

Entertainers & Musicians News

November-December 2024 Vol. 18, No. 2

Bass Day!

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Detroit's Premier Meaning Making News Publication & Training Ground

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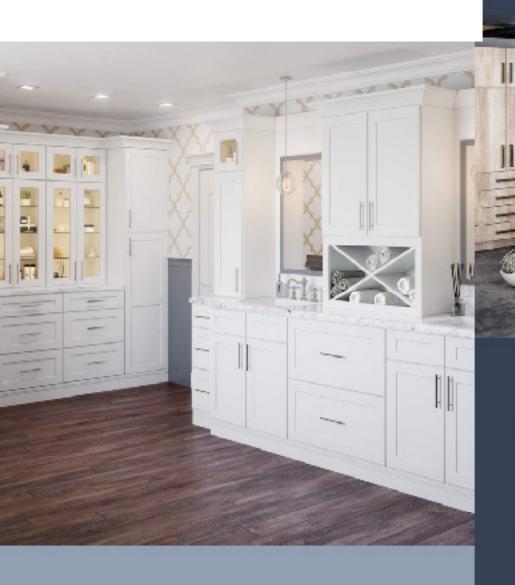


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#### **Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News**

## November-December 2024

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The Staff of **Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News** feels it is our humbled duty to bring to you information that matters to you. We know that the needs of entertainers and musicians are not always the same as the audience we serve.

With that in mind, we'd like for you to know this is a publication owned and operated by entertainers and musicians.

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As the year draws to a close, we at Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News (Detroit EM News) want to thank you, our readers, for your continued support. This has been a year of growth, reflection, and laying the groundwork for an exciting 2025. Your engagement fuels our mission to enrich the community with stories that inspire, inform, and unite.

Detroit EM News is more than just a publication; it's a platform where the voices of our community come alive. Our pages are filled with the rich tapestry of Detroit's culture, ambition, and resilience—and next year, we're doubling down on our commitment to showcase the stories that matter most to you.

We invite you to become a part of this journey. Have a story to share? A project you're passionate about? A small business that deserves the spotlight? Detroit EM News is here to amplify your voice. Let your story unfold on our pages and inspire others in the community.

For our local businesses, Detroit EM News offers an affordable advertising platform to reach engaged readers who care about Detroit, Michigan. Whether you're launching a new product, promoting a service, or simply building brand awareness, our advertising options are designed to fit your needs and budget. We understand the challenges of running a business, and we're committed to helping you grow while supporting the community's economic development.

In 2025, we continue to make Detroit EM News a thriving hub of collaboration and opportunity. Here's how you can get involved:

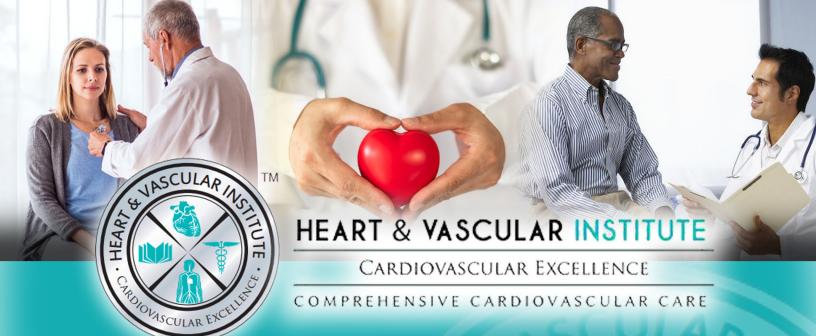
- **Submit Your Stories:** Whether it's a personal narrative, a community initiative, or a creative project, your stories are the heartbeat of our publication. Reach out, and let's bring your vision to life
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  content to the community. Check out: FREE Classifieds & Event/Gig Calendar: LIMITED TIME
- Partner with Us: Are you part of an organization or group looking to make a difference in Detroit? We're always open to partnerships that align with our mission of enriching lives and uplifting voices.

As a social educational enterprise, Detroit EM News isn't just about publishing—it's about transfer of knowledge and positive social impact. Every story shared, every ad placed, and every partnership formed contributes to providing wrap-around services and educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth in our city. By working with us, you're not just supporting local journalism; you're making a meaningful difference in the lives of Detroit's next generation.

Let's make 2025 a year to remember! Whether you're a reader, contributor, advertiser, or partner, we want to hear from you. Reach out today at <a href="mailto:info@detroitemnews.com">info@detroitemnews.com</a> or call 313.826.7920, and let's build a brighter future collaboratively.

Here's to celebrating the stories that bring us together and the people who make Detroit extraordinary. From all of us at Detroit EM News, we wish you and your loved ones a Joyous Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!

Respectfully Submitted: Team Detroit EM News





# **Mahir Elder**

MD, FACC, FSCAI, FASNC, FAHA, FCCP, FACP, FSVM, RPVI

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#### Henry K. Kailimai, Sr. (1882-1948) "A Ford Hawaiian" A centennial recognition

(circa 2015)

We are honored to posthumously celebrate the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Henry K. Kailimai, Sr. (Henry K.) on the centenary of his existence. "On behalf of my esteemed ancestor, the late Henry K. Kailimai Sr., and his descendants,

I am privileged to accept this prestigious resolution honoring our ancestor, who served as a personal musician for Henry H. Ford Sr. and was a notable Ford Hawaiian.

I extend my gratitude to the Detroit City Council and Madam President Brenda Jones. This acknowledgment affirms his contributions, projects, and history," expresses Adrianne Collins, Editor in Chief of Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News.

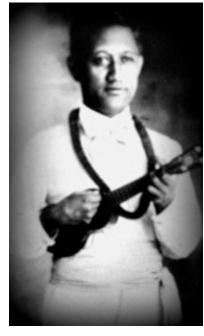
After 1915, revelations about Henry K.'s activities on the mainland place him at the forefront of Hawaiian music. He was an eminent Hawaiian musician and arguably, the most influential musical figure in Hawaii during the first quarter of the 20th century (Melbay.com/2004).

Click to view video of Henry playing ukulele, http://detroitemnews.com/index.php/articles/120-henry-k-kailimai-legacy

As I hand on the shoulders of my great ancestor, who was born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii, Henry K. Kailimai Sr. grew to become an accomplished musician, composer, engineer and teacher of music. His talent for writing

songs and making music brought him island fame, ultimately, earning him international acclaim.

In 1915, before performing at the Pan Pacific Expo, the band was known as, "The Hawaiian Quintette." It was during that same year, when Henry K was selected to lead the Hawaiian Music Delegation. Shortly thereafter, the band became known as the "Ford Hawaiian Quintet." The members: Henry K. Kailimai, Sr., William Lincoln, Robert Waialeale, Gordon Piianaia and Frank Kema (Melbay.com).





Henry Ford, Sr., the automobile manufacturer and founder/president of the Ford Motor Company was so enraptured by Henry K's musical talents, he extended, Henry K an invitation to travel to Detroit, Michigan and become Ford's resident musician.

In 1915, one of his most famous songs, "On the Beach at Waikiki" was first presented at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California and later featured in the 1940's Shirley Temple movie "The Young People." And it was reputed to be the biggest money-maker of all Hawaiian songs in those days. It was also speculated that Henry wrote many more songs during his lifetime than he is given credit for. He wrote "Little Honolulu Lou," "Sweet Brown Maid of Kaimuki," "Paradise Isle" and again his most popular song, "On the Beach at Waikiki."

In 1916, Henry became a teacher of the ukulele, mandolin and guitar. On October 21, 1916, Henry and his quintet received an invitation to perform for Thomas Edison and his wife in Orange, New Jersey. They performed and were a huge hit for a short-lived two through three-year period.

As the patriarch on the mainland, Henry K. Kailimai's musical legacy continues as evident by exceptionably talented well established entertainment industry descendants living in Detroit, Michigan:

**Leslie Nelson Ferguson**, President, Detroit Metro Area Musicians & Entertainers Association (DMAMEA), renowned vocalist, actress, talent agent, artist development consultant, philanthropist and social entrepreneur possess an illustrious musical career performing background vocals for many musical icons including Aretha Franklin. Click to listen to Leslie's music:

http://detroitemnews.com/files/01\_Merry\_Christmas\_All.wma



**Keely M. Ferguson**, (Leslie Ferguson's daughter) an American recording artist, actress, dancer, writer and musician trained throughout grade school in dance, piano, and acting lessons. Throughout her career, Keely has worked with Big Sean, Marshall Mathers, Rihanna, Slaughterhouse, and recently completed an Asian and Australia tour with Demi Lovato, an American music icon and recording artist. Listen to Keely's music:

http://detroitemnews.com/index.php/articles/104-my-own-planet

Adrianne Collins, Editor in chief, Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News, President of Elbow to Elbow, Inc., a Michigan 501c3 - Computer mediated communications company, Social entrepreneur for Detroit EM News, L3C LLC and a founding member of Detroit Metro Area Musicians & Entertainers Association (DMAMEA). Adrianne continues to brand meaning making news and promote positive news for individuals as well as businesses.



For over eight consecutive years, she has produced, promoted and host's artist-to-artist red carpet video interviews during the annual Detroit Music Awards at the Fillmore-Detroit Theatre. She's also well known for the video concept, development and production of the 70's hit music sensation,

"Float On" by the R&B singing group, "The Floaters." Email:

http://www.editor@detroitemnews.com

Candace (a.k.a. Deekah) Reynolds, (Adrianne Collins' daughter) is a seasoned vocalist, guitarist, concert promoter, red carpet and guest hostess/ commentator for special events. Her voice has been compared to Tracy Chapman, Betty Davis and Janis Joplin. She has played venues throughout Detroit including the Artist Village and the 5E Gallery. She has worked with some of the area's most talented artists including RenCen, CoolBeanz, Nadir, and jessica Care moore's Black Women Rock Orchestra. In 2011, celebrating the roots of rock n' roll and people of color Deekah created "The Cosmic Slop Festival."



To hear Deekah or for more information about Cosmic Slop follow her on Twitter(@deekahwyatt) or visit <a href="https://www.cosmicslopfest.com">www.cosmicslopfest.com</a>

William (BJ) Smith, A renowned musician, producer and songwriter as well as one of the pioneers of House and Techno music.

There are plans to further honor our extraordinary ancestry, as well as create an art exhibit for people of color with rich family legacies in Detroit, Michigan.

For more information, email us: Kailimai@detroitemnews.com

BY: Adrianne Collins

Columbia Music: "On the Beach At Waikiki"

Photos: Detroit EM News and www.facebook.com/

Melbay (2004). Retrieved from:

https://books.google.com/books?id=eTFXgCFTHRIC&pg=PA6&1pg=PA6&dq=Hawaiian+Quintet+PPIE+Instruments&source=bl&ots=9K8\_kNOeQy&sig= YQNKJAJ\$9bXyeqyP9PVQCxOC\_Lw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=OahUKEwi8vuy&7\_rKAhUsn4MKHco&CAwQ6AE1OjAE#v=onepage&q=Hawaiian%20Quintet%20P PIE%20Instruments&f=true

Credits: Edison Archives – Greenfield Village, Burton Historical Library, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Hawaii and Hawaiian Musicians – An Illustrated History, Kanahele G.S.

Credits: 1988 California & 1990 Detroit Reunion Committees/Descendants of Henry K. Kailimai Sr., & Kailimai's resources/family union support organizations



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#### Alexander Zonjic

Flautíst & Guítaríst

A Candid Interview
(Circa, 2014)

During the concert, "A Jazzy Christmas, " Alexander Zonjic granted a candid interview...

AC: "What so your role with the appreciated annual holiday concert to benefit the Grace Centers of Hope?"

AZ: "This time of the year my participation is pretty small. I show up and basically perform and of course, good comes out of it. But, yes, I

do a lot of fundraisers, and I love the Grace Centers of Hope. I went out to Pontiac, gosh, four years ago and saw what they were doing and thought, "What do you want me to do? And it is been Cool. I love the tradition, and I am sure it will go on for many, many years."

AC: "The guitar was your first instrument, correct?"

AZ: "Yes, correct."

AC: "What enticed you to pick up the flute?"

AZ: "Well, you know, I done interviews with great musicians all over this country. I did radio for years and the one common denominator you! If find in most cases, the instrument finds the guy. It is not the other way around. I started on guitar and was doing quite well. I came home to visit my parents, and a guy sold me a flute on the streets for \$9; just like you buy a watch. He walked up to me; he knew I was the guitar guy, and he said, "Would you like to buy a flute? was taken back at first. "Sure!" I liked the way it looked in the case and I totally fell in love with it. I was twenty-one when I started playing the flute. I was intrigued by it. He wanted \$50 and I had \$9; he took it. I am sure it was a hot flute from who knows where. I took it home and became obsessed with playing it. No one has a natural aptitude to play it; but I had a real passion to want to learn. Sometimes, it is a common denominator, when you talk to musicians, they tell you their brother started their uncle playing.



Sometimes the instrument finds the person. Certainly, in that case, I still play guitar, but the flute seen my career."

AC: "We re certainly grateful."

AZ: "Yep, I am digging it!"

AC: "What advice can you share to keep an artist focused on social good instead of themselves?"

AZ: "Well, you know, I could do a whole lecture here on giving back or the idea of service. Its the rent we pay for the space we occupy. Its that simple. I mean, if you re struggling, I get it. I don texpect musicians who are barely making a living to run around doing free fundraisers. But there got to be a point where you start to give back... We don to this because we like it. We do it because we love it. And we don to do it, just because we love it. We do it because we have to do it. So, once you re lucky enough to do what you love to do, its not a night that goes by. I don't have an appreciation for it and what



it has brought me. I am not a wealthy guy, but I We made a professional living, and I have a lot of friends, the Kenny G"s, Jeff Lorber S, Bob James and we all sit around pinching ourselves. How did we do this? "So, it seasy to get us to do things like this to donate our services, to do service, because we re just lucky. You see, the idea is, it so not just me on that stage, it so a collective thing. When I get up on stage it doesn I work if they don I see me enjoying what I do and I don I see them loving what I do. I hope that gives some incentive to do this. I never understood how anyone – no matter what business you're in can find something to do for someone other than themselves. Now, I will admit, when their young, the obsession is with me, me, me, "The Performer -- The Artist." But there is got to be a point where you realize, "Oh, wait a minute, this is a gift. "I thought this happened because I worked so hard. No, No, No, No! This happened because the gift you were given is because you work so hard. " I № been doing fundraisers my entire life. I come from a poor background. Not poor in the important things. We had parents that loved us. I grew up in downtown Windsor, we didn flown a car, there was never a car in my family. But we had everything we needed, people who loved us, we had food, we had encouragement, we lived downtown. Everybody in our neighborhood, if they were white or black, had an eye in the middle of their forehead, we all were in the same boat. We looked at one another the same. So, that was a real

gift. Now, for me to come here and do this for Grace Centers, after I saw what they do out there like the other day it was the Farr Conservatory, then it was Habitat for Humanity $\mathbb S$  and this Sunday, its Back Packs for Kids, I mean it doesn  $\mathbb T$  end and it $\mathbb S$  easy to do."

AC: "Can you share a memorable moment in your life?"

AZ: "Well, I have many, so maybe, that makes me lucky because I have a lot. But, certainly, one of my favorites is that that I mentioned earlier during my dissertation of giving back where I said, I came from a very poor background and when I started playing guitar, my dad, an old school Serbian came out of the War



the guitar. He didn appear to have really embraced the idea of the music thing, but knew I wanted an electric guitar. I had no idea that I was going to get one because we just didn have the doe. It just was not in the cards. So, there my father in Chicago, who knows I want the guitar and here comes Christmas. He a very practical guy and we grew up with some very interesting philosophies. But his biggest philosophy was, "We too poor to buy cheap things. So, if you're going to buy something, save the money and buy something really, really good. "So, he started doing research in Chicago on guitars, because he knew I wanted it. He went to this really big store, Ron Healy and found out that Gibson was the best guitarist in the world.

He called it, a "Jepson" because of his English. He buys the guitar and here he comes, its Christmas Eve and we haven seen him in a while. At this point, I am about eleven years old, he hadn a car, he took a train back to Detroit comes through the border with a brand new guitar with the tag still on it. At the border he was told to open up the case. Once it opened, they asked, "Whit his?" And he jokingly said, "I am a guitar player." I learned later that the immigration officer



said, "Whos this gift for? "And, my father said, "Its for my son. "Then the immigration officer tated, "Okay, go ahead.  $\square$ So, now there I am waiting for my dad. Its a classic winter setting. The snow is coming down, it's Christmas Eve and we can  $\square$  wait to see him. We didn  $\square$  care about gifts, we just wanted to see my dad. The cab pulls up, the trunk goes up and the next thing I knew, he goes into the truck and there was the guitar (expressed with emotions; walks off camera). That was a precious Christmas because we knew what it meant for him to do this. And it was the first time, he acknowledged, "This kids going to play the guitar. "So, he brought me my Jipson" and that  $\square$ s the end of that story."

BY: A. Collins

"The Entertainer's Written Words"

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#### Bass Day 2024

continues its tradition of bringing together bass guitar musicians from various music genres worldwide all for the shared purpose of camaraderie and capturing a group photo each year.



Established in 2013 by its founder, *Kern Brantley*, a respected bassist, music producer, and industry titan, "Bass Day" was conceived with inspiration from Yvonne Butler, his sister, who had the brilliant idea of creating Bass Day!

Yvonne sought to acknowledge her two brothers, celebrated musicians in their own right, who often remained out of the spotlight despite their status as prominent bass players.

Kern Brantley, the younger sibling, recognized the enthusiasm and

dedication their sister had for both him and his brother Valdez Brantley. He appreciated how she honored their accomplishments and took pride in their legacy, as they both continue to excel as major figures in the music scene, particularly in Detroit, Michigan, now synonymous with "Bass Day!"

Here are photos from the celebration for **Bass Day 2024** held at the Motown Museum on Rocket Plaza, located on their recently unveiled grounds in Detroit Michigan. **BY Adrianne Collins** 









# Kern Brantley

#### A Musical Paradigm

(circa, 2017)

"Hello, I am Kern Brantley, a musical director, songwriter and producer from Detroit, Michigan. I grew up in a household of ten children within an overall musical atmosphere and we all had a lot of friends.

More importantly, we also had moral values instilled in us by

my mother, "Morganna Brantley," a former Detroit Public School teacher and image consultant. She taught us the importance of family, friends, laughter and the arts, but especially, music. "All of the members in my family were musically inclined. We all played an instrument, sang and danced. These actions lead to music in our home, all the time. As a kid, I felt we always had fun. In the meantime, music came very easily for me. It molded me into the musician that I am today. I have always been very comfortable with and around music. I gravitated toward music at an early age. When I went to school or church, I gravitated towards music even more."



Veldez (far left) the Late Yvonne next to Morganna (center), Kern

#### AC: Who inspired your music and how?

KB: "I am inspired musically by people like Quincy Jones. I admire their multiple talents. Quincy was a producer and a songwriter surrounded by some of the best musicians, ever. He certainly got my attention, and it motivated me to closely study musicians and musicianship, while I'd listen to good music."

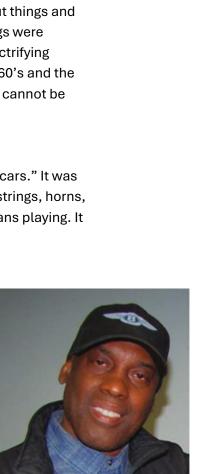
#### AC: What is your position on education?

KB: "I am also a proponent of education. It is very important to acquire higher and additional education, especially today in the information age were information technology offers different types of programs for music enthusiast like Pro Tools and Digital Performer. These are programs within the industry frequently utilized. I encourage youth to learn, learn how to sight read, as well as, play by ear. As a musician, one of the best skills you could possess in the industry would be to sight read. As most kids growing up, we have our opinion about things and music was one of those things that piqued my interest. I paid attention to what songs were popular and who played the bass guitar. I always felt being raised in Detroit was electrifying and it influenced my style a great deal. I believed, musicians developed during the 60's and the 70's possessed an understanding and appreciation for the art of music making that cannot be learned or manufactured" (Kernbrantley.com).

#### AC: Share a memorable moment in your musical career?

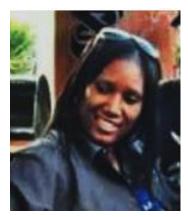
KB: "I experienced a high point in my musical career which occurred during the "Oscars." It was inside the orchestra pit where I played accompanied by about sixty musicians, full strings, horns, brass and the percussion sections. I will never forget hearing all those great musicians playing. It was so surreal."

**AC**: In 2008, at our Yorkshire headquarters, Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News conducted an interview with Kern Brantley. As I reminisce, I recall Kern's sincerity and outspokenness specifically about his craft and the entertainment industry. Kern shared thoughts regarding what he perceived as a blatant lack of expression for and appreciation of musicians hailing from Detroit. He compared Atlanta to Detroit by stating "People embrace artists there." He further explained, "If I were a musician getting off a plane with my guitar in California, I am recognized as somebody and I am revered for my craft. On the other hand, when you fly into Metro Detroit Airport carrying a guitar, you are perceived as a bum. It's the truth and I feel most are unaware of the musical genius within people from the city of Detroit."





Nonetheless, Kern spoke about his brother "**Veldez Brantley**" sharing his rich legacy as a music director and skillful keyboardist for Usher, OMG and Chris Brown. Kern also spoke about his sister, the late "Yvonne Butler" and "Bass Day." As explained, a journal, which once belonged to Yvonne was discovered after her passing. It held her plans for "Bass Day." It entailed her vision of the annual celebration designed to unite bassists across all genres of music for a day of camaraderie including the main feature, the capture of a group photo which continues, today. (www.Kernbrantley.com)



Kern spoke more about Yvonne's vision for **'Bass Day.'** He stated, "She wrote about her desires for 'Bass Day' driven by the love she possessed for me. She described my drive as my passion for the bass guitar and my fellow bassists. All she wrote about was how special she felt watching, "Bass Day" manifest and grow and keep growing." Sadly, Kern's ending remarks were, "There will not be a Bass Day - 2017 but look forward to Bass Day - 2018."

The following iconic performers contributed to Kern's livelihood unfolding into an illustrious music career:

"Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Mary J. Blige, Jeezy, Ne-Yo, Brandy, Ciara, Chris Brown, Destiny's Child, Avant, Jaheim, Faith Evans, Donnell Jones, Ginuwine, R. Kelly, Salt N Pepa, 112, Boys II Men, Black Street, Monica, Aaliyah, S.W.V., New Kids On The Block, Bobby Brown, Earl Klugh, Grover Washington Jr., Guy Feat. Teddy Riley, (Kernbrantleymusic.com).

BY: Adrianne Collins

Photos: Detroit EM News & Facebook





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# Inspirational Liberty

#### Lost Souls Outreach – Street Ministry (circa, 2009)

Welcome to "Inspirational Liberty," a good news column designed to serve as a non-denominational writing platform where members of the religious community can share news and achievements of the religious communities.

With this goal in mind, a new initiative to answer God's call to reach out to lost souls was launched on the east side of Detroit. This effort was led by Brother Brian Piccolo, a new believer in Christ, who is a member of the congregation and a videographer under the guidance of Pastor Samuel Moore and First Lady Moore from Conquerors of Faith Ministries, located at 13100 Puritan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan.

During Sunday morning worship, Brother Piccolo showcased a poignant video presentation of Tyrone Frazier, a lost soul who had been wandering for years. The video powerfully illustrated some of the harsh realities of street life.

After witnessing the clip, Pastor Moore felt a strong urge to embrace Tyrone and promised to help him find shelter, meals, and spiritual nourishment to welcome in the New Year. As the scripture reminds us: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

When we inquired about Brother Piccolo's motivation for taking on such a meaningful task, he replied, "I wanted to grow in my faith, and when God placed this calling on my life, I chose to remain obedient."

He further expressed, "God has called us, as warriors, to touch the hearts of those lost on the battlefield, with the ultimate purpose of forming a deeper relationship with Him to weather life's storms and emerge as conquerors through faith."

Nonetheless, Tyrone further expressed, "I want to get to know my God."

BY: A. Reynolds Photos: Detroit EM News

Want to feature your church organization or related church activities in "Inspirational Liberty?"

Contact@detroitemnews..com or call: 313.826.7920



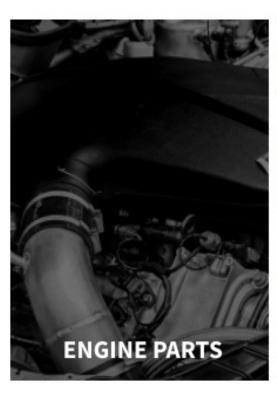


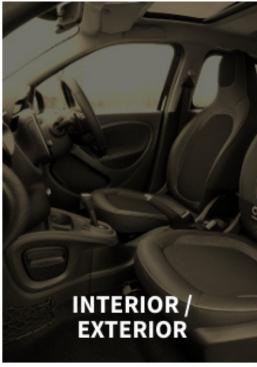






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# Parade of Costumes down the Catwalk

The 2024 Halloween Parade of Costumes down the Catwalk Event, organized by Detroit EM News, provided a delightful way to usher in November while celebrating the end of the spooky season in a family-friendly atmosphere!

With Kosher hotdogs from Lou's Coney Island barbequed at the event, while for the gents' fresh haircuts in the garage where being given compliments of Omir – The Barber from Fat Mark's Barber Shop, and an abundance of candy grab bags for everyone.

The sponsors contributed a great deal to ensure a good time for all including,

James H. Cole Home for Funerals, Inc., Elbow to Elbow, Inc., New Greater Zion Hill MBC, JG Auto, Inc., Jakes Auto Parts, Modified Gear, 2-Way Inn, Aaple

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I am Bin Userkaf, as the videographer for both, this year's event and last year's hosted by Detroit EM News, it was a pleasure to have my family join me this year, particularly my little brother, who enthusiastically participated in the Parade of

Plawn damas

Costumes down the Catwalk and lawn games.

Though the Ghetto Soul Train couldn't pull into the station this year due to weather conditions, we ensured that no effort was spared in terms of lighting, camera work, or music selection to make our costume runway a vibrant, memorable and entertaining experience.







The Parade of Costumes participants included a pair of Scarecrows alongside Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, two Trexes, and the resulting group photo which showcased a handful of the impressive effort everyone put into their costumes this year.





We are grateful to have captured those moments and thrilled to have Keely Ferguson - Crawford and Ms. Full-Figured Michigan - Queen Aqueelah Akbar back to enjoy the festivities.

Overall, this event marked one of the many fine efforts providing a platform to promote social wellness which exemplifies how Detroit EM News continues to foster positive news and share information within the community annually, one runway at a time.

BY: Bin Userkaf

Photos: Detroit EM News





Here's photos to enjoy from the Parade of Costumes Down the Catwalk event for 2024:



















### Here's photos from the Parade of Costumes Down the Catwalk 2023.

The Ghetto Soul Train arrived and offered its special group activity with train rides that lasted ten-minute intervals ensuring a unique experience riding throughout the neighborhood with hip hop music bumping during the FREE Ghetto Soul Train rides.

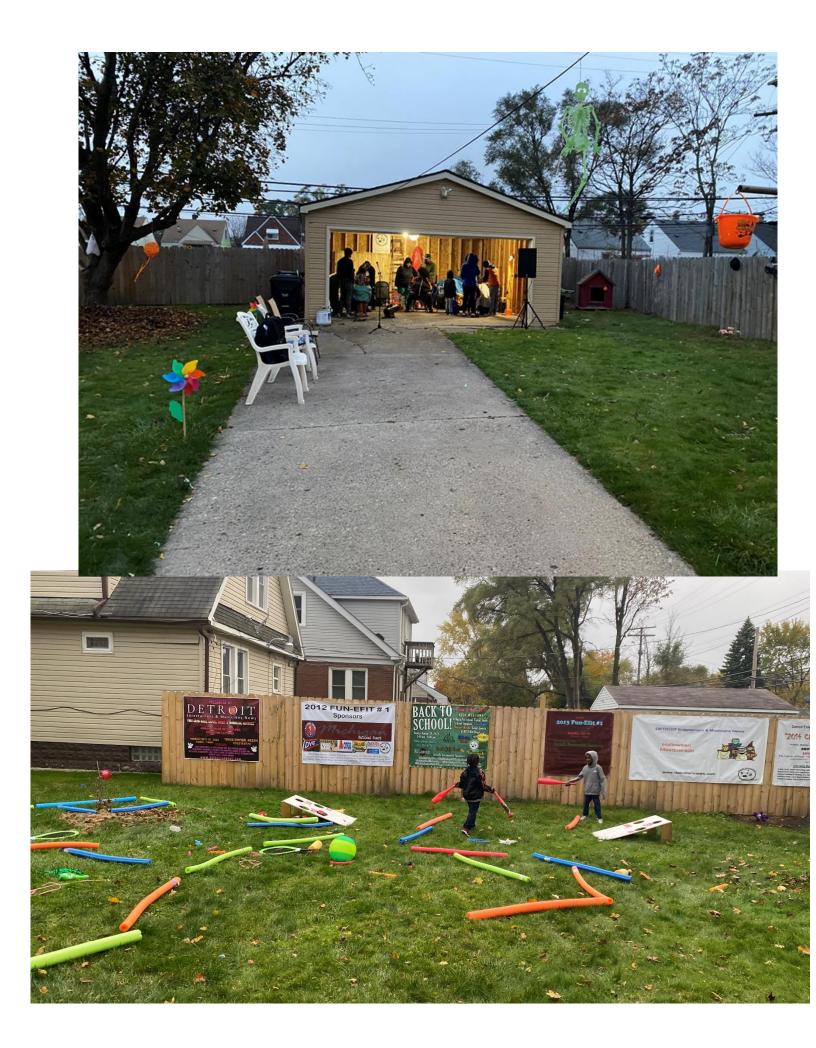
Click for the video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0c\_kllDBisQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0c\_kllDBisQ</a>



























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