



Yuri Kochiyama with two civil rights activists.

Connecting our local and wider community

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BOBI WINE: THE REGGAE SINGER

VYING TO BE UGANDA'S NEXT

PRESIDENT



LISTEN IN



THE FIRE STILL BURNING

This podcast gets into some of the most urgent lessons we can learn from James Baldwin, whose life and writing illuminate so much about what it would really mean for the United States to reckon with its race problem.

KWAME DAWES READS DEREK WALCOTT

Kwame Dawes joins Kevin Young to read “The Season of Phantasmal Peace,” by Derek Walcott, and his own poem “Before Winter.” Dawes is the author of more than twenty books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.



STREAMING NOW

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI

Streaming on: Amazon Prime Video

On the night of Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami, Cassius Clay joins Jim Brown, Sam Cooke and Malcom X, and they discuss the responsibility of being successful black men during the civil rights movement.

THE BLACK GODFATHER

Streaming on: Netflix
Clarence Avant, known as “the godfather of black music”, is perhaps not well known by the general public, but very famous in the music industry. Starting as a manager to pianist-composer Lalo Schifrin, he later founded record labels, served as concert organizer, a special events producer, a fund-raiser for Democratic politicians, and a mentor to several African American execs.

COOKING: HARIRA



INGREDIENTS

- 4 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
- 1 LARGE ONION, DICED (ABOUT 2 CUPS)
- 3 STALKS CELERY, DICED (ABOUT 1 1/2 CUPS)
- 3 LARGE CARROTS, PEELED AND CUT IN ROUNDS
- 1/2 TEASPOON GROUND TURMERIC
- 1 TEASPOON GROUND CUMIN
- 1/2 TO 1 TEASPOON HARISSA OR DRIED RED CHILE FLAKES, PLUS MORE FOR SERVING
- SALT TO TASTE
- 1 BUNCH PARSLEY, CHOPPED (ABOUT 1 1/2 CUPS/75 GRAMS), DIVIDED
- 1 BUNCH CILANTRO, CHOPPED (ABOUT 1 1/2 CUPS/75 GRAMS), DIVIDED
- 1 (15-OUNCE/425-GRAM) CAN TOMATOES, CRUSHED, OR 2 CUPS (450 GRAMS) TOMATO SAUCE
- 7 CUPS (1 2/3 LITERS) CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE STOCK
- 1 CUP (200 GRAMS) DRIED CHICKPEAS, SOAKED OVERNIGHT AND COOKED OR 1 (15-OUNCE/425-GRAM) CAN CHICKPEAS, DRAINED
- 1 CUP (370 GRAMS) GREEN LENTILS
- 1 TEASPOON FRESHLY GROUND BLACK PEPPER
- 2 TABLESPOONS ALL-PURPOSE UNBLEACHED FLOUR
- 1 LARGE EGG
- JUICE OF 2 LEMONS (ABOUT 1/4 CUP)

THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART: LOS ANGELES - THE PALMER C. HAYDEN COLLECTION



Can't Sleep at Night (1932), by Palmer C. Hayden



Blues Singer, by Palmer C. Hayden

INTERESTING READS



THE NIGHT CYCLIST BY STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES

They were on the news by seven in the morning, the two dead kids. College students from one of the farming towns on the eastern plains. I had considered reporting them myself, but it was just a fluke of timing that I'd been the one to find them, I decided. Someone else would come along at about daybreak. Boulder's full of concerned citizens, people for whom it would be a rush to get involved.



THE RIVALS BY ANDREA LEE

Noelline, twenty-six and childless, was no longer young by island standards and, in a land where lovely women were as abundant as grains of sand, had never been considered a beauty, though she had an almost preposterously voluptuous body, a product of her mixed Sakalava and Antankarana background. The daughter of a seamstress and a ferryman, she had a demure wide face, its teak surface roughened by outbreaks of tiny pimples, a high forehead, and bright, shallow-set eyes that missed nothing

WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND MEDIA IN POST-INDEPENDENCE TANZANIA

FATMA ALLOO (OF THE TANZANIA MEDIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION) ON HOW WOMEN USED THE MEDIA AND CULTURAL SPACES TO ORGANIZE AND CHALLENGE GENDER NORMS.

By Fatma Alloo

THE TRAGIC DELUSIONS OF WHITE EXCEPTIONALISM

AT ANOTHER HISTORICAL INFLECTION POINT, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. RECOGNIZED WHITE AMERICANS' DELUSIONS AS THE PROPERTY OF THE WEST MORE BROADLY.

By Benjamin Talton

CONVERSATIONS ON CAMPUS

PROF. MICHAEL BIRENBAUM QUINTERO || ETHNOMUSICOLOGY



WITH EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON, FROM POLICE VIOLENCE TO COVID TO THE ELECTION, HAS IT CHANGED THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR CLASSES?

In many ways, no. I've always felt the political urgency both of the current moment and of what I teach. But they have made me more mindful of things like stress and mental health and family

arrangements — you never know what people are going through behind the scenes, especially now.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE COMING UP WITH YOUR WORK?

There is a very long pipeline of things. On Afro-Colombian stuff, I'm trying to get my first book translated to Spanish and I have a second one I'm working on that's more about political theory, about what Black struggle in Colombia tells us about politics under conditions of hopelessness, which has felt relevant in the US. I have also been starting some preliminary research on Nigerian and Afro-Cuban religious devotion. I'm researching a project about religious drumming in New York City in the '70s and '80s and its importance for both Latinx and African-American senses of the self. And I got a grant to go to Nigeria to work on ritual sound but I can't go yet because of COVID. Oh, and I have an article about Spotify algorithms that's supposed to come out in 2021.

DR. JOHN THORNTON || AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, HISTORY



WHAT DO YOU HAVE COMING UP WITH YOUR WORK?

My current project is editing the letters of Afonso I of Kongo in English translation. I'm working with a great translator which is a good thing since I had originally thought of translating them

myself. But he knows a lot of quirks and fancy grammar stuff in Portuguese that I don't and we'll be better for that. Along with the translations, I'm also writing a full length biography of the king himself (it should run about 100 pages to go with the letters for another 100 or so). This is great because Afonso had never really had a biography, even though he is quite well known, not just in African studies but even in "general knowledge". For a while, he was in the high school curriculum before Africa left the high schools in the 1980s. He's probably most famous because of the treatment he received in the work of Basil Davidson. My version will be quite revisionist, and the book in question will be marketed as a textbook for colleges and maybe advanced high school. This is a group I'm always happy to be connected to.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: REL DOWDEL



PROUD TO BU: USING FILM TO SPARK SYSTEMIC CHANGE

During his time at BU, Rel Dowdell (COM'96) made a name for himself with a groundbreaking thesis project that went on to become the critically acclaimed and award-winning film, *Train Ride*. His most recent work is a feature-length documentary examining the impact of the child support system on African American families titled *Where's Daddy?* Stay tuned for an exclusive clip from the documentary at the end of the credits courtesy of Breaking Glass Pictures. You can see 'Where's Daddy?' on Amazon, Google Play or Vudu. *Please note, this episode was released in November 2019.*

The Proud to BU podcast series highlights some of our most interesting and accomplished alumni and how their path to success began at Boston University.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES SURVIVAL
GUIDE: PHOTO AND PROSE CONTEST

\$150 PRIZE FOR
BEST PROSE
AND PHOTO

CONTEST THEME: WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE?

The undergraduate who submits the best prose piece or photo that reflects the theme will win \$150 and a special feature in the newsletter*.

- All submissions must be sent to afam@bu.edu
- All prose must be submitted by Feb. 20
- All photos must be submitted by Feb 22
- All winners will be announced by Feb. 29

*Please **see here** for rules and restrictions