

Volume XIII // January 2022
happy new year!

The 28 Percent

**Women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce.
This newsletter aims to change that.**



COVER BY RUBY, 10th GRADY

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LAYOUT DESIGNED BY
JAIDYN, 10TH & GIANNA, 9TH

Consumer Technology Association 2022

CES® is the most influential tech event in the world – the proving ground for breakthrough technologies and global innovators. This is where the world’s biggest brands do business and meet new partners, and the sharpest innovators hit the stage. Owned and produced by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)®, CES features every aspect of the tech sector.

This year the event will take place from
January 5 - 8!

LEARN MORE ON: <https://www.ces.tech/>

While the general public cannot attend, most of these speeches and meetings are posted to youtube to watch later. Here are a few directed at Women in STEM you might want to check out!



Women’s Health & Tech: Revolutionizing & Reimagining Women’s Health Care: Hear from experts about the technology advancements in women’s health care and what the future holds as new innovations and treatment options hit the market.



Women Leaders of the Senate: Roundtable Discussion on Key Tech Issues for 2022: 2022 looks to be a pivotal year for the Senate Commerce Committee. Join us as the women of the Senate Commerce Committee, discuss the major priorities lawmakers will tackle this upcoming year.



Women And Drones Live Global Announcement: 2021 Women to Watch Global Awards Join us as we recognize the trailblazers, innovators, and business leaders in the drone industry. Come prepared to be inspired! Media Q&A begins 4:15 PM.

An Interview with Folk Artist: Nasha

Written by Tracey Willard

An interview with Nasha, a folk artist, a friend and a mentor. As our interview begins, during the month of late December 2021, I am in California, and Nasha is in North Carolina where she lives.

Nasha, starts as we begin our discussion, "I'm just looking at the sunset through the tree branches because there are no leaves right now."

Introduction

Your work was featured in filmmaker, Spike Lee's historic film, "Do the Right Thing"; a story about a Brooklyn, NY lower class community and it's racially diverse people who live and work there. You created the image of the film's main character, the late actor Bill Nunn, "Radio Raheem" signature t-shirt. How did you get that opportunity?

At the time, I was living in Brooklyn, NY on DeKalb Avenue next door to Spike Lee's production office, "40 Acres and A Mule Film works". Ruth Carter, the Oscar-award winning designer for the movie, "Black Panther", at that time one day approached me and we were talking. Ruth said we need a t-shirt for our leading man; I went upstairs, got my sketch pad and started doing some drawings. As I created something, Ruth would take it over to Spike and he eventually chose the one I call "Harper", its inspiration is a real-life friend who is an easy-going and gentle person.

How do you feel about your image in the film?

The character on the t-shirt gave life to the story. Also, the t-shirt's images have primary colors associated with the reggae culture which tell the story of a generation of people and neighborhood.

How does it feel to be a part of film and cultural history?

Look, I could not have asked to be a part a more timeless and culturally relevant piece of cinema matched with the same quality of vision. I feel honored to have worked with Spike Lee.

How would you define folk art?

Folk art-any art; the chairs on your porch, the benches in the backyard, new color lipstick, the pond down the street or the apron your grandmother has on.

What is the importance of folk-art?

Folk-art helps keep us attune to where we came from; it's important to know what your past is because it relates to your future.

Would you consider yourself a folk artist?

Yes, folk art means to tell a story; the people that use to live, the people that live and the people that will live in the future.

What would you say is your greatest value?

I appreciate and honor life. If I live to be 200, it would be "okay". That's what I'm saying, I love this good earth.

04 // A Cool Woman (continued)

What were you like as a youth?

I was a library girl; I would sit, look, observe and learn what I could. Everything was a palette for me.... If I had a can I would sketch on it. I remember in church as a child, the minister, Rev. Jordan, on behalf of the congregation gave me art supplies because I drew in all the bibles.

How have you provided for yourself as an artist; how has art provided for you?

Fortunately for me, my art sells. Plus, I been a full time teacher and artist. I do sell a lot of art; I go to festivals. Seldom do I not make a good amount of money. I might need to drop the prices but that is okay. My art really, really satisfies me and the message still gets out.

How does inspiration come?

My inspiration comes from my wants, my needs; I need to decorate, to use color to make a statement. My art is soothing; it does not always have to have a face, just colors, shapes and lines. All these lines, shapes and colors are In the Universe. My approach is it is a good life and it is made easier by me being an artist.

I have seen your work on canvas, fashion, home decorations; talk about this and do you have more goals?

I paint on anything not nailed down; I tell you. My subject is always about connection; design color, etc. Sometimes I can look at art, be mesmerized and walk away complete.

How do you work?

I start with a story-like if I see a family; I do groupings. It helps visualize- it helps me try to figure it out. Like a family, I will draw the children next to the parents; not in the front of the parents. I make the characters obvious by size, the child is smaller and the parent is large. That's a part of my upbringing; my father died when I was 3yrs old. My mother was "boss". If it's a work I will do on friends, they're the same size but parents and children you can see the distinction. Side by side as a family expresses "Unity".

How do you feel best art and technology can work together to provide inspiration?

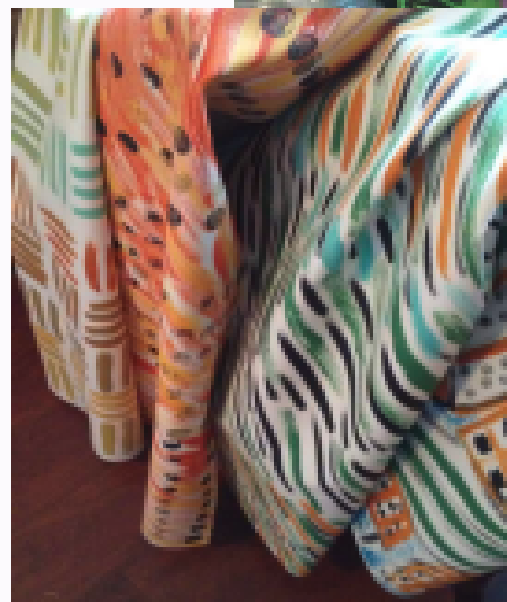
Art is technology and technology is art, that is how it works, that's it.

What is essential to the work of an artist?

Some tangible, supplies and resources. Some are intangible, like temperament. The willingness to tell the truth.

What is your dream project?

My dream project is to go back to Virginia, where I was born and paint one of my designs on the side of the bank in the small town where I grew up. Why a bank is because It is a place where people go all the time, a lot of foot traffic.



05 // A Cool Woman (continued)



Where have you lived? How have the places you lived influenced your work?

I have lived in United States, London and Paris. The U.S. made it possible for me to get my supplies and resources. I was taught art in each grade; my Mom and my teachers would accept my art. Sharing with family, teachers; they would put my art up on the refrigerator or in their classroom. Art was a part of my upbringing.

What social movement have you witnessed in your lifetime that has had the biggest impact on you? Why?

The civil rights movement because I actually saw African American people return to their rightful role as leaders. Art played a large part; letters, posters, etc. For a long time, African Americans had their head bowed to the floor, things needed to change and art is an excellent medium for change.

What jobs have you done, other than being an artist?

Educator in early childhood. I love early childhood, they are the best artists in the world because they are not afraid to fail. Their use of color; even if the green and purple don't go together....



You have three granddaughters, what advice would you give them about life?

Live life. Life is so funny; my granddaughters may find something important that is different from me. I would encourage them to find what is best for them; value people who will respect and support them.

What have been your biggest struggles? How have you overcome them?

Being an African-American woman in America. I have been to other countries and have not been ostracized. The lack of respect not being acknowledged by your presence, potential and contributions can create a lot of doubt. Growing up my Mom use to say, "Listen to me, not the outside world". My Mom would preach to use be the model we wanted to see in others.

What's the best piece of advice you've been given?

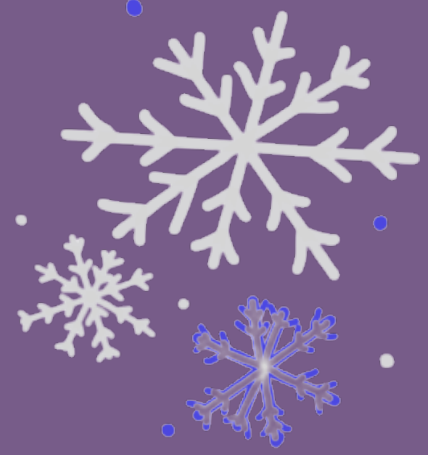
I have been given some good advice; one of them is go with your own mind. Colors, lines, shapes and subjects; decisions.... If you have doubt about which way to go; sometimes go with the lesser of the two evils, sometimes you can't use a fire you use a flame. It is important to do your research.

What is the meaning of life to you?

Enjoy while you are here because I think it's a short ride. Embrace every moment and make sure you see your neighbors with your eyes and hearts. Be grateful for this good earth, do not take anything for granted; don't kick the roses because they are here for your satisfaction, for you.

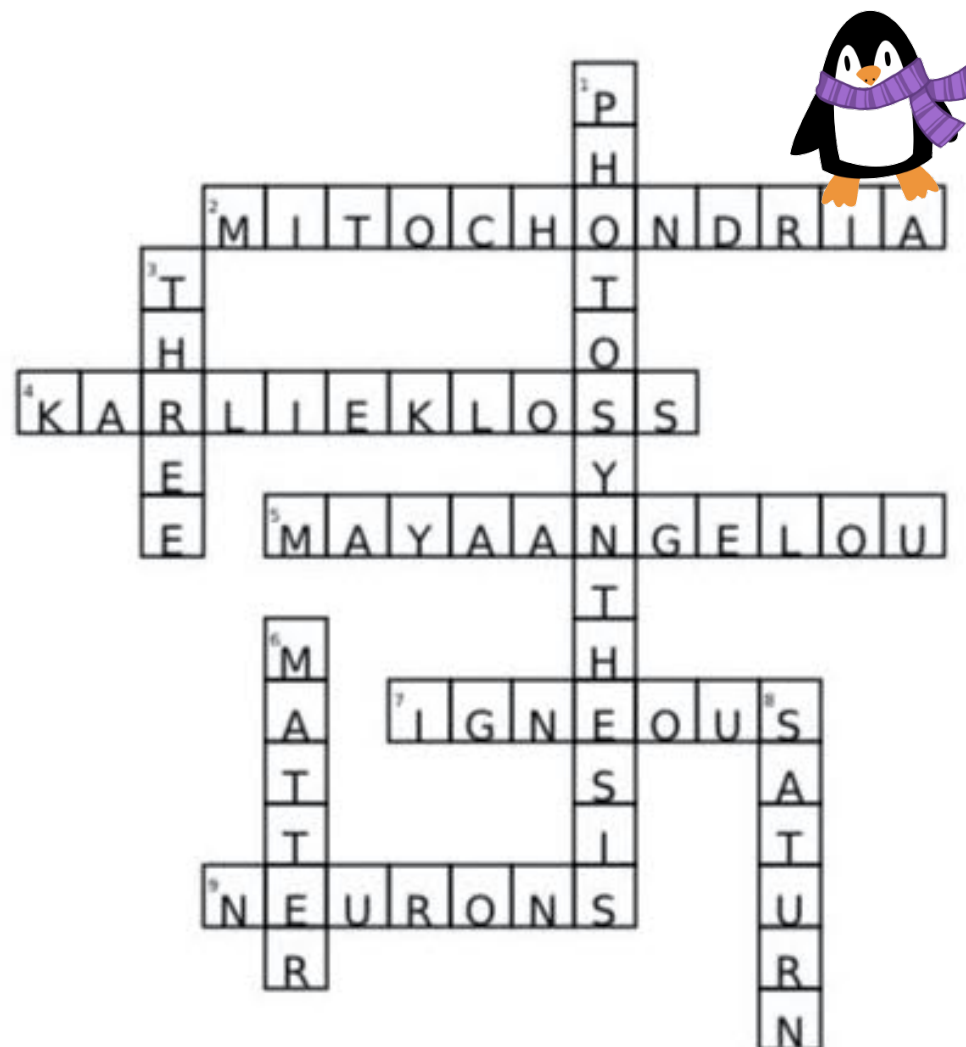


06 // Last Month's Crossword Answer Key



Created by Emma Hungerford, 10th Grade

If you would like to submit a logic puzzle or game for future newsletters, please send it to orret.deborah@pusd.us!



Down:

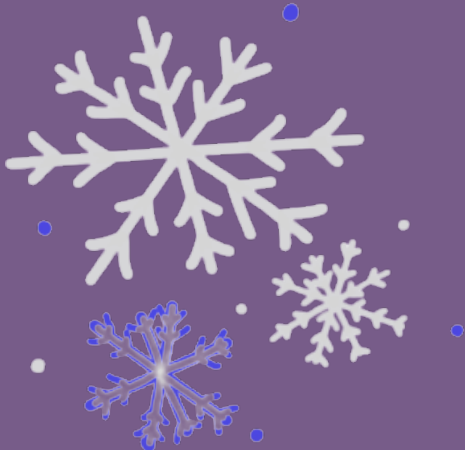
1. the process that creates oxygen
3. how many hearts an octopus has
6. everything is made up of this
8. the sixth planet in the solar system

Across:

2. the powerhouse of the cell!
4. founder of a coding bootcamp for girls
5. the first female inaugural poet in US presidential history
7. the kind of rock formed by cooled magma
9. the fundamental units of the brain and nervous system



Artwork by Alissa Santana, 10th Grade



07 // Credits & Contact

the girls that made this newsletter possible

Emma Hungerford, 10th Grade
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Madeleine Lees, 10th Grade
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Ruby Chew, 10th Grade
Cecelia Bichete, 10th Grade
Mallika Sheshadri, 9th Grade
Gianna Gullon, 9th Grade
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Tracey Willard
Ms. Orret, Advisor

*have a question? want to get
involved? want to be featured on
the newsletter?*

Email Ms. Orret!

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