

WHAT'S GOING ON

By Victoria Horsford

HOT TOPIC

As the USA political landscape changes, we see what last November's elections really meant. GOP victories in state houses and in the US House of Representatives were not about Americans' disgust and wariness about President Barack Obama's progressive initiatives. It was about manipulation of masters of deceit. It was a triumph of arch conservatives — the Koch Industries brothers, Rupert Murdoch, Wall Streeters, et al — who see Obama-style democracy in action as something inimical to their business interests and spheres of influence.

The GOP dominated House of Representatives has orders to turn back the clock of change towards that more perfect union, as do GOP governors, who argue that they are budget hawks. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is necessary to monitor Wisconsin politics where the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and Democracy for America have launched a robo-call campaign to organize support to recall several Wisconsin state GOP legislators, stalwart supporters of GOP Governor Scott Walker and his draconian measures re: public servants and collective bargaining and the \$1 billion reduction of education budget.

When do we start recall efforts re: the GOP Congressional freshmen?

OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED: Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts of Greater NY. The ideal candidate should have a record of bringing excellence to organizations undergoing growth and transformation. Salary range is \$150K plus. Evergreen Executive Source is job search firm. Call 800.221.6663 or 800.451.1451.

Visit www.girlscoutsnyc.org for job specifications. Apply immediately. Send resume to evergreen.source@att.net

BTW: First Lady Michelle Obama becomes the National Honorary President of the Girl Scouts.

The **HARLEM COMMUNITY ARTS FUND**, (HCAF), an arm of the Harlem Arts Alliance, welcomes proposals from eligible artists and arts organizations, for grants ranging from \$1000 to \$3000. Grants are available to Harlem-based (110 Street to 155 Street, from the Hudson River to Fifth Avenue - Community Boards 9 and 10 - artists and art organizations. Application deadline is 3/22. For more detailed HCAF grants program stipulations, visit www.harlemna.org then follow link to Opportunities/grants. The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation is the major supporter of this Grants initiative.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel will run for re-election in

2012 for a 22nd term.

Rahm Emanuel won the Chicago mayoral election last week. African America, Carol Moseley Braun, former US Senator and US Ambassador was one of his opponents. Emanuel won every Black ward in the city.

Season 12 of ABC-TV **DANCING WITH THE STARS**, show boasts more diversity than the Academy Awards 2011 did. Radio TV Diva Wendy Williams, boxing great Sugar Ray Leonard and Rapper Romeo are the Black part of show's new lineup.

PISCES' BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Flo Anthony, Eryka Badu, Charles Barkley, Harry Belafonte, Common, Dr. Irene Elmore, Lady Pearl Duncan, Flava Flav, Jasmine Guy, Anna Maria Horsford, Daniel Horsford, Terrence Howard, Boris Kodjoe, Quincy Jones, Spike Lee, Queen Latifah, Smokey Robinson, Sidney Poitier, Rihanna; and Courtney Vance.

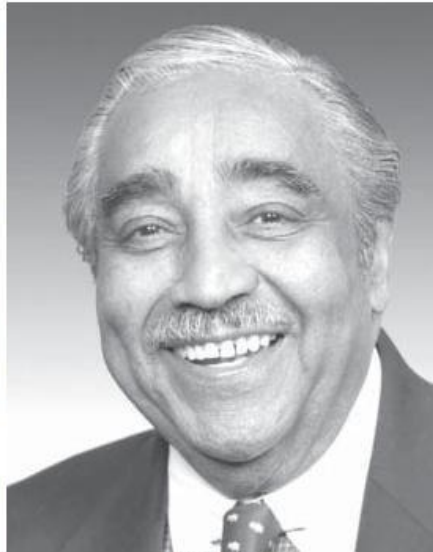
BLACK ENTERPRISE

The 3/7 issue of New Yorker Magazine story "The Dictator Index, Mo Ibrahim's Plan For Africa" is required reading. The story's greatest appeal is that a Black African has a plan for the continent. Sudan-born, England based Billionaire **MO IBRAHIM**, who has an earned PHD. Secure financially, Ibrahim is now tasked with extricating corruption, bad leadership and governance from African countries and replacing same with good leaders. His very original approach to that task, is the Ibrahim Prize, \$5 million awarded to outgoing African heads of state who have served with distinction, and additional cash gifts and a special measurement index. Ibrahim's fortune is based on his cellular phone business throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

BOOK NOTES

According to NYT, WAPO and other reviews, Donald Bogle's new book "The Life and Career of Ethel Waters," is a labor of unadulterated love. Ethel Waters was the vocalist turned film and tv actress, whose career spanned 50 years and was punctuated by unprecedented racial breakthroughs in the entertainment world. Her filmed entertainment credits run the gamut from the all-Black musical "Cabin In The Sky" to "Pinky," and eventually to the much-maligned TV show "Beulah," which she toplined playing a maid. Bogle meticulously chronicles Waters' life, exposing her critical behind-the-scenes role vis-a-vis Hollywood and tv execs, more as watershed than as accommodation, creating new pathways for Blacks. Bogle says that Water's influence on her fellow performers was such that Lena Horne described her as "the mother of us all."

Lillian McEwen, retired DC based Administrative judge, wrote a tell-all memoir: **DC UNMASKED & UN-DRESSED**, which is all the talk in the Beltway. McEwen's biography recounts her steamy encounters with her ex-suitor Clarence Thomas, who is the US



Charlie Rangel



Rihanna



Sidney Poitier



Sugar Ray Leonard



Terrence Howard

Supreme Court judge. She references "his physique as velvet-covered cement...and kisses that tasted like honey." The Washington Post book reviewer admitted that some passages were too sexually charged to quote in a family-oriented newspaper.

MARCHEVENTS

NOVA HOPE FOR HAITI, bringing urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Haiti, hosts its Fifth Annual Fundraiser Casino Night, on Friday, March 4, at the Church of the Presentation, located at 271 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ. The evening fundraiser boasts games, buffet dinner, open bar, music, a silent auction and gift prized. Tickets, which are \$80, in advance, \$90 at the door, and \$65 for senior citizens, includes \$100 in "chips." Payments can be made via paypal. For more info, call Colette McDermott at NOVA HOPE FOR HAITI Headquarters, in Emerson, NJ, at 201.675.9413. Inquire about bus, leaving midtown Manhattan to Casino Night in NJ, at junuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org, for \$20. Casino Night proceeds will be used to defray construction costs of a clinic in Cavallion, Haiti, which is a 4-hour walk from the nearest medical facility.

SHARED INTEREST, a New York based nonprofit social investment fund will host its 17th Anniversary Awards Dinner on Monday, March 14 at Gotham Hall, located at 1356 Broadway, Manhattan. The 2011 Shared Interest honorees are Vuyiseka Dubula and the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) for the commitment to combating HIV/AIDS in South Africa; the Calvert Investments and the Calvert Foundation for their commitment to social investments in South Africa; and Prudential Financial, Inc. for its investments in South Africa's economically indigent communities. Events major corporate sponsors are Prudential Financial Inc, Johnson & Johnson, Calvert Investments and The Nielsen Company. Ticket price points are from \$500 to \$50,000 for multi-tiered levels of sponsorship. Contact sharedinterest@thefimgroup.com, call 914.235.1490, X14 or purchase tickets at mycharities.org.

Founded in 1994, **SHARED INTEREST** is a NY based nonprofit which guarantee bank loans for South Africa's low income communities, which are predominantly Black, to construct houses, create jobs and to launch businesses investment fund predominantly Black owned. Shared Interest conducts work in South Africa with its partner, the Pretoria-based Themba International Guarantee Fund.

St. Mark's United Church celebrates its 140th Anniversary on March 5 in grand style, hosting an omnibus event which includes a Soul Food Fair, Mardi Gras, Caribbean Carnival and Steel Bank Concert, at 49-55 Edgecombe Avenue on 136/137 Streets in Harlem. Event chairs are Ms. Jessie Manuel at 212.926-6194 and Celia Wickham at 212.368.1938, who can provide more information.

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