FROM THE FRONT

"As if!"
CHER CLUELESS

Marching on King's birthday, residents stress 'resilience'

BY SABRINA THALER
STAFF REPORTER

East Rock's Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is where Hamden native Briona Jenkins, 35, said she learned how to "be a human being."

For roughly 30 years, Jenkins has participated in Shiloh Missionary's Love March, an annual celebration of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 15 — and a "family tradition" for Jenkins. On Thursday morning, she joined about 50 other churchgoers, community members and city leaders in the 56th iteration of the march, starting out at the church and taking a route along Whitney Avenue and Lawrence, Edwards and State Streets.

"I do a lot of community work, and I learned that in this church," Jenkins, whose godfather is Shiloh Missionary pastor Kennedy Hampton Sr., said in an interview. "We were taught very young to take up space. Especially like a young Black girl growing up, it was always like, 'You can be in any room you want to be in.' This is where I learned how to be a public speaker, how to be an advocate, how to give back."

According to its website, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church opened in Dixwell in 1965, three years before King's assassination in April 1968. In 1971, the Rev. George Hampton Sr. — Rev. Kennedy Hampton's father — led the church's first Love March. The march has taken place on King's birthday each year since then.

"Marching is a public display of a unity in a community. It's visible," Kennedy Hampton told a crowd in the church before Thursday's march. "That's why we here today, because we want to let them know that we gotta teach this younger generation, this new generation, and every generation — that this is not about retreat. It's about resilience."

Yanketia Wise, 41, said she has attended the Love March every year of her life. A granddaughter of George Hampton Sr., Wise pointed out her sisters and cousin at the front of the crowd, leading chants.-

"This march, to me, is legacy," Wise said in an interview at the march. "Rain, sleet or snow, we would have marched. The things that's going on today, from mental health to racism to what's going on in the White House right now, this march is definitely necessary."

From the earliest days of his second presidential term, President Donald Trump has signed numerous executive orders chipping away at diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in federal agencies, universities and state and local governments, including programs designed to benefit Black Americans and other minority groups.

Trump criticized the Smithsonian Museum in an August Truth Social post, according to CNN, for focusing on "how horrible our Country is, how bad Slavery was, and how unaccomplished the downtrodden have been," rather than "success" and "brightness." In December, the Trump administration shortened a list of federal holidays on which visitors can park at U.S. national parks for free in 2026, striking Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth from the list.

For Laura Fawcett, who said she has participated in the Love March "on and off" for about 20 years, current events loomed large in her choice to attend this year's event.

"We're just really going backwards fast," Fawcett said in an interview during the march, adding that it's important to show up at events like the Love March "even if you are scared."

Mayor Justin Elicker attended the march, alongside state Sen. Gary Winfield, Ward 9 Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith, acting New Haven Police Chief David Zannelli and Fire Chief John Alston Jr.

In an interview after the march, Elicker, a Democrat, said that though "we're at a tough moment in time," he finds inspiration in hearing from the march's oldest participants, who witnessed periods of severe inequity in American history.

"I do this march every year," Elicker said. "But this year in particular, it's important, because when we see what's going on in Washington, where our president is trying to divide us and highlight our differences as something negative, we here in New Haven are demonstrating the true words of Martin Luther King that brings us together, that he had a dream that he shared with our whole country about people of all kinds of differences being able to live together."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be celebrated on Monday, Jan. 19.

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As leaders of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church led a crowd through the streets of East Rock, they continued a community tradition and raised morale at what one attendee called a moment when the country was "really going backwards fast." / **Alex Hong, Staff Photographer**

No present threat, Yale official says

SECURITY FROM PAGE 1

New signage posted outside the Schwartzman Center doors on the corner of Grove and College Streets on Tuesday afternoon informed members of the public that though the building is "generally accessible to the public" through business hours, a Yale ID could occasionally be required for access.

Yale Public Safety officials could be seen on Monday and Tuesday in heavily trafficked areas, such as the crosswalk between Silliman College and Hillhouse Avenue. They were also present outside large-capacity lectures boasting over 250 registered students, including "Intermediate Macroeconomics" and "The Rise of China."

After the Brown shooting, Yale's previously public list of final exam locations and times was locked behind the Central Authentication Service login.

A Friday email from the University Registrar's Office also announced that Yale Course Search would now require a CAS login to view course locations.

CourseTable, a popular student-made alternative to the University's provided bluebooking system, features a banner disclaimer that course locations on the website were only accurate as of December 2025 following the CAS login change.

Libraries reopen to public after December limits

Certain Yale libraries are open to the public during allotted visiting hours, a return to the usual policy after access was briefly restricted in December following the mass shootings at Brown and in Sydney.

Alongside increased public safety measures implemented by Yale Public Safety in December, the University's library website featured new guidelines limiting entry for people without Yale identification cards at popular libraries, including Sterling Memorial Library.

The shift corresponded with new Yale ID swipe requirements to access Sterling and Bass implemented for "several days at the end of last semester," according to Patricia Carey, a Yale Library spokesperson.

Carey wrote in an email to the News on Wednesday that the public access restrictions still visible on the website on Tuesday were by then incorrect. Sterling and Bass again require Yale IDs for entry only after 6 p.m., and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library is accessible to the public when open — policies now reflected on the library webpage.

Nevertheless, libraries located inside buildings requiring Yale ID for entry — such as the Haas Arts Library in the Loria Center and Marx Science and Social Science Library in Kline Tower — will remain closed to the public for the moment.

"I think that closing them off at 6 is smart, just so that students have time after school to study," Nana Kyei '28 said of public visiting hours. "But I think that especially with the presence of security, I don't mind the public having access."

Other Ivy League institutions, including Columbia University, require ID for entry to libraries. Public visitors who present IDs may access Columbia's Butler Library during business hours.

Brown requires ID access to all libraries. Following the December shooting that left two students dead, over 1,000 individuals signed a petition demanding "ID card swipes for all Brown University buildings regardless of time of day."

In early January, Brown officials announced expanded ID card access requirements to Brown buildings, alongside a slew of measures to bolster security.

Yale spokespeople have not clarified how long the increased public safety measures would last, nor how long the library restrictions were in place before public access was partly reinstated this semester.

Yasmin Rodriguez '29 said public access to libraries sometimes proves irritating.

"Sometimes when I'm studying I see people passing by and it is sometimes disruptive," Rodriguez said.

Sterling Memorial Library first opened in 1931.

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Accord, not released, fulfills 2019 city law

POLICE FROM PAGE 1

As of Jan. 1 of this year, "all policing agencies that are operating within city boundaries have some kind of citizen-led review process for complaints," former Civilian Review Board administrator Alyson Heimer said in a phone interview, describing the board's agreement with Yale as "a big success."

"We should be really proud that we actually have something in paper, a written agreement, to have reporting and transparency between the agencies. I think it's really important," Heimer said.

The review board has been negotiating with Yale for a new memorandum of understanding since an August town hall meeting with former police chiefs Anthony Campbell of Yale and Karl Jacobson of New Haven.

Members of the review board left the meeting feeling hopeful that an agreement was near and that they could soon start officially addressing complaints.

"I was very encouraged and very happy that he came and the way he spoke that they were very interested in getting this together," review board member Sam Fawcett said of Campbell's presence at the meeting in a September phone interview.

Since the August meeting, both Jacobson and Campbell have left their positions in their respective departments.

Jacobson abruptly retired last week and is now the subject of an ongoing investigation related to allegations that he stole money from a department fund for confidential informants; Mayor Justin Elicker said Jacobson had admitted to taking $10,000. Campbell decamped to the Harvard University Police Department earlier this month, a move announced in November.

Heimer said Jacobson "was very helpful in liaising and getting everyone to the table so that we could have that agreement."

As for the memorandum of understanding, Heimer said "it addressed all of our concerns about making sure that data was going to be available to the public, making sure that the meetings were going to be open and that a member of the Civilian Review Board would be able to go to those public meetings" of the Yale Public Safety Advisory Board.

Lovello so far has been "very responsive and open to ideas and all with an eye of accountability and helping to keep our community safe," Heimer said.

"We're pleased to have come to agreement with the City of New Haven, and we want to thank our colleagues in New Haven for their partnership in finalizing this Memorandum of Understanding," Lovello wrote in his statement.

Civilian Review Board meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of every month.

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