

# the Stand

## south side news

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Syracuse, NY

NOVEMBER 2017 Issue 62 FREE

### SHARING A STORY

Model, aspiring police officer publishes second book to inspire others

### Lunch improvement

Students work with school officials to diversify meals

### creating change

Road to Emmaus Ministry provides poor with amenities of home

**Where are they now?**  
Jovan Daniel fell in love with horses as a child — now, he's an equestrian in college

### THEY WEAR BLUE SERIES



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STUDENTS AT THE  
S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIAL THANKS THIS MONTH

DEAN LORRAINE BRANHAM,  
BEA GONZÁLEZ, EMMA COMTOIS

CONTACT US

SOUTH SIDE NEWSPAPER PROJECT  
(315) 882-1054  
ASHLEY@MYSOUTHSIDESTAND.COM

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KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.

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■ Cover photography by Emily Elconin of Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner

CALENDAR | NOVEMBER

**What:** 100 Black Men of Syracuse 10th Anniversary Gala  
**When:** 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18  
**Where:** Finger Lakes Ballroom at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, 100 E. Onondaga St.  
**Details:** Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to offer a networking social hour. This annual event is the organization's primary fundraiser. Proceeds go to support its mentoring, education, health and wellness and economic empowerment activities. Keynote speaker will be David C. Banks, president and chief executive officer of the Eagle Academy Foundation.  
**Cost:** Tickets are \$100 each or \$850 for a table of 10  
**For tickets:** Purchase online at Eventbrite (search 10th Anniversary Gala in Syracuse), from 100 Black Men of Syracuse members or by arranging pickup at the 100 Black Men office at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St. Call (315) 443-8749 to coordinate.

**What:** Strathmore Artisans 9th Annual Arts & Crafts Sale  
**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19  
**Where:** Most Holy Rosary School gymnasium, 1031 Bellevue Ave.  
**Details:** Hosted by and in support of the Strathmore Speaker Series. Free parking is available in the lot across from the main entrance to the church (behind Bellevue Elementary) on Roberts Avenue and in the lot adjacent to the side entrance of the church off Hubble Avenue.  
**Note:** Not all vendors will take credit card payments, so it is advised to also bring cash or a checkbook  
**More info:** Call (315) 471-7645



In this issue, we catch up with 23-year-old equestrian Jovan Daniel, who graced our cover in 2010 with his horse Ares. Daniel is featured in our new Where Are They Now? series. Daniel began to train and compete in horseback riding at the age of 13. After graduating from Corcoran High School, he continued his career by attending Morrisville State College, and is now studying at St. Andrews University. Learn about his training and how he's helping to diversify this elite sport, all on Page 12.

In addition to being nominated as this month's featured father, Timothy "Noble" Jennings-Bey was awarded a \$50,000 grant Oct. 12 by the Central New York Community Foundation to sustain his work running the Street Addiction Institute, Inc. Jennings-Bey founded SAIL two years ago after studying the concept of street violence as a behavioral addiction. His work culminated in the national publication of his 2014 paper, "Street Addiction: A Proposed Theoretical Model for Understanding the Draw of Street Life and Gang Activity" in the Journal of Addiction Research and Theory. Now, through SAIL, he sets out to break the cycle of neighborhood violence and associated trauma that can lead to retaliation and a life of poverty. In his role as a dad, he says the best way to guide his young son to becoming a man is through modeled behavior. Learn more about his role as a father on Page 11.

Our in-depth series on police and the community — They Wear Blue — takes a look at the future of the force by spending time with a group of Syracuse city school students in the law enforcement track at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler High School. The series also shares the results of a survey of high school seniors' opinions about police. To catch up on the series, turn to Page 14.

Reggie Seigler's music column, A Friendly Five, is back — featuring a conversation with jazz/soul rocker Tanksley, whose unique sound is getting him attention. Find out when you can catch his next show on Page 22.



Ashley Kang

More stories this month include: a look at the new Road to Emmaus Ministry, which is helping the homeless; an effort to make school lunches more reflective of the cultural diversity in the student body; and a profile of local activist and author Shaunna Spivey-Spinner, who will release her second book this month.



## UPCOMING EVENT

Nov. 11

### Central Village First Hall of Fame

**When:** 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday,  
Nov. 11

**Where:** Boys & Girls  
Club, Central Village Club,  
212 Van Buren St.

**Details:** Hosted by the Central Village Torch Club, the event will honor special volunteers who have supported Central Village over the years. Volunteers are described by the center's current director, Jeff Eysaman, as "people who exemplify kindness, selflessness and a caring for their community." Attendees should dress to impress.

**To RSVP:** Contact Jeff Eysaman at (315) 579-5401

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We invite your letters. Send them to Ashley Kang, South Side Communication Center, 2331 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205 or to [ashley@mysouthsidestand.com](mailto:ashley@mysouthsidestand.com).

Maximum length: 200 words. Include your full name, address and contact information.

## ABOUT THE MINISTRY

Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc., has established the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach, located at **4335 S. Salina St.**

The ministry holds open hospitality drop-ins at the center from **8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays**. People can walk in and get a warm meal and a cup of coffee.

Among other services:

- Clothing
- Washing of clothes
- Groceries
- Haircuts
- Foot washing

Visit [emmausministry.org](http://emmausministry.org)

# REACHING OUT

*Volunteer ministry offers poor, homeless a place to feel at home*



> Sheila Austin restocks the food pantry at Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc. | Connor Fogel, Staff Photo

By | Connor Fogel  
*Urban Affairs reporter*

## Volunteers offer food, clothing, haircuts and foot washing to homeless and poor residents

Every once in a while, someone who asks a simple question can unleash the power of good works. In the case of St. James Roman Catholic Church, a South Side parish, it happened a decade back, when the Rev. John Manno asked Sheila Austin if she knew any of the homeless people for whom she and other church volunteers were making bologna sandwiches.

Unable to answer, Austin and her fellow volunteers left that day with a challenge from Manno — to bring the food themselves to the shelter and meet the people living there.

The idea of driving around the South Side once brought fear to Austin, she said. But she explained that as she delivered the sandwiches, she got to know the neighborhood, which quickly turned for her into a community full of life and new relationships.

Nine years after making her first sandwich at St. James Church, located at 4845 S. Salina St., Austin now works as the director of Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc. Alongside about 75 volunteers, Austin has

established the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach, 4335 S. Salina St., a place for homeless or poverty-stricken individuals to feel at home.

“It’s a ministry about presence,” Austin said. “Just being present, in the moment, for whoever it is that presents to you in whatever condition they are. We use the model of the corporal works of mercy — feeding the hungry, giving drinks to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned.”

Austin explained that the ministry’s name refers to the road that Jesus walked alongside two disciples after he was resurrected. At first, the two men did not recognize him, she said. The ministry uses the Bible scripture to understand that although people might not recognize those they help, they walk with them because “everyone is an image of God” in one way or another.

The center opened in May and is named after St. Marianne Cope, who came to Syracuse with her family from Utica and eventually founded St. Joseph’s Hospital (now St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center) in 1869, Austin said.

Although Manno is no longer part of St. James, he is on the center’s board as the vice president. Austin said Manno thought of Cope for the center’s name because not only is she local, but she also took care of the suffering and forgotten. A Hawaiian leader had called



upon her in 1883 and asked that she go there to care for people ostracized because they had leprosy. She told him she would go with her sisters to show the importance of caring for people, especially those suffering.

Syracuse's poverty rate in 2016 stood at 34.8 percent, nearly triple the national rate of 12.7 percent, according to the United States Census Bureau. With one out of three people living in poverty, a direct plan to help everyone is unattainable. But Austin said having a place for people to come two days a week for food and clean clothes can make "a pretty big dent" in starting to help the community.

The center offers homeless and poor residents of Syracuse breakfast and coffee every Tuesday and Thursday morning. On the third or fourth Wednesday of each month, Austin and volunteers distribute about 60 to 70 bags of groceries.

"People would probably get up in the morning, and don't see anybody with a smile," said Penny Anderson, an Emmaus Ministry volunteer. "They know if they come here, they'll get smiles and a pat on the back and some hot coffee."

Anderson, who lives in Marcellus, began looking for service opportunities in her area, but there are not nearly as many people in poverty, she said. After spending a Sunday morning driving around Syracuse hoping to give sandwiches to people on the streets, she started looking for service groups. That's when she found Emmaus Ministry, and she has been a volunteer for more than a year.

Barbara Roach, another volunteer, said it's easy for people to disregard what is happening on the South Side when they don't live in the city or if they feel cut off from the neighborhood by Interstate 81.

Her favorite part about the mission of the ministry and being a volunteer is meeting the people. She said it's as simple as talking over a cup of coffee or a glass of water. The hesitations and barriers that some people have when they come to the city and see people in poverty need to be broken, Roach said.

"You don't have to give them anything, but don't disrespect them," Roach said.

As Emmaus Ministry has grown, what was once a program that gave away sandwiches to the hungry has become an enterprise supplying meals, clothing, haircuts and foot washing, all of which lead to natural relationships with other local people.

Jesus washed the disciples' feet because he wanted to show them how to help others, Austin said, and since beginning the foot-washing program in 2009, she and her volunteers have continued the work nearly every month.

Don Donahue, a volunteer, said he was first exposed to the ministry when Austin asked him to join her at a foot-washing program earlier this year at a men's shelter. At first, he said, he felt nervous pulling into the South Side, which he regarded as an unfamiliar territory.

Once he stepped into the shelter and saw the volunteers at work, he said he instantly felt connected.

He saw three women washing men's feet, clipping their toenails and engaging in meaningful conversations. He picked up a bucket, some gloves and joined the women in the service.

"The gratitude that these men had for somebody taking care of them, for somebody that was actually washing their feet," Donahue said. "They never asked any questions. They were just washing their feet and cutting their toenails. I said, 'This is just unbelievable. If they can do this, then I can.'"

Donahue said he believes in the idea of "shadowing the leader," which means that the leader's actions show the volunteers what is possible. After seeing what Austin is able to do at the ministry, he said he wants to help people and connect with them in any way possible.

Austin said she thinks talking with individuals is just as important as the food or clothing the ministry offers. With the ministry's center available for walk-ins during the week and working to create service opportunities on the streets, Austin and her volunteers provide a sense of home.

"It has everything that I ever envisioned," Austin said. "I think we probably have outgrown it already. There's so much more that we can do, but when you just let things evolve in God's timing, and he directs you, and helps you figure out how to engage and figure out what people want, then that's why we're here."

## HOW TO HELP

As winter nears, the Road to Emmaus Ministry is accepting donations of socks and boots.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Visit [emmausministry.org](http://emmausministry.org)



> Sheila Austin, director of Road to Emmaus Ministry, washes clothes at the center. | Connor Fogel, Staff Photo



> A frequent visitor, whom volunteers call "our friend M," chats with Sheila Austin. | Connor Fogel, Staff Photo

## MEMBERS WANTED

**Dom Donnay** and his team are accepting applications for the food committee. Members meet regularly throughout the year.

If you're interested, contact him at [DDonnay@scsd.us](mailto:DDonnay@scsd.us)

# SWITCH IN LUNCH

*Students, school district officials join to make meals diverse, tastier*



> Cara Fritcher displays the veggie gyro, an unpopular menu item with students. | Lindsey McClafferty, Staff Photo

By | Lindsey McClafferty  
*Staff reporter*

**A movement to expand variety in food options reflects the district's diverse demographics**

On top of a lightly browned pita rests leafy florets of lettuce, roasted chickpeas, cucumber and a generous pile of feta cheese. The veggie gyro takes up more than half of the white foam tray. While the meal is colorful, many high school students at the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central did not find the food inviting.

Sophomores Dom Donnay and Skyler Baldwin decided not to eat at all — a choice that has become their frequent habit, even though every student receives free lunch.

Baldwin didn't hesitate to share her thoughts on some of the school's meals. "I have a picture of what the school tried to serve us one day," Baldwin said. "It was like slop on a tray."

Donnay shared this opinion: "I compare it to jail food. That's what it looks like."

But student concerns about school lunches are being heard.

Beginning last school year, Syracuse high school students formed a food committee with the help of community organization ACTS Youth Council. Donnay and student representatives from other Syracuse high schools presented their concerns and ideas to the school board and have been working closely over the past months with Rachel Murphy, the Syracuse City School District director of food and nutrition services.

Their goal is to improve school lunches and to diversify food options to reflect the district's culturally diverse population. The district rolls out new international dishes one day a week to test whether or not students want the new dish on the menu in the future.

The veggie gyro? It won't be served again.

That decision was made after food service helper Cara Fritcher exchanged thoughts with Donna Formica, ITC principal. Fritcher said that despite her encouragement, few students were willing to try the new "ethnic" lunch item.

The New York State Education Department reports that almost 20,000 students attend Syracuse city schools. Among them, 49 percent are black or African American, 23 percent are white, 13 percent are Hispanic or Latino, and 8 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander.

Diane Pratt-Heavner, director of media relations for



the national School Nutrition Association, said that as nutrition legislation changes and as the nation's population diversifies, schools must find innovative ways to meet the needs and wants of students.

Taste is not the only challenge Murphy faces when it comes to offering culturally diverse meals.

"Fear is absolutely there, I'm not going to lie," the food director said. "One of the issues I've seen in other districts is where they've taken a dish and they tried to recreate it and they actually did a disservice to the folks that it represented because it was dear to their heart. I would almost say it's disrespectful. We do not want to do that."

To an extent, this fear has been realized. Donnay described the new Asian noodle bowl as slimy and visually unappetizing. Yet to both Donnay and Murphy, this is still a move in the right direction.

Diversity, taste and presentation are only part of Murphy's concerns. She also deals with quality, cost and freshness of ingredients, finding the best recipes and instructing staff how to prepare new meals, providing options for different dietary restrictions and producing meals that are tasty yet healthy.

Ideally, food diversity would lead to meals with better nutritional value. Pratt-Heavner said this is a natural outcome of bringing in a greater range of foods.

"Particularly when you look at some of the Asian dishes, it's a great way to get kids to eat more vegetables," Pratt-Heavner said.

For the school district, food reform will be an ongoing process. With feedback from the food committee and the general student body, food services will continue to pilot new recipes until the committee and Murphy are satisfied.

While federal policy will shift under President Donald Trump's administration — some nutritional standards will be relaxed — Murphy intends to maintain the existing regulations to promote good health and nutrition among students.

Murphy said her strategy is to first introduce some simpler "safe meals" from other cultures that students are more apt to try, then slowly introduce more complex ethnic foods.

Donnay said he hopes this practice will make a difference as students have an opportunity to naturally learn about other cultures. "We (the committee) thought having culturally diverse food will start conversations, and students will actually start talking to each other," he said.

Diversifying food may even fight racial prejudices, Baldwin said, explaining that enjoying foods from other places connects people and allows for deeper understanding of other cultures.

While Murphy knows a lot of work lies ahead, she said she is proud of the meals the district's kitchens have started to produce. Particularly, she loves the new quesadilla option.

"They taste unbelievable," she said. "You can double fist them."

## BEING THANKFUL

**What:** Thanksgiving Party

**When:** 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22

**Where:** Central Library, 447 S. Salina St.

**Details:** Join library staff for the Big Feast. Attendees will pin the feathers on the turkey, make place mats and work up an appetite for the big day. All ages welcome. No registration necessary.

**More info:** This program will meet at the second-floor KidSpace

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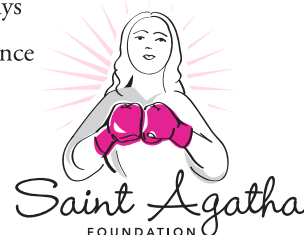
**GO SU**  
**part time!**

## Do you need help with your breast cancer bills?

The Saint Agatha Foundation has established funds at area hospitals and medical providers to provide financial support for breast cancer patients in Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego Counties, New York.

### The following costs can be covered:

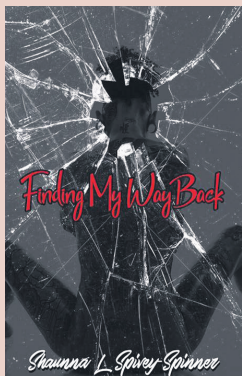
- ▶ Treatment, procedures, testing, office visits
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- ▶ Medication not covered by insurance
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## ABOUT THE BOOK



**"Finding My Way Back"**

**Release date:** Nov. 26

**Cost:** \$21

**Pick up:** Floral Essence,  
401 S. Salina St.

**To order:** Visit  
[therealholliwood.com](http://therealholliwood.com)

# RESILIENT GRIEVING

*Model's new book uses personal grief, pain as a guide for others*



> Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner flexes her arm, showing off the first tattoo she got at age 13. | Emily Elconin, Staff Photo

By | Ashley Kang  
*The Stand* director

**After struggling with death and bullying, Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner inspires hope**

When Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner's second book comes out later this month, Syracuse is the last place she'll be. Maybe she'll hold a release party in Miami or will be overseas. What the local activist and model can guarantee is she will be nowhere near her hometown.

"The day my mom died is November 26," said the 30-year-old author, recalling her mother's unexpected death in 2014. "So I don't like being around here ... this place has bad energy on that day."

The past two years, Spivey-Spinner was in Miami. This year, she might be in London for a release party for her book, "Finding My Way Back."

And even though she won't be here Nov. 26, locals can pick up a copy of her book downtown or order on her website. Unlike her first book, "Dear Self: Can I Talk

to You," this one is organized in chapters and intended to help guide others going through pain. Her first was a free flow of thoughts, directed back to herself. She says writing has been her stress reliever since elementary school — a way to pour out her pain and anger to process her emotions.

"Her first book went into her personal life to explain how she became who she is now," said Brandon Baker, a friend and owner of Floral Essence. "A lot of people meet her and may not understand her, so the book helps others to know where she is coming from."

Through a mutual friend, Baker learned about the passing of Spivey-Spinner's mother and donated a large funeral wreath for her service because the story of the sudden loss touched him. It wasn't until later, when Spivey-Spinner stopped into his shop to buy flowers, that she learned of his generosity. The two became friends.

Baker will sell "Finding My Way Back" in his shop, just as he did the first book. He believes Spivey-Spinner's story can help a lot of people. "Her books are inspirational," he said.

Her second book tackles pain and how to heal.



“A lot of people think that because they’re hurt and going through pain that they can’t heal,” the author said. “But you have to walk through pain to actually know what you’re hurting from to come out of it.”

In “Finding My Way Back,” Spivey-Spinner opens up about several painful personal experiences. As a teen, she inflicted self-injury by burning herself. She was also bullied — ridiculed for dressing like a boy, called a dyke and even tazed by a fellow high school student. She also endured a six-year abusive relationship.

She does not shy away from the subjects of death and living with loss. In addition to the death of her mother, Spivey-Spinner’s father died when she was 7, and she has lost friends due to gun violence.

## LINGERING LOSS

Three years ago, Spivey-Spinner was working as a model in Miami but returned to Syracuse when her mother was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

While her mother was in surgery to have her kidney removed, doctors found cirrhosis of the liver, which involves loss of liver cells and irreversible scarring of the organ. The family was told it was terminal.

“It was a big surprise,” she said, noting her father also died from cancer.

Her mother went into hospice care that October and passed away in November. Spivey-Spinner spent every day next to her mother’s side.

Now she wears her mother’s ashes around her neck, knowing her mother is still watching over her. “I think about her a lot,” she said, as she reached under her T-shirt to pull out a silver capsule affixed to a chain.

She shares a memory about their close relationship. In 2013, when Spivey-Spinner was featured in Curve magazine, the first phone call she made was to her mother, who immediately went to Barnes & Noble to buy every copy. “She’s not here in the physical any longer, but I still want to keep it (my progress) going and make an impact.”

Recently she launched a docuseries to address topics such as depression, bullying and suicide. She says she dealt with bullying all her life and now knows that just because people might be different doesn’t mean they should be disrespected. In the first docuseries episode, she revisits her mother’s old home. The second episode — to be released soon — will open at her father’s grave.

It was while on a modeling assignment in Los Angeles that she came up with the idea. “After meeting a producer, I realized I have a story to tell,” she said. He advised her to wear blinders to others’ negativity and follow her purpose.

She now works as an androgynous model, meaning one who has a combination of masculine and feminine physical characteristics. She is booked at least once a month and is regularly featured in Inked magazine, among others.



> Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner, who works regularly as a model, says she grew up without any role models, scared to be herself. Through her outreach work, books and online docuseries, she hopes to encourage youth to be comfortable being themselves — without judgment. | Provided Photo

She got her first tattoo — a large cross on her upper arm — when she was 13, to cover up a burn she self-inflicted. In exchange for a bag of weed, the tattoo artist — in his own home — inked the cross into her arm accompanied by the words, “Only God can judge.”

“I’d light keys on fire and then singe my arms,” she said. Her tattoos, now covering 75 percent of her body, started as a way to hide the burns. While some teens who feel sad, distressed or overwhelmed by emotions act out by cutting, she spent years causing self-injury by burning her arms. Additional tattoos were added to cover those burns. Now she has more than 250 tattoos.

Because many kids don’t have an outlet, she hopes her docuseries can help. “If I had had a ‘me’ when I was growing up, I think the outcome would have been so different.”

## MAKING HER MARK

Joining the police force has been a dream since childhood. Then the police raided her mother’s home, annihilating that vision before she turned 10.

“I never knew anything about hating cops or running from cops,” she said. “Then when they raided my mother’s house, I never saw anything like that. They

## ONLINE SERIES

To watch her **docuseries**, visit [youtube.com/therealholliwood](https://youtube.com/therealholliwood)

The series is filmed and edited by **A.J. Williams**, owner of Unorthodox Studios. He met Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner when she was an up-and-coming local promoter.

He continues to work with her, he said, because when she has an idea, she makes it happen. “She definitely grinds.”

He believes the series, which first aired in September, can help many going through depression by sharing her life story and how she persevered. He envisions that in the future, the series will share others’ stories of overcoming depression, with Spivey-Spinner serving as the host.

“This series addresses topics many chose to ignore,” Williams said. “And when people are getting so depressed that they are taking their own lives, this will show that you can use that energy as fuel to do better things ... to make something positive out of it.”

# BECOMING A MODEL

“One day I thought to myself, let me see what I look like all dressed up with lipstick — dressed like ... a ... I don’t know ... a *real feminine woman*,” Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner said.

She tried it, posted pictures and said it blew up.

It wasn’t until later that she learned about being an androgynous model, one who has a combination of masculine and feminine physical characteristics.

Now she gets booked at least once a month for different shoots and travels for each assignment.

“I feel like I have definitely opened the door for women like me.”



> Tattoos of Malcolm X and Marilyn Monroe cover the hands of Shaunna L. Spivey-Spinner. | Emily Elconin, Staff Photo

trashed everything.”

Her older brother, who was living there, too, was selling drugs. Next, he was incarcerated for two years.

“After that, I hated the cops,” she said. “They took someone from me who I loved.”

At that young age, she says, she didn’t understand.

Then in 2010, her friend Tavorn Hunter was shot and killed while being robbed in the parking lot of the Middle East Market on State Street.

“Tavorn was like my mentor,” she said.

His death sparked Project X Nonviolence, a group Spivey-Spinner created to bridge the gap between residents and cops. After Hunter’s death, she organized her first protest on Facebook.

“When I started, I didn’t know what to do,” she said. “I had no strategy or grand plan. I didn’t even know my voice yet.”

She marched with the group, wearing all black, down Salina Street to City Hall, where anger emitted from each protester, even in the silence. After hours of standing, she and the others were invited upstairs to speak with Chief of Police Frank Fowler of the Syracuse Police Department.

That first protest taught her the importance of taking a stand.

“I learned that my presence has an impact,” she recalled. “Now the spotlight was on me, and I realized I

needed to figure out what I wanted to say.”

She says that since then, the community’s outrage at local violence has grown.

“Honestly, there’s even more anger now,” she said, noting that much is directed at the police.

But her personal perspective on police has changed because she has seen the violence continue and has gotten to know some officers locally.

“I see where they are coming from and how hard it is for them to do their job when minorities won’t talk to them because of the stigma against police,” she said. She also believes that cops put a stigma on urban residents because they assume no one is willing to help.

“I’ve told them, in order for us to help you, you’ve got to help us,” she said. “That’s why I once again want to be a cop — because I think I can relate to the people out here.”

In May, she passed the civil service exam, starting her journey toward enrolling in the Syracuse Police Academy. She went from 116 to 145 pounds, much in muscle mass gained through daily gym visits. The dedicated workouts are in preparation for the police academy, which has a battery of physical requirements that candidates must meet, proving they are physically capable.

“I had never broke 120 pounds in my whole life,” she said with a laugh about the weight gain.

“Results are addicting.”



# Timothy Jennings-Bey

*Nominated by Helen Hudson*

By | Ashley Kang  
*The Stand director*

**Q: What did it feel like when you became a father?**

A: I was ecstatic. I didn't have a preference for a boy or girl. I just prayed the baby would be healthy. We were going to have the sex be a surprise, but the nurse didn't know. When they did the sonogram she announced it ... "I think I see a little ..." Surprise went out the window and then we knew we were having a boy.

**Q: What can you share about your son?**

A: I named him Samir after my father Sam, who was a heavy influence on my life. He is 9 and in fourth grade at Syracuse Latin School. He is strong-willed, which comes from my wife. He's a champion for justice and doesn't like to see anybody wronged. And of course he's got my charm and silliness. From my father to my son, I see that same charm. And my son's demeanor, especially if he puts a hat on a certain way, I can see my dad in him. My father died in '98, so he never got to meet Samir.

**Q: What was your relationship like with your father?**

A: He is why I'm a good father. He's like a man of steel and a man of velvet, all in one. My admiration for my dad is large in part because of that. He never sat me down and explained this is how you become a man. He just modeled by behavior.

**Q: Is there a saying you remember hearing growing up?**

A: My father asked me one day if I wanted to know the secret to living a long time. His answer: Mind your business, which I come to find to be profound.

**Q: What is unique about the father's role?**

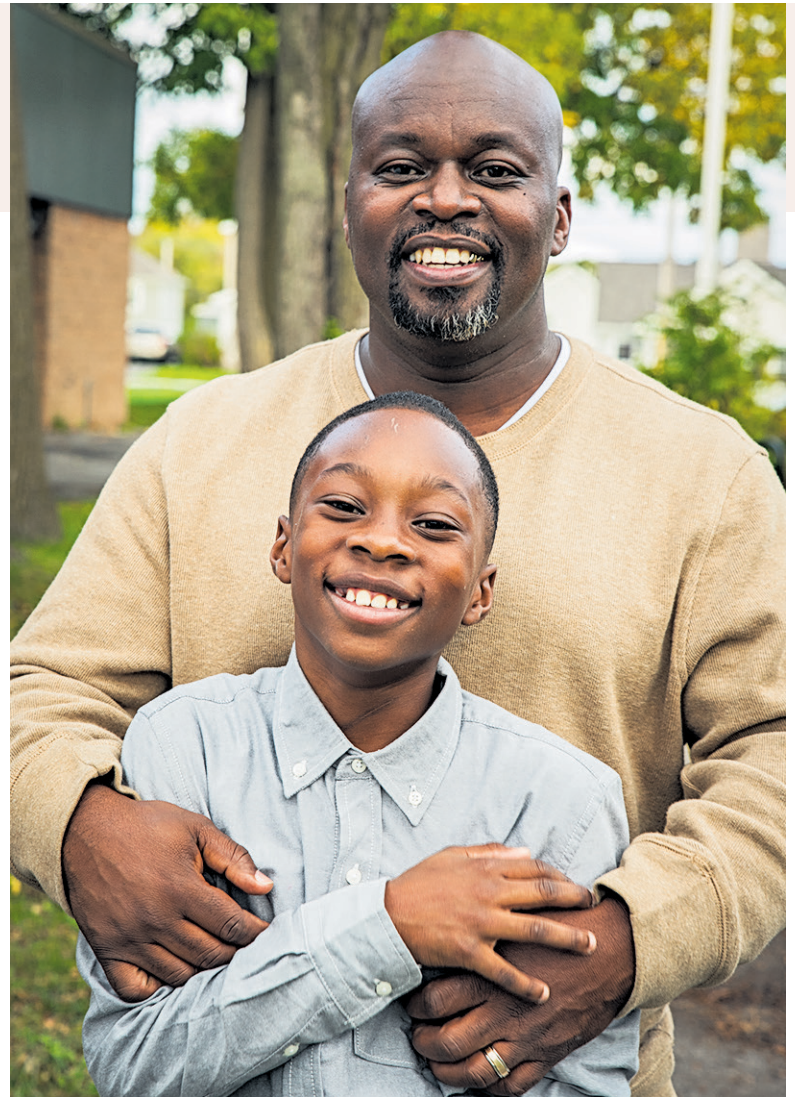
A: I've come to find out fatherhood is a very fine line to walk. But it is necessary, especially in the environments we come from, to be able to be stern and then to give a hug and a kiss on the cheek, which is also rare for men in our culture.

**Q: Is there anything you do as a father that would surprise people?**

A: I think my affection. He's still young, so I try to get it all in now, because I know as he grows older there will be a time when it won't happen. It's important because of the bonding. I've tried to create memories so he can hold on to them and smile, just like my dad did with me.

**Q: Are there any special moments or traditions your family has?**

A: The funniest is the cake smash. Doesn't matter how young or how old, you're going to get a piece of cake smashed in your face on your birthday. And just like any other family, we unite for the holidays and have cookouts in the summer. We reminisce, and I talk about my dad a lot because that's a huge gap for the family during those times. Summer is the best because we have extended family over and sit out and talk all night.



**MEET FATHER TIMOTHY "NOBLE":** Jennings-Bey, 44, serves as the director of the Trauma Response Team and is CEO of the Street Addiction Institute, Inc. He has a son, Samir, 9, with his wife, Najah Salaam Jennings-Bey. | Ben Cleeton, Staff Photo

**Q: Any advice for first-time dads?**

A: Be present. Be in the moment. Those years, you won't get back. From 1 to 4, you can't get those in-between years back. So cherish every moment and every year.

**Q: Final thoughts?**

A: I know sometimes marriages or relationships don't work out and children are born out of those unions, but stay loyal to the process and the child. As men, we can never put ourselves on the level of women, because a woman is the gateway to this reality. If nothing else, respect that. If you ever run into a situation where you can't get along, just remember that, because ultimately we all came through women. You came from your mother. I see a lot of times people put children in positions where they become bargaining chips, when in actuality they should be treated like jewelry. You wouldn't take your finest necklace or rainbow watch to any jeweler. You'd make sure you took it to the top of the line. So that's how I treat my son. I make sure I spit-polish him every day.

*"Fatherhood is a very fine line to walk"*



## JOVAN'S HORSES

The names of Jovan Daniel's horses over the years include:

- Ghost
- Fidel
- Kody
- Zafiera
- Doc

In 2010, Daniel said every horse has his or her own personality.

"You have one horse that's really goofy and nibbles your shirt and licks you in the face," he said with a laugh. "Then you have a horse that's a slow poke and you have to really get going so he knows that you mean business."

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*South Sider's equestrian dream from childhood is being realized*

By | Katelyn Faubel  
*Urban Affairs reporter*

**Jovan Daniel will graduate as an equestrian seven years after appearing in *The Stand***

Jovan Daniel has felt drawn to horses since he first saw a group of them being fed and groomed on a University of Minnesota campus some 20 years back. His mother, Roshana Daniel, was studying for a degree in psychology. He was barely beyond kindergarten, but so clearly fascinated with the sleek, muscular animals that the college caretakers allowed him into the barn for a closer look.

These days, he is the one in college, where he rides and cares for horses as part of his studies.

"She thought it was a phase," Daniel said, referring to his mother, in a recent interview. "But I was immediately hooked."

By the time he reached middle school, he found out a person could train as an equestrian in college. He saw his life's goal laid out in front of him. "It was pretty much a wrap at that point," he said.

Where did Daniel's interest come from?

"I don't have a horse background," Roshana Daniel said. "I'm not such a lover of animals, so he really had a huge learning curve."

Still, her son's fascination may be natural.

"I tell people that it kind of skipped a generation because my grandmother is from a farm," she said.

As a toddler, Daniel did not care much for cartoons on television. He preferred watching nature programs. When he was young, he fantasized about turning into a horse and then gravitated to wanting to be a jockey, his mother said.

After he outgrew the average height and weight of jockeys, Daniel's mother encouraged him to do more volunteer work and less riding. She said she hoped to direct him in a path that didn't include as much riding.

"I thought for sure this is going to knock that right out," she said. "But he just grew to love it even more."

The two moved to Chicago, Roshana Daniel's hometown, after she graduated from the University of Minnesota. When Daniel was 8 years old, they moved from Chicago to the South Side of Syracuse. That's where Roshana Daniel's sister lived with her own 8-year-old son. They lived there until Daniel was in high school.

Daniel would wake up at 5 or 6 a.m. during the summer to take the city bus to do volunteer work at a couple of barns near Syracuse, his mother said. She met



> Jovan Daniel spends time with one of his horses outside of training at St. Andrews University. | Provided Photo

a bus driver a couple of months ago who remembered her son, saying he used to drive him to the barn where he volunteered each morning.

"He wanted to know how he's doing and if he's still riding," she said. "It really does take a village. It was a community effort. Everyone helped because I couldn't always do everything."

After graduating from Corcoran High School, Daniel started college at Morrisville State College. Three years later, he decided to take a year off — from 2014 to 2015 — to work as an intern for a horse trainer at a sales barn in New Jersey. He also had an apprenticeship with the trainer in Florida.

He then transferred to St. Andrews University, in Laurinburg, North Carolina, where he plans to graduate in May 2018 with a bachelor of arts in equine business management and a concentration in equestrian riding.

While he doesn't own a horse, he rides customers'

### SUGGEST A STORY

Is there a person you're curious about who previously has been featured in *The Stand*?

To submit an idea for a future *Where Are They Now?* story, contact Ashley Kang by email at [ashley@mysouthsidedstand.com](mailto:ashley@mysouthsidedstand.com) or call (315) 882-1054





horses in each horse's discipline. At school, he said, there are horses that come from all walks of life, which "helps us riders become more versatile."

Daniel's goal is to become a professional rider who is a world-renowned jumper rider. He eventually wants to be a part of the U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team.

"I see it as a job that I completely love that doesn't seem like work," he said. "So why not get paid to do something you love doing?"

His mother said she thinks people really gravitated to her son when he was growing up and enjoyed having him around because he opened up a door that they didn't know existed.

"They really pushed and encouraged him because he was kind of a unicorn in our community, so to speak," she said. "Even now people are asking, 'How are you doing with those horses?' when he comes home."

She said as a child, her son didn't see black men on horses. Even now, she said not that many people of color are in the professional level of riding he wants to do. He



> In 2010, Jovan Daniel worked at a stable in Nedrow to earn riding time. | File Photo

gives kids the courage "to be OK being the only one, which is tough," she said.

Roshana Daniel said class and economic differences are what her son struggled with more than anything growing up. He had to work hard for the things that people he knew were being given so easily.

Coming from the South Side, she often was asked by people how she pushed her son to go to school and study. She said she tried to encourage and develop his interests. She also wants parents to know that doing that on any level is important because parents never know where that's going to take them.

Emily Szabo is the barn operator at Cedar View Farm in Cazenovia. Three years ago, when she met Daniel, she put him on higher-end horses, jumpers and difficult ones. She said he takes the time to see what upsets them and what can make them the best they can be.

"He appreciates the horse for who they are and not what they're worth or what they can provide for him," she said. "He appreciates what he can learn from them."

Tharyn French, a teammate at St. Andrews University, describes him this way: "Jovan is bold, confident and eccentric. That's also his riding style." She added that she thinks he has matured a lot and has become a strong rider in the past year.

French said that he has been there for her almost every step of the way in the past year.

"Jovan always has my back, which is pretty hard to find," she said.

Roshana Daniel said that at the schools her son has attended, he has been the first or the only riding student that she knows of who is a black male. She thinks it's great that it doesn't faze him that he may be the only black male at his college.

"I talk to him about that stuff because sometimes it's good to see people like you," she said. "But it's really telling of the places and friends he's around because it's not a big deal. Those things kind of disappear after you get to know someone."

## RIDING STYLE

Jovan Daniel competes in the hunt seat equitation discipline, which is a type of English-style horseback riding.

In hunt seat competitions, riders are judged in categories that include flatwork, riding without jumps and jumping.

Daniel rides with IHSA, the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, which judges riders on their equitation — the art and practice of horsemanship and horse riding — and not on the horse's performance.

— Source: usef.org



ON THE SIDE

ABOUT THE SERIES

Many people think of the police force as one unit, like a tribe with a single identity. But beyond the blue of the uniform, each police officer is unique. This project takes you inside the lives of the chief and several officers in Syracuse, showing that the force is truly a collection of individuals. Given the country's major news events involving the police over the past few years, and because this is a city where the minority population has very nearly become the majority, we pay special attention to minority officers in this project. They account for just one in every 10 officers, though Syracuse is 45 percent minority. Our project is not intended to be either "positive" or "negative," but rather an honest and powerful look at this complex issue — all with the hope that it improves police and community relations.

Yet while race matters, it is not everything. As the new chief in Ferguson, Missouri, told a reporter on our team, when citizens see police, they don't see individuals or race, "They see you as blue."

READ MORE

Next month, *The Stand* will feature more stories and photos from *They Wear Blue*.

# POLICE DREAMS

*Class gives high schoolers head start toward law enforcement careers*



> Maj. Jamie Bazdaric talks to a student before the start of physical fitness training. Bazdaric has structured the curriculum in a way that prepares students for the law enforcement career field. | Bryan Cereijo, *They Wear Blue* Photographer

By |Max Jakubowski  
*They Wear Blue* reporter

*The instructor hopes the class preps students while improving others' perceptions of police*

Strumming a guitar inside his friend's home on a spring evening, Ehblue Htoo paused and looked up.

"Don't we need a bass player for Sunday's service?" he asked his friends and pastor during a weekly youth worship group meeting.

His pastor nodded, and Ehblue, known as "Blu" to his friends, confirmed he'd play bass on Sunday.

The Syracuse high school student, originally from Thailand and no more than 5-foot-6 and 110 pounds, has always found music as an avenue of happiness. While music and his service at his church are mainstays in his life, "Blu" does have an ultimate career goal.

To become a cop.

cery store to help support his family. When he's not working, he can be found at the gym, meticulously practicing his jump shot in pursuit of basketball dreams.

"I'm constantly trying to get better," Correa said.

In a few years, though, Correa might not be lacing up Nike basketball shoes but rather fitting into a pair of police duty boots.

He, too, wants to become a cop.

\*\*\*\*

The extraordinary goal Htoo and Correa share is being shaped within the halls of a city school building.

\*\*\*\*

Htoo (pronounced "too") and Correa were part of a 16-student junior class last year in the law enforcement track at the Public Service Leadership Academy, a career and technical school at Fowler High School. PSLA offers four "academies" with 10 pathways for students to choose from, including law enforcement.

The class prepares students for a career in law enforcement, including the possibility of becoming a

John Correa works 17 hours per week at a local gro-

\*\*\*\*



police officer.

In 2014, the Syracuse school board voted to replace Fowler with PSLA. The two schools had shared the same building since 2014, but only PSLA remains after last year's final Fowler senior class graduated.

"Prior to freshman year, I was planning to go to Henninger (High School) but was assigned to PSLA. I really tried to transfer to Henninger," Htoo recalled with a grin.

When a school district representative called him to tell him about the new PSLA program and listed its pathways, law enforcement caught Htoo's attention.

But his friends were skeptical.

"They said, 'You are Asian and too small,'" Htoo recalled.

His teacher, retired Army military police Maj. Jamie Bazdaric, joined PSLA as a law enforcement instructor in March 2016 and is now the full-time director of the law enforcement track.

As part of the first responder academy, Bazdaric, or as his students call him, "Major B," prepares his students for a life of service and sacrifice, especially if they want to become police officers.

"They have to be dedicated and understand what they are committing themselves to," Bazdaric said.

He describes the law enforcement track as a "great vehicle" to become employable, but more importantly, get his students to graduate.

As part of the school's law enforcement curriculum, Bazdaric helps his students achieve five industry-level certifications and 10 credit hours toward college criminal

justice courses.

In addition, students are exposed to agencies in the area, including the district attorney's office, the Syracuse Police Department and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. These agencies all offer internship programs during and after high school.

Uniform inspections and workouts are also major points of emphasis in the curriculum, with PT training held every week. Some specific lessons include handcuff techniques and use-of-force training sessions.

"Kids come here, and they want to be cops and learn the fun stuff, but anyone in law enforcement will tell you physical training and uniform preparedness are key elements," Bazdaric said.

*"I think they all want to be cops to be able to do good things for the community."*

— Samjana Thapa,  
PSLA student

## 10 TECH TRACKS

The school offers 10 career "pathways" for students.

At the Public Service Leadership Academy, high school students can choose among four academies. Students spend their freshman year attending classes from all the pathways before committing to one for the remainder of high school. The four academies and their pathways:

### First Responder Academy

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Rescue
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Forensic Science/Crime Scene Investigations

### Homeland Security Academy

- Computer Forensic
- Cybersecurity
- Geospatial Intelligence

### Military Science Academy

- Navy JROTC

### Entrepreneurial Academy

- Cosmetology/Barbering
- Electrical Trades



> Last year's sophomore class lines up for uniform inspections that they're expected to undergo every Tuesday. | Bryan Cereijo, They Wear Blue Photographer



ON THE SIDE

# GETTING ON TRACK

Career Technical Education (CTE) programs aim to empower all students through innovative partnerships that build technical, academic and professional leadership skills for college and career success.

The Syracuse City School District offers CTE programs in its five high schools. Prior to high school, eighth-grade SCSD students can opt to attend the school offering the CTE experience that best matches their aspirations.

Career opportunities in the law enforcement track include:

- Private investigator
- FBI agent
- State trooper
- Secret Service agent
- U.S. Marshal
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent

— Source: Syracuse City School District CTE website



> Ehblue Htoo was the top student in last year’s law enforcement track. Htoo’s instructor, Maj. Jamie Bazdaric, said he plans to recommend Htoo for the district attorney’s office internship program. | Bryan Cereijo, They Wear Blue Photographer

Bazdaric works to mend perceptions of the police not only in his class but through the entire school. In some instances, the class will run drills through hallways or use radios throughout the school day while wearing their police uniforms.

Bazdaric wants the other PSLA students to see how their classmates are working hard to become cops but are still friendly and cordial with everyone. He said this goes a long way to projecting a high-quality image of police by others moving forward.

When talking to prospective eighth-graders interested in the law enforcement pathway, Bazdaric centered his “pitch” around three main points: certification, college and community.

He tries to sell parents on those three objectives, saying their kids will pass certifications to help with future employment, earn college credit and also go through high school in a firm, yet caring, atmosphere.

The recruiting pitch seems to be working. Bazdaric hasn’t heard many parents tell him they’re worried about their child training to become a cop. Instead, many parents are supportive and believe disciplined training is good for their children in the long haul.

Correa, who is of Puerto Rican descent and hails from the east side of town, said his mother, uncle and grandmother have supported his decision to be a cop since Day One.

“(They’ve) given me all the support there is,” Correa said.

Entering the track, Correa was not the biggest fan of police in general, but after learning the history of police and basic training in the law enforcement class, he started to think more like a cop.

“This course is building me up to become a leader and a police officer at the same time,” Correa said.

In March 2017, the class suffered a tragedy when classmate Kevin LaShomb died suddenly. LaShomb was Correa’s best friend; Correa credited him as one reason he joined the law enforcement pathway.

“We had to become closer to go through that,” Correa said. “You can’t go through that alone, and now we are a really tight pack.”

Bazdaric credited both Htoo and Correa for stepping up to help keep the class together during that difficult time.

“The biggest growth experience hasn’t been a test, it’s been the loss of a classmate,” Bazdaric said.

Besides training and studying, the class also discusses local policing matters. A Father’s Day shooting in June 2016 that left one man dead from officer fire generated a lot of conversation in the city of Syracuse and its surrounding neighborhoods.

An SPD officer shot and killed a man who had pulled a gun. A grand jury later found the officer justified



for firing her weapon.

Outside of class, Correa said the incident was the only time he'd heard his family and friends speak differently about SPD.

"They would say the scenario was wrong and messed up, but I protected the SPD, saying they were doing their job," he said.

Htoo agreed, saying SPD is just performing its duties: to protect the community.

"They are human, too," he said. "They want to get home to their family. What they do is necessary."

Bazdaric said he believes the opportunity to make a difference and see diversity in police is what drives all his students, specifically Htoo and Correa.

In 2016, SPD had only 10.5 percent, or 47 out of 445 sworn officers, identify as a minority. That is below the national average of 27 percent.

Bazdaric said students are interested in joining the law enforcement track while in high school because they have a "desire to go into a track that gives them the ability to make a change or be a part of something and make a difference."

He added that he's encountered changing perspectives of police not only in his class, but also throughout the school.

"The change they are making is already happening here at this school," he said.

Samjana Thapa, a junior computer forensics student

at PSLA, said she and the rest of the student body have noticed the impact the law enforcement class has had on the school.

"They always seem so focused when they wear their uniforms and practice running in the hallways," she said. "I think they all want to be cops to be able to do good things for the community."

Bazdaric said Fowler/PSLA has transformed from one of the lowest academic performing high schools in the state to a school that receives attendance awards and has a higher graduation rate.

Bazdaric said he believes both Htoo and Correa have incredible potential.

"John is intelligent and personable," he said. "He has an ability to lead and he wants to learn. Ehbblue is a high honor roll student and a classroom leader."

Bazdaric plans to recommend Htoo for the district attorney's office internship program.

Htoo said he's grateful for the relationships and connections Bazdaric and the leadership academy have provided, especially the police career connections he's already made.

For Correa, the class was about motivating himself to attain his aspiration of becoming a police officer. He said from the class he learned "the integrity and will to keep moving forward."

Correa said: "You need that ending fire to keep going and complete what you want to."



> John Correa and his peers stand at attention during PT training. The physical fitness exam to become a police officer requires certain standards. Those under the age of 29 must be able to run 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes and 38 seconds. | Bryan Cereijo, They Wear Blue Photographer

## MORE COP OUTREACH

The Syracuse Police Department holds many community engagement events each year, including:

- Student vs. officer chess games at Southside Academy Charter School
- SPD vs. Syracuse Fire Department charity basketball game
- D.A.R.E. Karate Championships
- Biweekly Southwest Community Center meetings with gang-affiliated members
- Civilian Police Academy to teach residents about community policing tactics and efforts
- "Coffee with the Chief" and "Shop with a Cop" events for enhanced community-department interaction
- Police/community dialogue sessions focused on various topics and issues affecting the city
- Electronics recycling event to benefit Butternut Community Police Center



ON THE SIDE

STUDENT COMMENTS

“I have never had an interaction with the police, but I have seen them treat others sometimes in a good way and sometimes in a bad way.”

— 18-year-old, white, female, senior at Corcoran High School

“I’ve had police that were off-duty stop and help us off of the highway when our vehicle ran out of gas, and police have driven me and my friend home when the buses stopped running.”

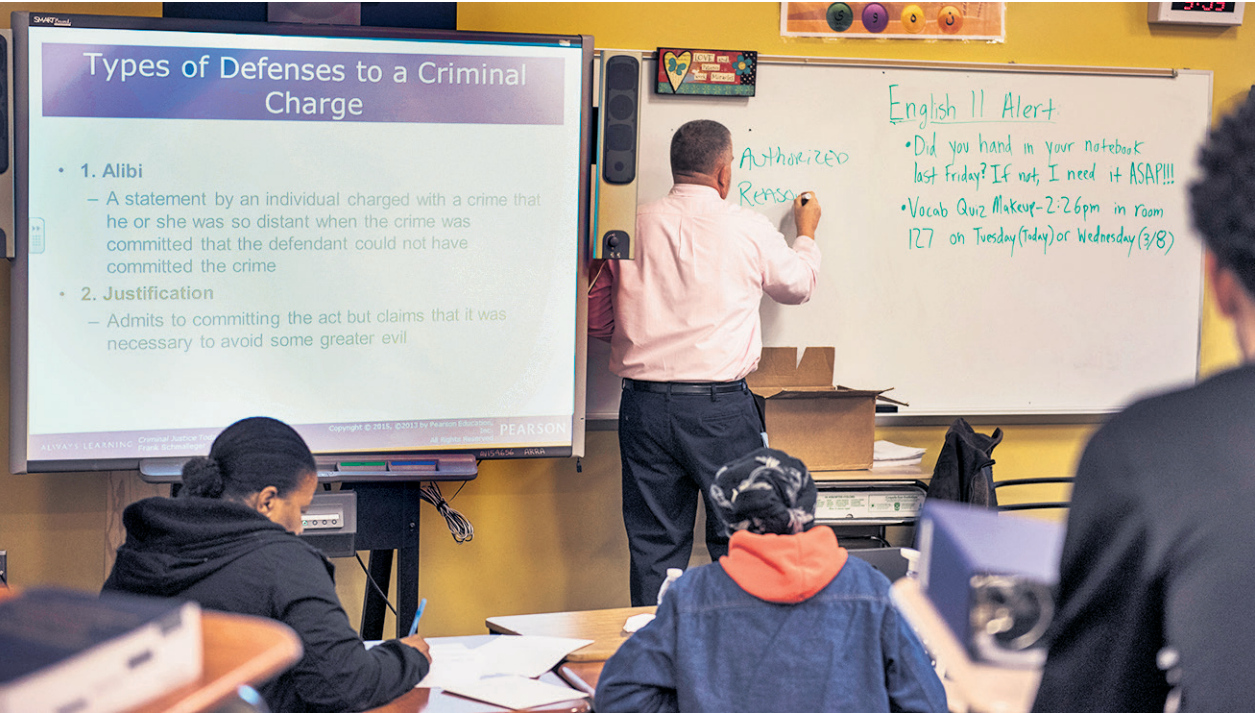
— 16-year-old, black, female, senior at Corcoran High School

“Over an incident at a family member’s house from what I remember, the officer that came was very, very rude and was cursing — even though everyone was calm and answering questions.”

— 18-year-old, race unidentified, female, senior at Fowler High School

# PERSONAL LEVEL

Survey shows students’ view of police changes at the schoolhouse doors



> Students in the Public Service Leadership Academy discuss laws governing the police during a classroom session last school year. | Bryan Cereijo, They Wear Blue Photographer

By | E.Jay Zarett  
They Wear Blue reporter

## Most get to know officers at school, but on the streets, minorities may be less trusting

Syracuse city students tend to have positive interactions with police officers stationed in their schools, according to a survey conducted by the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. But the survey found that those attitudes change when teens deal with officers outside of that setting.

The survey also found that black, Latino and Asian respondents were more likely than white students to agree with the statement that police unfairly target minorities.

The survey asked respondents 40 questions in all about their interactions and experiences with police officers and law enforcement. A total of 184 students from four different high schools in the Syracuse City School District completed the survey in their government classes last school year.

The survey results cannot be said to represent the views and experiences of all Syracuse students for certain, but they do offer reasonably accurate insight into the experiences of many of them.

Ninety-five percent of respondents were seniors and 86 percent were older than 17. Fifty-two percent of those who took the survey identify as black, 15 percent as white, and just over 10 percent each as Latino or Asian.

As a whole, the city of Syracuse population is about 55 percent white, 29 percent black, 8 percent Latino and 7 percent Asian, according to the 2015 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Students were asked 13 questions relating specifically to their interactions with officers assigned to their high schools — known as resource officers.

Just 5 percent of respondents said the officers’ presence on school grounds made them feel uneasy, compared with 48 percent who said the officers made them feel safer.

“The police in our school are kind,” a 19-year-old female from Corcoran High School said in the survey. “They do everything they can to keep us safe and in a good mood.”

Almost three-quarters of respondents said they knew the name of at least one officer who worked in their school and 94 percent responded that an officer had helped, or offered to help, with a problem that had arisen. Ninety-five percent of students said an officer had engaged them in a personal conversation on at least one occasion.

“The police in my school are very good people,”



one 18-year-old female Corcoran High School senior wrote in the survey. “They don’t always try to be aggressive but they try to make us as safe as possible. They do their jobs!”

Anthony Davis, the Syracuse City School District’s assistant superintendent for high schools and career tech education, said that the number of resource officers stationed at each school varies by student enrollment. Davis estimated that two officers and six to eight school sentries — monitors responsible for patrolling the hallways — are on duty at one time in Henninger High School, Syracuse’s largest with 1,745 students. In total, 19,951 students are enrolled in the district, according to the New York State Education Department.

Davis said he was not surprised by the students’ positive responses regarding resource officers.

“They are doing some of the preventive measures that will keep kids from getting into a situation where something is illegal,” Davis said. “I think in that sense they may be seen as a positive resource versus someone who is constantly after them for something that they’ve done wrong.”

Delores Jones-Brown, the founding director of John Jay College’s Center on Race, Crime and Justice, has conducted extensive research on police-community relations and juvenile justice. She said students become more trusting of police officers when they begin to know them on a personal level.

“(I’ve found that) the symbolic police officer is something that young people might not care for,” Jones-Brown said. “But, when they have an opportunity to interact with the police on a non-intrusive basis, they can see that the individual police officers are OK.”

Student responses changed when they were asked about their feelings toward — and interactions with — police officers outside of school.

Davis said this shift was most likely caused by the environment in which students deal with the officers.

“Once you’re in a school, the officer isn’t the primary source,” Davis said. “They are not directly in charge. They only take over if the building asks them to, or if they see something illegal. So, they have means to create relationships. On the street, once they are called, they’re in total control from that moment. I think they come in with a different attitude, one of self-preservation that nothing happens to them.

“I’m not saying that the situations that the officers have to deal with are always easy or simple. These things are very complicated. But, I think our kids are simplifying it, and they feel like there is wrongdoing at times and they are internalizing that.”

Just 36 percent of all respondents said that they somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement, “I trust the police.”

That number shrank to just 29 percent of students

who identified as black or Latino, while 58 percent of white respondents and 63 percent of Asian respondents somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement.

“I’ve had almost no direct contact with police,” said a female 17-year-old senior at the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central. “But, I generally do not feel safe around them out of fear that they may assault me.”

Forty-seven percent of students indicated they somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement that police unfairly target teenagers, and only 30 percent said that they felt as if the police trusted them.

Fifty-nine percent of black, 53 percent of Asian and 52 percent of Latino respondents said that they somewhat or strongly agreed that police unfairly target minorities. Just 25 percent of white students who participated in the survey responded in the same way.

Jones-Brown said that students may feel more positively toward the officers in their schools because of the consistent interactions they have with them.

“Because the officers are encountering the young people on a daily basis, there’s not that fear based on the unknown,” Jones-Brown said. “Too often (officers) are being trained to think that they are going to be under attack. They don’t understand that when they start out in an agitated state, then it agitates the civilian. I think that the familiarity that the (resource officers) have with the students reduces stereotypes, specifically negative stereotypes, and reduces the level of fear that would be involved in interacting with a young person.”

Forty-seven percent of respondents said they had been a passenger in a car that was pulled over by the police, while 9 percent said they had been the driver of a vehicle that was stopped.

Two-thirds of students, however, responded that they had never spoken with a parent or other adult about what to do in that situation or if they are approached by an officer on the street.

John Klofas, a professor of criminal justice at the Rochester Institute of Technology and director of The Center for Public Safety Initiatives, said he would have expected more students to have had this conversation with an adult or authority figure.

“These concerns in many ways are very prevalent in the minds of young people and presumably the minds of parents,” Klofas said. “Over the years I’ve spent a lot of time talking to people about this very issue.”

Davis said this could be because many students in the district rely on peers for information.

“I don’t know if our kids today are conscious in having those conversations,” Davis said. “I think the anger and perceptions are so deeply woven into their experiences that to have those conversations would be difficult for them. I think they don’t know how to handle their emotions, so therefore you don’t talk about it and I think that is extremely problematic.”

## MORE COMMENTS

“Nice, friendly, not rude like everyone else says they are.”

— 17-year-old, white, female, senior at Fowler High School

“Some are nice and some take the situation too far. Fourth of July, police officers came to my neighbors’ house and told them to be quiet and then they were yelling and cussing at us because we were doing fireworks.”

— 19-year-old, black, female, senior at Fowler High School

“I’ve seen the local police help out a lot, but the media sometimes portrays the police as bad guys.”

— 18-year-old, Asian, male, senior at Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central

## BOOK CLUB TEEN EVENT

**What:** Teen Graphic Novel and Comic Book Club — Native American Heritage Month edition

**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18

**Where:** Hazard Branch Library, 1620 W. Genesee St.

**Details:** Join library staff for a discussion of “Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection” by Matt Dembicki. “Trickster” is available FREE online through Hoopla. All you need is your library card. Attendees will discuss the book, eat pizza and use the book as inspiration to work on their own graphic novels.

**More info:** Open to ages 13 through 19

# PHOTO FINISH

*ITC students team up with professional coaches for The Fall Workshop*



> Participants in The Fall Workshop at Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications practice focusing their cameras. | Jeff Newell, ITC media teacher

By | Jeff Newell  
ITC media teacher

Coaches help high school and undergraduate photographers hone their photography skills

Three Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central photography students, Katy Fermin, Ana McGough and Ellie Mayberry, attended The Fall Workshop at Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications as a part of the “Emerging Artists” team.

The Fall Workshop is a rigorously scheduled workshop that ran from Oct. 19-22. At this workshop, SU photography students work with professional photography coaches from around the globe on multimedia projects.

The “Emerging Artists” team consisted of eight students from high school and undergraduate photography classes from Syracuse and Georgia who worked with five professional photographers. I had the honor of volunteering as an assistant with this team, along with their coaches: Mike Roy, Linda Epstein, Michelle McLoughlin, Wasim Ahmad and Elisha Stasko.



> Students tested their skills in the field while at the fairgrounds. | Ellie Mayberry, The Fall Workshop participant

The students’ multimedia project, “Have Y’all Herd?” covered the “Showtacular Alpaca Show” at The Great New York State Fairgrounds. The project was shown at the workshop’s community show that weekend.

Katy is a senior who has studied media communications at ITC for four years and has an eye for detail in





> The “Emerging Artists” team poses during The Fall Workshop at Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications in October. | Jeff Newell, ITC media teacher



> Left, Ana McGough crouches to take a photo. Right, Katy Fermin aims her camera. | Jeff Newell, ITC media teacher

photography. She will continue to use her newly acquired photography skills in her photography internship opportunities at ITC high school this year.

Ana and Ellie are juniors who have already mastered their own personal DSLR, or digital single-lens reflex cameras, through portfolio workshops and critiques at ITC’s photography club and ITC’s summer photography enrichment classes. They both took their love for photography to a whole new level at the workshop.

They had the honor of meeting many inspiring photographers, including Ana’s favorite portrait photographer, Greg Heisler.

Ellie, who loves to photograph her own horse for her portfolio work, even had the wonderful opportunity to show an Alpaca (check out our selfie).



> Jeff Newell and Ellie Mayberry take a selfie with an alpaca during the “Showtacular Alpaca Show.” | Provided Photo

## AUTUMN FOR TEENS

**What:** Fall Festival

**When:** 5 p.m. Monday,  
Nov. 20

**Where:** Paine Branch  
Library, 113 Nichols Ave.

**Details:** Neighborhood teens are invited to celebrate fall at Paine’s Fall Festival. Enjoy classic fall foods such as apple cider, donuts, popcorn and, of course, pumpkin pie. Attendees also will add inspirations onto the library’s Thankful Tree.



UPCOMING  
SHOW

**What:** Tanksley to perform live

**When:** 10 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 28

**Where:** Otro Cinco, 206 S. Warren St.

**More info:** Visit [tanksleymusic.com](http://tanksleymusic.com)

BAND TOGETHER

*Tanksley members count on their good chemistry to keep performing*



> Justin Tanksley performs at one of his shows. | Provided Photo

By | Reggie Seigler  
*A Friendly Five columnist*

Local singer/songwriter Justin Tanksley has ‘a good voice and a lot of potential’

When I finally caught up to him, it didn’t surprise me that he was in the studio. Where else might you expect to find someone who says he’s written nearly 400 songs at only 23 years of age?

Justin Tanksley, or just Tanksley, as he prefers to be called professionally, is a singer/songwriter we should get to know now so that one day we can all say, “I knew him way back when.”

His talent and look combine with all the necessary characteristics to become a big star. With desire, motivation and good management, I think he can make it.

Nancy Kelly has worked with him for some time now. “Tanksley is just overflowing with talent,” she said.

Ronnie Leigh agrees. “Tanksley has a good voice and a lot of potential. I worked with him for a while when he was still in high school.”

Nancy is working with him now to further develop his writing skills, which in turn will improve his lyric

writing. “I want him to learn to use his voice as an instrument to tell a story within the songs he writes,” she said.

She also taught him some of the technical aspects of vocalizing, such as proper positioning of the voice to achieve power and resonance when singing. “He needs to learn all the rules, so when he wants to break them, he can break them with style,” she said, laughing.

Both Nancy and Ronnie speak from more than 40 years of professional experience as vocalists and instructors. Nancy was twice named “Best Female Jazz Vocalist” in Downbeat Magazine’s reader poll.

My first opportunity to observe Tanksley’s talent up close was about three or four years ago while I was doing my annual sound gig at the Great New York State Fair. He performed at the Pan African Village stage as a singer/guitarist, accompanied by backing tracks and a couple of school-age background singers. I recognized then that he had some potential, but I didn’t know how serious he was about his music until he brought in a full band earlier this year.

His band, which is also called Tanksley, consisted of a couple of other young musicians I had known from previous encounters on the same stage. To see them all working together blew me away. They draw from the



repertoires of Prince, John Legend, Jimi Hendrix and others while seamlessly infusing Tanksley's original songs into the mix.

Tanksley's throaty vocal tone blended with his clear and nearly pitch-perfect falsetto to breathe new life into each cover song he performed — making them as original as the ones he had written. He also switched back and forth from playing guitar to the keyboards.

The band's arrangements were creative, too. They are "totally Tanksley's," said drummer Trenell "Tre" Reid. "Tanksley's personality is a little different, but all of us have an individual weirdness about us that works together to form our chemistry," Tre said. "Tanksley, however, is extremely creative, and he comes up with stuff that is out of this world."

At 21, Tre is another veteran of the Pan African Village stage. He has performed there for a number of years with his father in the Jeff Houston Experience and with his father's own group, Burnell Reid and United Praise. Such opportunities helped him to establish his reputation in the area as a solid drummer while he was still a teenager.

Billy Harrison is another veteran of the stage. As with Tanksley, Billy's role in the band is that of a multi-tasker. Recently he tastefully rotated his duties back and forth between the bass guitar and the keyboard as the music called for it. Sometimes he'd even play both instruments at the same time or separately within one song.

At 28 years old, Billy is the elder statesman of the group. "He is the one who helped pull all the musicians together," Tre said. The group had been practicing for a little while and getting tight when Billy brought up the idea of adding another member.

He told them about Nick DiMario, a 19-year-old

who plays the trumpet. Billy thought Nick would add another element to the music, so the band decided to give him a shot. "Nick fit in right from the very first note," Tanksley said.

Tre noted, "It's like chemistry when you put certain elements together — they always have the same reaction."

The group is counting on that chemistry to work because a couple of the members have moved away, placing the band on hold for now.

Tre recently began his formal education at the Musician's Institute in Los Angeles and was named the 2017 winner of the Evans Drum Head Scholarship there. Nick, the youngest member, has returned to Manhattan School of Music for his sophomore year. Both want to keep in touch and record music through technology.

Crystal Tanksley, Tanksley's mother and manager, has been the silent force behind much of his success, he said.

"She is the one who books all the gigs, tells everyone where they need to be and what time to be there," Tanksley said. "She manages the website, promotes the band and everything else."

Crystal was responsible for Tanksley's chance-of-a-lifetime opening performance for Lalah Hathaway at Syracuse University in September. She is also working on an opportunity for him to tour Spain. The details haven't been worked out yet, but Tanksley hopes the entire band can participate.

If you can't make it to Spain, he anticipates playing at local restaurants and other establishments soon.

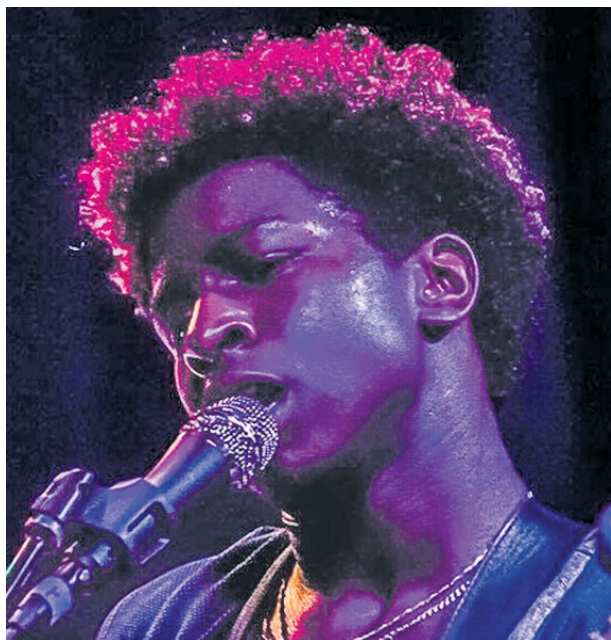
*Have A Friendly Five suggestion?*

*Contact Reggie at*

*reggie@softspokenband.com or (315) 479-9620*



> Justin Tanksley taught himself how to play piano and guitar. | Provided Photo



> A singer and songwriter, Justin Tanksley performs at a show. | Provided Photo

## HOW TO BOOK

Interested in booking Tanksley for an event? The band performs at colleges and universities, music festivals and other events throughout New York.

Connect with the band at [tanksleymusic.com](http://tanksleymusic.com)

For booking and management, email at [officialtanksley@gmail.com](mailto:officialtanksley@gmail.com)

## BEHIND THE NAME

Reggie Seigler's "A Friendly Five" column is named in memory of a singing group in which his two uncles — Mango Gray and George Gray — were members.

The group was called "The Friendly Five," and his uncles moved it from Clarksdale, Mississippi, to Syracuse in the 1950s.



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