

# Dr. Julianne Malveaux Talks to Kam Williams About New Book

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

**D**r. Julianne Malveaux has long been recognized for her progressive and insightful observations. She is a labor economist, noted author and colorful commentator. Her contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender and their economic impacts are shaping public opinion in 21st Century America. Dr. Malveaux is the founder and President of Economic Education, a 501-c3 organization focused on personal finance and economic policy education and their connection. Here, she talks about her new

with you again.

**KW:** You're welcome. What inspired you to publish "Are We Better Off?"

**JM:** People will be talking about the Obama legacy for decades, and I wanted to include my voice in the analysis of this presidency. This is

presidency, explores the way Obama was treated by the political establishment and also how this first black president treated "his" people. In the epilogue, I use numbers to tell the story of African American gains and losses during this presidency.

**KW:** How did you decide which articles to include in the book?

**JM:** Wow! That's a great question. It was quite a process to narrow more than 400 columns down to 80. I write weekly, though, and I don't always write about President Obama, so that was the easy elimination. Sometimes, I repeat myself, and that was a second elimination. I worked with a team, in-

cluding a great editor who, as the project came together, suggested other additions and eliminations. It was a process.

**KW:** Well, are we better off after eight years of Obama?

**JM:** The economy is better than the one President Obama inherited,

and unemployment is lower, but the unemployment rate gap remains large. Black child poverty is higher. As I write in the epilogue, "Yes we can. No he didn't. President Obama didn't push black people backward, but he missed the opportunity to move us forward."

**KW:** In the introduction, you ask, "How does President Obama treat his people?" before criticizing him for not recip-

roating the overwhelming support he's received from the African-American electorate. You say, "He scolds instead of uplifts, and offers tepid gestures to our needs." What do you think he could have done in terms of jobs, housing and education?

**JM:** If some of the recovery money had gone to cities instead of states, the urban population, read "Black" and "Brown," would be better off with recovery jobs. While the banks got big bailouts, a sizeable chunk of African American wealth evaporated because so many people lost homes. Some of the federal programs to help homeowners were never fully implemented. And President Obama's pick of Arne Duncan as Secretary of Education was abysmal. Cutting HBCUs was unconscionable.

See INTERVIEW on page 11

**“President Obama didn't push Black people backward, but he missed the opportunity to move us forward**

book, "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy."

**Kam Williams:** Hi, Julianne, thanks for another opportunity to interview you.

**Dr. Julianne Malveaux:** Greetings, Kam. I hope you are well. Thanks for the opportunity to talk

a column collection, or as one colleague called it, "history in real time," recounting my perspective on the highs and lows of this presidency from an African American perspective. More than simply a column collection, the book has a substantial introduction that frames the Obama

and unemploy-

ment rate gap

remains large.

**Self Enhancement, Inc.**  
Presents:

*A Walk Down Memory Lane*

Honoring  
Legendary Jazz Musician  
Thara Memory

**SEI**  
**SUMMER**  
**MUSIC**  
**FESTIVAL**

Free Food, Fun,  
Neighborhood  
Displacement  
Information

OG One  
YungMil  
Mighty Beyons  
BeSpeak

FEATURING

Jarrod Lawson  
Tahirah Memory  
Mike Phillips

**Saturday, August 6th**  
**12pm-8pm**  
**@ Unthank Park**  
Kerby Ave. & Failing St.

Logos: SEI, Metro, Multnomah County Health Department, PCRI, Mercedes-Benz, PAVELCOMM, EC, REGUE, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Review

cont'd from pg 6

as a counselor but as a cosmetologist.

Rachel's protege "Butterfly," a recovering schizophrenic, exhibits considerable promise at braiding hair. The optimistic mother of three explains that she picked her nickname because she's begun to blossom after being in a cocoon marked by depression and paranoia. Still, she misses her murdered big brother and worries about an incarcerated son.

65 year-old Edward, a college grad, recounts how, at 26, his life was derailed when he was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. A classically-trained flautist, he nevertheless holds onto his dream of one day playing with a professional orchestra.

The spa's second in command is Darlene, a survivor of child abuse who recounts how she was teased mer-

cilessly growing up about her hair, her looks and for being in the foster care system. One of her customers is shown taking delight in being taught to read, while another proudly pronounces "I am not my symptoms, I am not my diagnosis."

"The Hollywood Beauty Salon" was directed by Glenn Holsten who is perhaps best known for another stellar documentary set in Philadelphia, "The Barefoot Artist." He's done it again, here, with this moving collection of poignant personal portraits powerfully illustrating the utter in-domitability of the human spirit.

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated

Running time: 88 min

Studio: Glennfilms / FreshFly

## West Coast Steppers'

# DOMINO

## Tournament

Grand Prize \$200.00

Saturday August 20, 2016

Registration & Orientation:

1:00pm - 1:45pm

Tournament Begins at 2:00pm Sharp

\$25.00 Registration Fee

all major credit cards accepted

**Immaculate Heart Church Parish Hall**

**2627 N Williams Avenue**

**Portland OR 97212**

For more information or for pre-registration visit our  
Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/westcoaststeppers/>  
or email us at [westcoaststeppers503@gmail.com](mailto:westcoaststeppers503@gmail.com)