



The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center
For Community Empowerment

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NEWSLETTER

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Los Angeles, CA. 90008

**PROSTATE
CANCER**

AWARENESS MONTH



Labor and Civil Rights

Labor Day became a Federal Holiday in 1894. its purpose was to honor U.S workers' social and economic contributions. Although this took place after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Black Americans continued to face, exclusion, discriminatory hiring, unequal wages and barriers in many unions and occupations. The 1963 March on Washington was formally a march "for Jobs and Freedom." A. Philip Randolph helped organize it, underscoring its dual demands: ending racial discrimination and securing decent work, fair wages, and economic security. Black labor leaders also helped build interracial industrial unions, public-sector unions, teacher organizations, and worker-rights coalitions. By the 1970s, Black workers had among the nation's highest unionization rates, although discrimination in workplaces and unions continued to be a major challenge. The Black labor movement shows that civil rights includes economic rights.

Its legacy includes:

1. Collective bargaining and union access for Black Workers.
2. Campaigns against discrimination in hiring, pay, promotion, federal employment, and defense industries.
3. The connection between voting rights, education, housing, employment and family economic security
4. Leadership traditions that continue in organizing among service, health care, education, logistics, public sector and low wage workers.

(continued on page 2)



*A. Philip Randolph,
Founder Brotherhood
of Sleeping Car Porters*

OUR WORK

This month, we are highlighting the accomplishments of John Christopher Kaufman-Murray. "Johnnie" was diagnosed with Autism at a very young age. He was blessed with a very supportive family that ensured he received the resources that would allow him to succeed.



John Christopher Kaufman-Murray

Johnnie received a Ford Reynolds Star scholarship award in 2020. He began studying at El Camino College in Torrance, CA. "Even though I had several Twists and turns in my Academic process, from college campus closure to incorrect college choices, I persevered and was determined to complete my college experience. Finally, I had an incredible past two months, June 10, 2026 and July 16, 2026. In June I graduated from El Camino College where I received an AA in Studio Arts and in July I received a Certificate of Completion from the Rain Man Initiative, Animation Program Supporting Autism." (continued on page 2)

Labor and Civil Rights (continued)

The civil rights movement sought equal citizenship, while the Black labor movement insisted that equal citizenship must include a real chance to earn a secure and dignified living.

Sources:

Library of Congress

Harvard Law School

Department of Labor

Time Magazine

Howard University School of Social Work

Our Work: John Christopher Kaufman-Murray (continued)

Johnnie plans to obtain a meaningful career in the entertainment industry as a digital arts animator or traditional art illustrator. Johnnie's name appeared in the film credits on one of the projects that he worked on.

He plans to give back to his community by becoming a mentor in the Autism community. He wants other youth with Autism to understand that Autism does not define them, but they define Autism. He added a quote from Denzell Washington: "Without commitment, you'll never start, but more importantly, without consistency, you'll never finish."

HEALTH & WELLNESS**Black Men: Know your Risk**

1 in 6 Black men will have prostate cancer in their lifetimes, and Black men have twice the risk of dying from prostate cancer compared to White men. Black men in the U.S and the Caribbean have the highest rates of prostate cancer in the world. Black men are also more likely to be diagnosed at a younger age and to have more aggressive disease at diagnosis. Screening saves lives and starts with a simple PSA blood test.

If you are a Black man 40 years or older, speak to your primary care provider about screening for prostate cancer.

Source:

Prostate Cancer Foundation



All donations are tax deductible.

TOY DRIVE

Every year at Christmas time, Lincoln and GCRC bring joy to children who may be forgotten. This year we will provide toys to 277 children ranging in ages 0-17 years old. There are 140 girls and 137 boys. Those of us who have witnessed the joy on the faces of those children come away with tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts. Please prepare to give generously to our annual toy drive. Ask your friends and family to do the same. More information is coming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Labor Day	September 7	
Community Share (Food & clothing giveaway)	September 19	10am-12pm
Health Equity Presentation	September 20	1pm-2pm
Youth Driven Friday	September 25	5:30pm-7:30pm

All events will take place at Lincoln Memorial UCC
4126 Arlington Ave
Los Angeles, CA

