

McCallister, CEO of Fortis Network, Inc., One of 25 Most Influential Hispanic Business Leaders in Arizona

Dustin Jones named a Most Admired Leader by the Phoenix Business Journal

Gloria Wyatt was honored by Arizona Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch on Law Day for her voluntary contributions as a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on



Kenja Hassan received a Phoenix MLK Living the Dream Award

Nico Willis, CEO or Network Services Inc., had a feature story in the New York Times Business Section on his company

Maricopa County NAACP selected Sharon Bramlett Soloman to receive their Education Award



Tamika Curry Smith appeared on KAET-TV8 to discuss diversity on corporate boards

J. Daryl Dorsey appointed to the Next Gen: Emerging Leaders Board for the Turnaround Management Association, Arizona Chapter

Robert Taylor elected to the Board of Arizona Theatre Company

Marshall Porter elected to the board of Stardust Foundation

The Black Women Lawyer's Association of Arizona selected Judge Monyette NyQuist to receive the 2013 Honorable Judge Jean William Award of Excellence

Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish.—Sam Walton

Change is the latest news to come out of Cuba, though for the Afro -Cubans... This is more dream than reality. The private sector in Cuba now enjoys a certain degree of economic liberation but blacks are not well positioned to take advantage of it. They are woefully underrepresented in tourismprobably the economy's most lucrative sectorand far less likely than whites to own their own business.-Robert Zorbano, Publisher and Editor, Casa de las America, NY Times, March 24, 2012

country as a racial democracy where people of different races have long intermarried, resulting in a large mixed race population. But, you need only turn on the TV, open the newspaper or stroll down the street to see clear evidence of segregation. In Brazil, whites are at the top of the social pyramid, dominating professions of wealth, prestige and power. Dark skin people are at the bottom of the heap, left to clean up after others and take care of their children and the elderly. - Associated Press, Arizona Republic, March 23, 2012

Many Brazilians cast their

The theme was "Realizing the Dream: Equality For All.'

Character and Fitness.





and

Ginger Spencer have been



selected as "40 Leaders Under 40" by the Phoenix **Business Journal** 

Laya Louise Gavin earned an MBA in Finance from Western International University



Roberta and Marvin Perry Congratulate her.

Maria Benson appeared in So Scottsdale! She was at the Go Red for Women cocktail reception.

Terence "Terry" Roberts, MD, JD, elected to the board of Scottsdale Cultural Council. Beverly Muhammad promoted to Assistant VP at North Central University

News From the Black Diaspora

In South Africa, white income earners make an average four times as much as blacks according to a recent study. According to National Planning Minister Trevor Manuel, South African officials should assume full responsibility for the nations problems and resist the temptation to continually blame apartheid.—Associated Press



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Yetyish Titi Aynaw was selected Miss Israel. She was born in Ethiopia, orphaned at 12. She and her brother overcame dangers on the treacherous route to Israel. Arriving in Netany, with no support network or family other than a grandfather, she graduated from high school, became an officer in the IDF Military Police and now runs a fashion boutique.—Arizona Jewish Life, April 2013

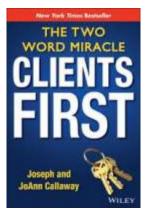


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The Two Word Miracle Clients First is a how to book for Real Estate Professionals that became a New York Times Best Seller by Joseph and JoAnn Callaway, local Valley of the Sun Realtors who climbed to the top of their profession.

Those Callaway's as they refer to themselves and their team, have been a force in the Valley of the Sun Real Estate since the late 1990's.

Their Real Estate journey began when they were 50. At that time, they encountered a life changing and financial rewarding experience in real estate. Prior to entering Real Estate, they found themselves broke, trading books for cash, and borrowing money to stay afloat. But then, a real estate deal that they were working with a buyer and seller turned out not to be in the best interest of either client and that is when they started to put the client first by doing what was best for them. They realized at that point that "everything was not about them and what they needed, but about the client." That is when wonderful things began to happen for the Calloway's in the real estate business. Business increased, their commissions grew and they were on their way to making a billion dollars in real estate sales in their first ten years in the business. An achievement that was rare at that time.

"Clients First" which they call "a two word miracle" tells the story of how a couple over 50 sold over a billion dollars in real estate. They specialize in residential resales. "During their first six months, their commissions were \$200,000. In their second year, they doubled that and in their third year, their commissions hit \$1 million. In 2005 they did almost \$6 million in gross commission income." After 10 years in business, they sold \$1 billion worth of real estate.

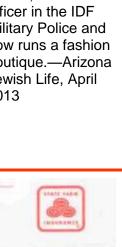
They say that putting clients first is much more than customer service. However, they found their success hard to explain and went on a soulsearching journey to find out the key to their success. This came about from a question asked of them at one of their realtor sessions.

In the search to explain Clients First, the key to their success, they realized that "keeping the client was all that mattered as long as the client's needs came first. This was the beginning of Clients First. By doing this they were able to attract more clients which elevated their business." Another important and key element was "conversation should be all about the client, everything about you is what you can

The authors take us through their thought process as they journey to find out the keys to their success. They say it took years to figure out the meaning of Clients First and the keys to their success. They went through a process of 122 items, narrowed it down to 11 principals then

I was comfortable serving on the National Urban League Board with some of America's biggest industrialists. For the first time, I found myself in the "area of gossip," that informal social business climate where, at a club, a wedding, or golf outing, business deals and projections are traded.





It's 2013. We have a biracial president entering his second term. White adults will cease to be the majority in America by 2040. Among children, that milestone will be reached in 2020, only seven years away! These facts beg the question: Is diversity really still an issue?

"It most certainly is," said Tamika Curry Smith, President of The TCS Group, Inc., which provides human resources and diversity and inclusion solutions to corporate and non-profit clients. "Even though our country is more diverse than it has ever been, inclusion is still not commonplace. Inclusion is difficult to achieve until you know, appreciate and respect people different from yourself. And it's human nature to want to stick with those who are like you."

For all the talk about diversity, inclusion, and rights for all, there is still so much to be done. Discrimination, bullying, prejudices, biases, and violence, still dominate as ways of dealing with those who are different from "us."

Enter Curry Smith, who tackles the issues head on, yet with a respectful, common-sense and business-focused approach. Although she "loves" math, and trained as a CPA, Curry Smith discovered early on that she's also a "people person." She began her career at Deloitte, until she was recruited to become the first director of diversity for Target Corporation. She joined Target in 2004 and helped build the strong reputation for diversity and inclusion it enjoys today.

"Target is a very progressive company, but in 2004 its diversity efforts were all spread out, with little coordination between departments like human resources, training, and community relations," Curry Smith said. "I'm proud of the fact that I was able to hand pick my own team, and established programs and partnerships that are still going strong today."

"Diversity is a sensitive subject and Tamika is an expert on the topic and how to train people about it," said Marvin Carolina, VP of Diversity for JE Dunn Construction, a commercial building contractor with 2,500 employees, based in Kansas City. "She gets her points across, but in a comfortable, non-aggressive way."

According to Carolina, his company merged with another corporation, and everyone needed to know and understand the company culture. Tamika was invaluable in doing the training, both in person and via webinars.

Curry Smith truly enjoys consulting with her clients, which include UnitedHealth Group, JE Dunn Construction, and MOM Brands. She is adept at helping them with HR issues like staffing, talent management, retention and organizational assessment and design, as well as diversity and inclusion strategy and training.

"Diversity is much broader than most people think," said Curry Smith. "It's not just about race, ethnicity, and gender. There are many diversity dimensions to consider, including culture, geography, education, military experience, age, parental status, communication and work style, etc."

In addition to her consulting work, Curry Smith loves the public speaking and educational aspects of her job. She has spoken to numerous groups and organizations, including INROADS Leadership Development Institute, National Black MBA Association, Diversity Leadership Alliance and the Conference Board.

"I have a passion for young people and education," said Curry Smith, who has a two-year-old son Jaden. "I love speaking and working with children of all ages. I've had the pleasure of teaching at several leadership programs for high school and college students. It's personally very rewarding to help them learn, grow and develop."

Although Curry Smith began her career at a large, international accounting and consulting firm, she always knew she'd be an entrepreneur. After all, both of her parents owned their own businesses. Curry Smith knew the hard work involved and the sacrifices her parents made. She also saw the flexibility it gave them, and she wanted a part of that. Starting her business in 2007, she has never looked back.

"She's a doer," said Ernie Garfield, President of Interstate Bank Developers. "I've started 31 banks and we need diversity on our boards. I am so glad to have Tamika on the board of the Global Business Bank, which will open in 2014. She is reliable, gets things done, keeps her word, and jumps in when she sees a need. We are fortunate to have her!"

Tamika jokes that her job "is to work myself out of a job." But she knows that she has a certain amount of job security. "People don't always respect each other, especially those that are different" she said. "The number one way to break down barriers is to get to know other people. When there is less human interaction, misunderstanding and lack of appreciation will remain."

So put down your cell phone, or step away from the computer. Find someone and start a conversation. Or call Tamika; she can help you understand and embrace the topic of diversity and inclusion.

## As we continually move our program forward, we appreciate your suggestions, insights, comments and critiques, as well as referrals of potential new members.

Book Review

account of his life to date.

Steve Jobs By Walter Isaacson Review by Tamika Curry Smith



The death of Steve Jobs in 2011 sparked a world-wide outpouring of sorrow for one of America's top businessmen, as well as a celebration of the legacy he left behind. Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs, as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues, this authorized autobiography, released shortly after Jobs' death, gives us the most personal

Isaacson shows readers both the personal and professional sides of Jobs, an often volatile individual who struggled with demons throughout his life. Given up for adoption as a baby, Jobs appears to have used his feelings of childhood abandonment to fuel his drive and quest for perfection in everything he did. That passion and unrelenting pursuit of excellence propelled Jobs to an unparalleled level of business success, as he left a lasting imprint on personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.

Unfortunately, success in business did not always equal success in his personal life. The book chronicles Jobs' numerous failed romantic escapades, his ultimate decision to get married, as well as the complicated and, at times, tense relationships with his children. It also examines his complex connections with friends and colleagues and even his internal fight within himself. Isaacson, who had Jobs' permission to be completely candid, is very frank about Jobs' personality shortcomings and the mistakes he made in his private life.

Often described as a genius, no one can deny that Steve Jobs made Apple what it is today and literally transformed the way we view and use technology. From the iPod to the iMac to the iPhone to the iPad, it's difficult to find someone that doesn't own one of Jobs' brainstorms. But after reading this book, we are left wondering if Jobs' greatness was achieved in spite of or because of his glaring personal faults.

## **Reflections** — We are Very Saddened to Lose Our Very Outstanding

He was a clinical recruiter for Banner Good Samaritan Member Donvishon Bradley. and very active in the community. He served on the boards of Valley Youth Theater, the Diversity Advisory Committee at Jobing.com, Staffing Management Association of Greater Phoenix and volunteered with Junior Achievement. He attended Jackson State University and graduated from University of Phoenix. In 2011, Phoenix Business Journal recognized him as one of 40 Leaders Under 40. He married Frances Manguia on November 18, 2011 and it the father of Daija and Dominick. He also has two step sons, Frank and Erik.

Our sympathies are also with James Carroll who lost his wife of 51 years, Marcia Ann Carroll.

History, despite its wrenching pain, can not be relived; however, if faced with courage, need not be lived again.—Maya Angelou

Paula Moore who lost her mother Cordelia Marie "Snookie" Wilson of Gary Indiana.



and Beverly Muhammad who lost her son, Jamaal Muquimi in an accident.

PROJECT POINTS is published by the Black Board of Directors Project, a 29 year old advanced leadership organization. Copyright 2013.

We appreciate your help and support in recruiting new members! If you know someone you think could benefit and contribute to society by being a member of BBOD Project, please call us or email your recommendations.

We strongly encourage the referral and participation of non-black professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, etc. It takes you - being engaged and standing for the cause we share

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President, The TCS Group, Inc. 1-888-9-TCSGRP Thetcsgroupinc.com

## Education:

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University MBA, Organizational Behavior, Management & Strategy, and Marketing

Ross School of Business, University of Michigan B.B.A., Accounting with High Distinction

## Awards:

**Phoenix Business Journal's Forty** under 40 National Black MBA Association, **Chairman's Award** Executive Woman of the Year, National Association for Professional

Women **Community Involvement:** 

Global Business Bank, Board of

Directors Black Board of Directors Project,

Member National Black MBA Association,

Lifetime Member Arizona Students Recycling Used Technology (AZSTRUT), Board of Directors.