, knowledge and understanding about issues about Sisterhood, our Health, Childcare, Voter's Education and Rights to Vote and many other topics that pertain to the Total Woman and our families. Kingdom Blessings!

Apostle/Pastor Teresa Nelson

*Pictured: Isabelle McDonald, Jeanette Francis and Teresa Nelson*  
 Palm Beach County BWR Members: *Leresha Nelson, Miriam Nelson, Mary Price, Retha Palmer, Helen Barnes, Regina Butler, Karen Payne, Bridget Wilburn, Denise Clark, Charlene Nelson, Cynthia Smith, Zella Mae Ross and Quinette Lawery.*

**DRIPPED IN PEARLS**  
 PRESENTED BY  
 BLACK YOUTH VOTE  
2nd Annual  
Female Empowerment Initiative

Ages 16-25  
 July 14-16, 2023  
 Embassy Suites Hilton  
 4350 PGA Blvd  
 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 331410

Register by  
 June 24, 2023

For Info:  
 Deanna Wade  
 (321)285-6297

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*She Said, "Anytime you get more than a couple of Black women together, you're creating this powerful mechanism for change".-Kimberly Bryant*

**Remembering our Sister**  
**Francesca Martinez**  
 Duval County BWR

The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the **love and memory** of you, shall never pass away

