

The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Reynolds-Jackson Blasts Trump on "Squad" Comments



"The President's comments toward Congresswomen Omar, Tlaib, Pressley, and Ocasio-Cortez are unequivocally monstrous examples of racism, misogyny and ageism,"

See more re-action to Trump's racists taunts on Page 4

The "Squad" Will Need to Realize that You Can't Defeat White Supremacy with White Supremacy

The "squad" condemns Trump for his white nationalism, not under-normal and consistent with "American values." Even so, Joe Biden



Eric Garner killed by police officer, Daniel Pantaleo, in New York City, July 17, 2014. His crime was selling cigarettes on the street.

standing that as a white supremacist settler-colonial state, white nationalism is "American" nationalism. The story of Trump's white national-

refused to condemn Trump's Department of Justice for not prosecuting the cop who applied a death choke on Eric Garner in New York.



Joe Biden with racist Sen. James Eastland

ist tweets is still the object of intense discussion with the Democrats denouncing him and the Republicans giving support to his worldview as

of impunity for killer cops reminded the public of the racial opportunism that the Democrats have turned into a science over the

The Squad continued on page 9

First En Blanc Affair in the Capital City



EN BLANC CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

El Matrimonio un Retrato Familiar Hermoso



El Matrimonio de Byron Avila y Laura Stafford fue una boda que reunió por primera vez a gran parte de la familia. Era un día que había sido esperado con muchas ansias. More on Page 7

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If you do not understand White Supremacy (Racism) --- what it is, and how it works --- everything else that you understand, will only confuse you."
 Neely Fuller Jr. [1971]



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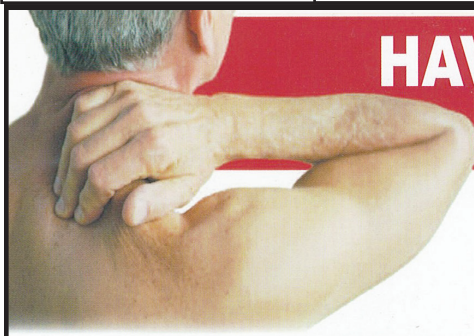
Compiled from "The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept" by Mr. Neely Fuller Jr.

White Supremacist:

A white person who directly, or indirectly, helps to establish, maintain, expand, and/or refine the subjugation of one or more 'non-white' persons, on the basis of 'color' and/or factors 'associated with' color, for the basic purpose of 'pleasing' and/or serving any, or all 'white' persons, at all times, in all areas of activity, including Economics, Education, Entertainment, Labor, Law, Politics, Religions, Sex, and War.

Better understanding can come from Mr. Neely Fuller Jr. in his landmark book "The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept" which you can order online. You Need To Read It. Google It.

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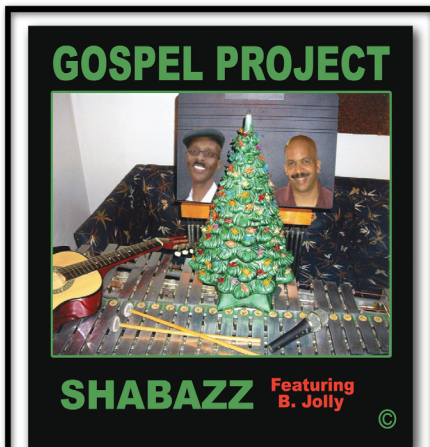
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ACT-SO: Student Science and Tech Enrichment Program

BY TANGELA WRIGHT

ACT-SO is the acronym for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, the NAACP's student enrichment program. Students take part in competitions in the areas of S.T.E.M, humanities, performing arts, visual arts and business. Students are able to compete in at least three areas.

While participating in this program can lead to awards and prizes the most beneficial part is helping to promote positive self-esteem, positive interaction of team involvement, positive academic and artistic excellence and high academic and cultural achievement.

Community volunteers and business leaders of the NAACP are dedicated and committed to giving back to the community in the most positive way to better the future of our children. A perfect way of being the village to the children of the community.

Students and families work hard in these competitions and prove that our children are worth the extra mile.

ACT-SO is run by Leslie Summiel. He is an awesome person who holds the community and students accountable for their actions as well as showing them that there are many ways to get to the greatest achievements that they are reaching for.

I was invited to the 2019 Trenton ACT-SO Showcase on July 12th. The lineup featured students with high achievements who have also won awards. Samir, Leslie III, Cameron, Sakile, Mahiyah, Brianna, Ashanti, Symone, Yamir, Maya, Journey, Tia, Mekhi, Tia, Victoria, LaShayda and Jasmine are a few students that took part in the event.

The brilliant performances from these students spoke to the troubles of the community. This is a passionate group of young adults who are learning more about their crafts and how to use them to spread positivity among their peers.

Look for more showcases and competitions. Don't be afraid to come out and support the children of the future.

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Legislation to Prevent Unfair Access to Public Housing and Eviction

BY AL ALATUNJI

Arguably the two most powerful women of color in Congress have teamed up to sponsor legislation to remove barriers to obtaining federal public housing for individuals with criminal records and their families. Current federal housing policies allow for a tenant to be evicted for one single criminal offense regardless of how minor. Not only does it allow federal assistance public housing agencies to evict an individual convicted of a criminal offense but also to evict their families who are completely innocent of any criminal activity.

This would all change if two powerful lawmakers have their way. Legislation sponsored by Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) entitled the Fair Chance at Housing Act would ban blanket "1-strike" policies, which allow tenants to be evicted for a single incident of criminal activity, no matter how minor, in favor of a holistic review as well as prohibit "no-fault" policies, which allow an entire family to be evicted for criminal activity by a guest of a household member even without the knowledge of anyone in the household. The bill would also raise the standards of evidence to be used by public housing authorities and owners and require a holistic consideration of all mitigating circumstances when making screening or eviction determinations based on criminal activity. The measure goes further to provide public housing agencies with additional administrative funding for helping to house ex-offenders through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program and authorize \$10 million in bonus funding for homeless service providers through the Continuum of Care program to serve ex-offenders.

The legislation aims to reduce recidivism by helping ex-offenders find stable housing and ensuring that those currently receiving federal assistance are not unfairly evicted.

"As our country continues working toward much needed reform of our criminal justice system, I am proud to work with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez to ensure formerly incarcerated individuals and their families have access to safe and affordable housing as they transition back into their community," Senator Harris, a candidate for President said. "By requiring a higher standard of evidence and a more holistic review process, we are taking a significant step toward giving Americans a fair chance to succeed."

The failed "War on Drugs" had profoundly disproportionate effects on communities of color, who have historically been the primary target of harsh anti-drug policies. The consequences of the now debunked policies ensnared many with a criminal background which can have lifelong implications for a person's ability to obtain housing, employment, education, and to otherwise rebuild their lives. Ironically and hypocritically, quite a few states whose prosecutors made careers and money prosecuting Blacks and Latinos for drugs are now tripping over themselves to obtain the windfall from taxes and other fees associated with state sanctioned marijuana sales.

Supporters of the legislation maintain that access to stable housing, in particular, is one of the most important first steps to rehabilitation. However, federal laws continue to pose unnecessary and punitive barriers to federal housing assistance for those with criminal records.

In Trenton, there are 2,153 federally assisted public housing apartments. The Trenton Housing Authority is the public agency which administers the federally assisted public housing program for the city.

Declaring safe and affordable housing to be a human right, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez stated "We have been conditioned to think that basic rights are a luxury and a privilege when they are not."

Reynolds-Jackson Blasts Trump on "Squad" Comments

BY AL ALATUNJI

Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson slammed Donald Trump over comments he made telling four congresswomen of color to go back where they came from. Three were born in America and all four are US citizens.

Trump has received widespread criticism igniting a national and international firestorm for his comments and turning the most important political office in the world into the face of racism and exclusion. "The President's comments toward Congresswomen Omar, Tlaib, Pressley, and Ocasio-Cortez are unequivocally monstrous examples of racism, misogyny and ageism," stated Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson. "These four Congresswomen have stood tall in direct fire and continue to do the work they were elected to do. Their states are relying on them. We want them to rely on us to raise our voices. We stood today as a collective to say 'We're with them.' Hate has no place in the White House. It has no place in Washington. We have come too far as a country to have one man turn us around."

"We will continue to fight for what is right for all Americans and stand together against bigotry and anything that divides us," added Reynolds-Jackson, who represents the 15th Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly. Earlier this month, Trump on Twitter asked why the four women of color Congresswomen "don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came."

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson was joined in making her statement by other members of the Legislative Black Caucus and the Legislative Latino Caucus at a press conference held on July 23 at the State House in Trenton. Also attending the press conference was Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

"I am proud to see the courage, grace and poise of these four Congresswomen. They refuse to be distracted by name-calling and are using the power of the elected seat to make change. They are doing exactly what they should do," stated Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter (D - Paterson) and Vice Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus.

"The comments referring to their

ethnicity and birthplace were yet another tactless, hateful example of our country being steered in the wrong direction, going backward not forward.

"Let's keep fighting for humane immigration. Let's keep fighting for justice for families. Let's keep fighting for women's right to healthcare and equal pay. Let's continue to fight for our democratic values," added Assemblywoman Sumter.

Congresswoman Watson Coleman whose district includes Trenton also joined with Black and Latino state legislators from throughout the state. "We're living in some really scary times right here. The president has affirmed for us this last week that he acknowledges, avows and speaks loudly of his racism," said Congresswoman Watson Coleman. "No matter how he tries to whiten it up, it's still racism, and his racism that he has extolled brings silence from those who work with him, support him or are just darn scared of him."

Trump's attacks on the four women of color is the most recent such attack on a person of color for which there is a very long list. The statement created a wave of backlash that ended with the House of Representatives passing a resolution denouncing the comments as racist.

"I am beyond disappointed in what is occurring nationally right now. A sitting President has singled out four Congresswomen because of their policies, their heritage and their age. Each of them was elected by their constituents, breaking barriers in these exact same areas," said Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Union), a member of the Latino Caucus.

"What's going on in Washington affects us all. Yes, each of us, as Americans, has the right of free speech. It does not matter the color of your skin or gender, all Americans enjoy these same privileges. However, the President's criticism seems to know no boundaries and is providing a false sense of privilege to many who feel that it's okay to say anything or attack a person with whom they disagree," added Quijano.

For over a week, Trump continues to take to Twitter with disparaging comments against progressive Democrats Congresswomen Omar, Tlaib, Pressley and Ocasio-Cortez.

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Watoto Summer Camp a project of Watu Cultural Exchange



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First En Blanc Affair in the Capital City

(TRENTON, NJ) – Ten days have passed, but the excitement and awe of a spectacular event lingers. Through



an invitation from the Ivy League Educational Foundation, the charitable arm of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Epsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter, the African American Cultural Collaborative of Mercer County aligned to host an inaugural En Blanc Affair in the Capital City on Saturday July 13, 2019. In promoting one of sorority's 2018-2022 International Target Areas: The ARTS!, this collaborative effort will serve multiple purposes. Held on the steps of the historic Trenton War Memorial Building, the evening included networking, dining and dancing under the stars. Nearly 300 men and women, dressed elegantly in white, with coordinating decorations assembled on the steps of the Trenton

War Memorial with the Capital dome as a backdrop.

As the sun set the venue sparkled and guest enjoyed opportunities to mix, mingle and unwind with dancing. This En Blanc Affair was similar to the Diner En Blanc events hosted across six continents at pop-up locations where people convene in an outdoor setting to enjoy dining in a chic, in an all-white atmosphere. In reverence to the tradition of these elegant pop-up dining experiences, guests were invited to purchase tickets with only 2-hour notice of the secret venue location. Guests enjoyed entertainment by local DJ, Kevin McAllister and a live band performance by Hnny On Ice. On site beverages were provided by 1911 Smokehouse, while the event organizers provided complimentary hors d'oeuvres via ABC Dadlites Catering. Photography for the evening was done by Dolly Weldon-Gordon of Photos by Dolly.

The proceeds from this fundraising event will support both 501 c (3) organizations as they continue to work diligently within the Mercer County area. The Ivy League Educational Foundation provides scholarships and supports various educational programs in the area. Their next fundraising



effort, Designer Bag Bingo, will take place on Friday, September 27, 2019 at the National Guard Armory, located at 105 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey at 6 p.m.



The Foundation's primary and most notable fundraising effort occurs annually on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and includes a breakfast where local organizations are honored for their commitment to our community. Preparations are

underway now for the 39th annual event to be held on January 20, 2020. The African American Cultural

Collaborative of Mercer County offers free culturally themed programs for adults and youth throughout Mercer County. First Fridays on Front Street, A Poetry Café Series and Parade of the African Diaspora Educational Forums are the most recent undertakings by this organization, comprised of volunteers. The next First Friday on Front Street is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2019. The rain date is Friday, August 9, 2019. It

occurs in the front of and as a result of sponsorship from 1911 Smokehouse, located at 11 W. Front Street, Trenton, New Jersey. These evenings of family fun from 5-10 p.m., include live entertainment, children's activities and vendors. The Collaborative is also finalizing plans for the 1st Parade of the African Diaspora scheduled to occur on August 17, 2019 in the city of Trenton with support and sponsorship from various organizations, including the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Thomas Edison State University and former Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. For more information on either of these organizations, please visit their websites: www.Ivyleagueef.org and www.taacf.com.

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Trenton – Mercer County

Instauran el programa 'Mi Vida Mi Plan'

TRENTON - Una legislación patrocinada por la Presidenta del Senado 'Pro Tempore' M. Teresa Ruiz y la Senadora Linda Greenstein, que establecería el programa "Mi vida, mi plan" en el Departamento de Salud fue aprobada en el Senado del estado de Nueva Jersey.

"Es crucial que otorguemos a las mujeres la información que necesitan para ser proactivos y tomar decisiones intencionales sobre su salud reproductiva", dijo la Senadora Ruiz (D-Essex). El proyecto de ley, S-3376, requeriría que el DOH establezca el programa "Mi vida, mi plan" para ayudar a las mujeres en edad fértil a desarrollar planes de vida reproductiva.

"Nueva Jersey tiene servicios

increíbles para ayudar a las mujeres jóvenes con su cuidado reproductivo", dijo la Senadora Greenstein (D-Mercer/Middlesex). "Desafortunadamente, si no saben lo que tienen a su disposición, no pueden aprovechar los programas que ofrecemos al máximo. Esta legislación ayudará a las mujeres a hacer coincidir sus metas con los recursos disponibles, para ayudarlas a alcanzar esas metas". Los recursos del programa serían accesibles en línea y podrían incluir materiales educativos interactivos adaptados a los valores y objetivos reproductivos de una mujer. Habría componentes diseñados para adolescentes y componentes diseñados para hombres.



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Recomendaciones para divertirse en los Parques de Diversiones

TRENTON- New Jersey alberga docenas de parques de diversiones y numerosas ferias para toda la familia cada año. En esta época del año, el gobernador Murphy y la vicegobernadora Sheila Y. Oliver exhortan a la población a conocer y seguir las recomendaciones sobre seguridad del Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios (DCA) que le ayudarán a

abrocharse el equipo de seguridad, tal como los cinturones de seguridad, arneses de hombro y barras para el regazo antes de comenzar el paseo; sujetar todas las pertenencias personales y prendas de vestir, tales como teléfonos, carteras y monederos; mantener las extremidades inferiores y superiores dentro del juego mecánico en todo momento; permanecer dentro del carro



mantener a salvo a su familia.

«Nuestros parques de diversiones son, sin duda, algunos de los mejores de la nación y permiten, entre otros atractivos, que Nueva Jersey sea tan única y especial» --dijo la vicegobernadora Sheila Oliver.

Ante todo, los inspectores de juegos mecánicos del DCA quieren que los usuarios, así como los padres de familia no corran riesgos antes de elegir y usar un juego mecánico. Siempre deberían observar si están colocadas en un lugar visible las calcomanías de «Licencia de registro», de color blanco, y «Aprobación de inspección», de color verde, emitidas por el Estado de Nueva Jersey, donde se indica que el juego mecánico pasó la aprobación e inspección, y las estrictas normas de seguridad del Estado.

Se pide a los usuarios seguir las siguientes recomendaciones:

Conocer y acatar todas las instrucciones escritas y verbales, y respetar todas las restricciones sobre edad, altura y peso;

mecánico y sujetar todo el equipo de seguridad hasta que el juego mecánico se detenga por completo y que el operador indique que ya se puede salir;

no arrojar afuera cualquier objeto desde el juego mecánico, o actuar de manera imprudente;

Se pide a los padres de familia tener en cuenta lo siguiente:

Conocer la capacidad y las limitaciones de sus hijos para saber si el juego es apropiado para ellos; observar cómo funciona el aparato antes que el niño se suba a él para garantizar que pueda disfrutar del juego con seguridad;

aconsejar al niño/a que permanezca sentado, mantenga las barras de seguridad, y obedezca las instrucciones del operador;

elegir un lugar para reunirse con su hijo, que sea fácil de ubicar cuando termine el paseo, y supervisar en todo momento. Recuerde la seguridad es el componente más importante de cada paseo en familia.

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Un retrato familiar

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-El Matrimonio de Byron Avila y Laura Stafford fue una boda que reunió por primera vez a gran parte de mi familia. Era un día que había sido esperado con muchas ansias.

El sábado comenzó con un cielo cargado de nubes, una tormenta de lluvia, el fallecimiento inesperado de mi vecino de muchos años, el choque de mi Toyota contra un camión y hasta un diagnóstico de un MRI no

nombre, también estuvo presente con su buen humor, hasta bailó un San Juanito ecuatoriano con 'Mamita Lía' quienes fueron aplaudidos en pleno centro de la pista.

En las fiestas de los ecuatorianos ya casi al final, es común bailar la típica música ecuatoriana y esta vez no fue la excepción, los padres de la novia y toda la familia en general se unió y bailó alegremente estas melodías que fueron animadas por el DJ y mi querido hijo JC que con talento y



muy agradable... Al inicio parecía que todo estaba destinado a arruinarme el día, Hay cosas que a veces uno no entiende, traté de asimilar lo inevitable, escuché el consejo de mi hermano y eché el día adelante con buena actitud. En la tarde, al otro lado del río,

buen humor traducía todo alternativamente en inglés y en español, lo cual permitió romper las barreras del idioma y que todos estén incluidos en un mismo ambiente.

Fue un día lleno de sorpresas que quedaran grabada en la memoria de



ya en Pennsylvania, acompañé a mis queridos sobrinos en su boda y fue un día inolvidable, tanto por lo sucedido en la mañana, como también por lo que sucedió en la ceremonia y recepción de la boda.

Durante la fiesta, las familias de la novia y novio se identificaron plenamente, parecían una sola familia.

Quienes vinieron de America del Sur, nunca se habían reunido tantos juntos acá en el Norte. Mi padre de 92 años de edad quien lleva mi propio

muchos miembros de esta familia de buena fe, que pone a Dios primero en todo y que por ser primera generación en US, será la semilla de los frutos de próximas generaciones.

A Byron y Laura jóvenes enamorados casados hasta viejitos, les deseo lo mejor, espero que me den muchos sobrinos y sobrinas. Un abrazo que llegue hasta Barcelona-España donde disfrutaban de su Luna de Miel. Dios los bendiga para siempre...Que viva los recién casados!

El valor de la vida del inmigrante latino en Estados Unidos

POR LAURA LUCIA RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

Desde mediados del siglo XX Estados Unidos se ha visto favorecido por la mano de obra latinoamericana, ya que desde esta época muchos obreros de Centro América y México (principalmente) comenzaron a viajar a Norteamérica con el fin de tener mayores ingresos económicos en las labores de agricultura, construcción y labores pesadas.

Inicialmente, estos obreros viajaban en épocas de cosecha y de mayor demanda laboral y luego regresaban a sus países. Sin embargo, con el ascenso de dictadores, el surgimiento de conflictos y las malas condiciones económicas de los países del sur muchos de los latinos empezaron a establecerse de manera definitiva en el país del norte. El número de inmigrantes ha aumentado con los años y si bien hay que admitir que algunos de ellos han migrado de manera ilegal y han realizado actividades criminales, hay que decir que esta es la excepción a la regla ya que la mayoría de latinos le retribuyen al país realizando un trabajo honesto y pagando todos los impuestos correspondientes, incluso "según un estudio del Instituto sobre Impuestos y Política Económica, la población indocumentada aporta cerca de 12.000 millones en tributos cada año, a pesar de que no puede beneficiarse de la gran mayoría de programas públicos" (EFEUSA, 2018).

A pesar de esto, el gobierno de turno tiene una postura radical que rechaza la migración latinoamericana, incluso aquella que es a causa de las situaciones de violencia y crisis económicas en los países de centroamérica. El rechazo es de tal nivel que se le ha negado el asilo a miles de refugiados cuya vida peligra en su país de origen. El gobierno de Estados Unidos considera que la migración debe detenerse pues no está dispuesto a alojar a más extranjeros provenientes del sur que decidan

entrar al país de manera ilegal, es así como desde hace más de un año los niños nacidos en Estados Unidos de padres latinos han sido separados de sus familias, ya que estas son obligadas a regresar a sus respectivos países. La situación no termina allí, en los últimos meses causan gran polémica las medidas drásticas que han tomado las autoridades en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, ya que en este momento hay más de 200 lugares donde los oficiales de inmigración y de aduanas estadounidenses mantienen retenidos a más de 50.000 inmigrantes que solicitan asilo (BBC, 2019). Mantener a estas personas privadas de su libertad puede considerarse como una violación a sus derechos fundamentales, pero además, las condiciones en las que estas personas están retenidas son catalogadas por algunos como una directa violación a los derechos humanos. Estos recintos no cuentan con las características mínimas de higiene ni de albergue para la cantidad de personas que allí se encuentran, esto se ve reflejado en que durante "el gobierno de Donald Trump ya han muerto 24 personas bajo custodia de ICE (Control de Aduanas) y surgieron reportes que alertan sobre el hacinamiento y la falta de condiciones para albergar a un número récord y creciente de migrantes detenidos". (BBC, 2019).

Es inconcebible que la vida de los seres humanos no tenga ningún valor según su nacionalidad, su estatus económico o por su condición de migrante, es necesario que no volvamos al pasado en el que las personas se encontraban privadas de su libertad sin una razón legítima para estarlo. Es deber de los gobiernos y de la sociedad impedir que esta situación continúe, por el contrario debe promoverse el apoyo entre pueblos que buscan una emancipación y un futuro lejos de la violencia y la pobreza.





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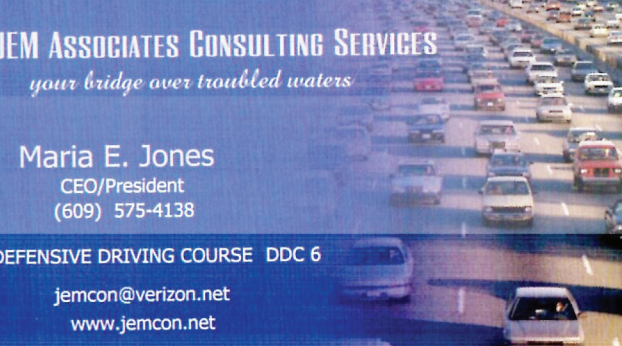
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"I Know I Can"

"The Squad" continued from page 1

last few decades.

Exploiting the less subtle expressions of white supremacist thought and practice from Republicans, the Democrats have pulled off an amazing feat – advancing a neoliberal, white supremacist program of austerity, mass incarceration, economic devastation, gentrification, and generalized state violence against the Black working class while projecting themselves as the friend of Black people.

But reality has an inconvenient way of imposing itself, even when the tendency is to try and avoid it.



'The Squad' Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.; Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.; and Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich.

While the new racial warriors running for office in the Democrat Party fell over themselves condemning the Trump administration for not prosecuting Eric Garner's killer and excoriating Trump for his racist tweets, Biden's non-condemnation was a sober reminder of the complexities of race and racist politics in the U.S.

There is no doubt that the young Black opportunists helping to run Biden's campaign probably wanted their man to forcefully condemn the Trump administration, but they faced a dilemma. They knew that his condemnation could very well open him up to the charge of hypocrisy by his opponents. They remember that the Obama administration – which Biden was obviously a part of – only prosecuted one killer cop in the entirety of its eight-year reign.

And so here we are. The "squad" condemns Trump for his white nationalism, not understanding that as a white supremacist settler-colonial state, white nationalism is "American" nationalism. Until there is break with that history and reality, and with Biden, who like Trump either understands that reality better or is more honest than the squad.

Biden as a neoliberal white supremacist imperialist was always clear where he stood. His voting record and policy support for war on Iraq; the dismembering of Syria; the U.S./ NATO attack on Libya that turned the most prosperous nation on the African continent into a real "shithole country;" and support for Trump's campaign to buttress the white minority oligarchy in Venezuela by implementing a regime change program was not much different than that from Trump. Most of the Democratic Party supported these policies. This all begs the question: how do we then define a "racist" and white nationalist? Is it only through the

easy and obvious markers, like the marchers in Charlottesville or Trump's latest tweets? Or is it also reflected

in

tutions and structural relationships?

I am sorry, but there are more white nationalists in the U.S. than folks want to admit. Not acknowledging the U.S. as a white supremacist settler-state translates into a fundamental error. AOC along with other liberals and most of the Eurocentric left are not calling for a break in the history of the U.S. state. They are not calling for authentic de-colonization. By not doing so, they are embracing the perspective of the invader.

Really, what is this "America" that the squad loves and claim to be a part of? AOC's family is from the colony of Puerto Rico. Tlaib's America is probably the most Islamophobic country on the planet. Omar's native land of Somalia became one of the first of the so-called "failed states," those states where U.S. and Western imperialism plunders and then pretends that the state failed as a result of its internal weaknesses. Pressley, as an African American, is part of a captive population subjected to 243 years of enslavement, 100 years of post-slavery apartheid, and 54 years of benign neglect.

These are the practices and policies of a state and society committed to upholding white colonial/capitalist

power. The squad must understand that if one's people are part of the working class and nationally oppressed, you don't beg to become part of that de-humanizing and degrading machine. You don't call for integration or for the recognition of your rights, which is not going to happen. No! You fight and struggle for your inherent dignity, understanding that human rights are not going to be granted by the oppressor. They have to be won through ferocious struggle.

The Trump forces are laying out the terms of struggle in stark, unambiguous terms. However, the mistake being made by liberals and some left social critics is framing this struggle as a fight between two contending visions of "America": the white nationalist bad America versus the mythological liberal trope of the kind, inclusive, tolerant, justice-seeking America.

This latter construction is an ideological mystification that only props up liberal hegemony and blunts revolutionary consciousness. From the point of view of the conscious, colonized victims of this state and society, the distance between Trump's "Make American Great Again" and Obama's U.S. exceptionalism is minimal. It is the same brutal, violent, oppressive reality that has made the U.S. the enemy of collective humanity on the planet.

Absent the sanctimonious moralizing of liberals, there is an ideological consistency from the "doctrine of discovery" to "manifest destiny" to the Monroe Doctrine to the "full spectrum dominance" that justified and rationalized the naked brutality and genocidal policies of white colonial power. The ideological resonance of the latest incantation of white supremacy in the form of "the responsibility to protect" – the contemporary version of the 'white man's burden' – testifies to the resiliency of the inculcated assumptions of white supremacy and lawless privilege.

If the squad really had some politics and a worldview that transcended liberalism, they would have utilized the Trump tweets as a "teachable" moment to highlight this contradictory reality of the U.S.

Of course, that did not happen because liberal respectability politics and obsequious pandering is all that we can expect when liberalism is in command. What this latest racial flare-up will be reduced to is the boring trope of racism as an individualized set of psychological

dispositions that only decries the bad and obvious racists. Unfortunately, the squad's embracing of the Obama-like, "we are the world" liberalism obscures and distorts the uninterrupted oppressive nature of the settler-state and its core value of white privilege, institutional violence and belief in the natural superiority of the white West. This will only enhance the ideological power of the Trumpian forces.

When Ronald Reagan launched his campaign for president in Philadelphia, Mississippi, the message was clear: the white counter-revolutionary process of President Nixon against left forces – and particularly against the Black Liberation Movement – was going to be intensified not only in the U.S. but globally. Unlike under Trump, the message was subtler, but it was still clear: white power was ready to take center stage again. Thanks to concessions from Democrat and Republican administrations all the way through the Obama years, the ideology and strategy has culminated in the Trump administration. The radical transformation of the social, political, and economic foundation of the U.S., in short, a social revolution, is the only solution to the disease of white supremacy. The final contours of what the U.S. might be will only result from the horrific fight that must be waged to dislodge the power of the white supremacist, colonial/capitalist patriarchy. What is certain – and what the squad and all of their supporters must understand – is that appeals to morality and undignified attempts to ingratiate oneself into this barbarism will only further embolden the extreme right represented by Trump and the even more insidious neoliberal white supremacist right of Biden, Obama and Pelosi.

Ajamu Baraka is the national organizer of the Black Alliance for Peace and was the 2016 candidate for vice president on the Green Party ticket. Baraka serves on the Executive Committee of the U.S. Peace Council and leadership body of the United National Anti-War Coalition (UNAC). He is an editor and contributing columnist for the Black Agenda Report and contributing columnist for Counterpunch. He was recently awarded the Serena Shirm award for uncompromised integrity in journalism.

Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

“The God Groove: A Blues Journey to Faith”

BY DAVID RITZ

c.2019, Atria \$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
243 pages

One thing leads to another. Isn't that how it goes? You start somewhere and a door is opened. You enter that door and see a window. The window takes you elsewhere and each new place teaches you something different. Isn't that the way life

white and Jewish. God was a distant thought. Jesus was someone he barely knew about.

And so it continued through most of his life, until he was a married father of twin girls. He was thirty-two years old then, and desperate for a career change so, because he'd "become obsessed with Ray Charles' voice," Ritz pestered Charles to let him write the singer's biography. That led to an opportunity with Marvin Gaye and

an introduction to Aretha Franklin, who led Ritz to another jazz-and-blues singer and another and another. As each person sat down with him in interviews, the conversation often turned to religion, God, and the love inherent in Christianity.

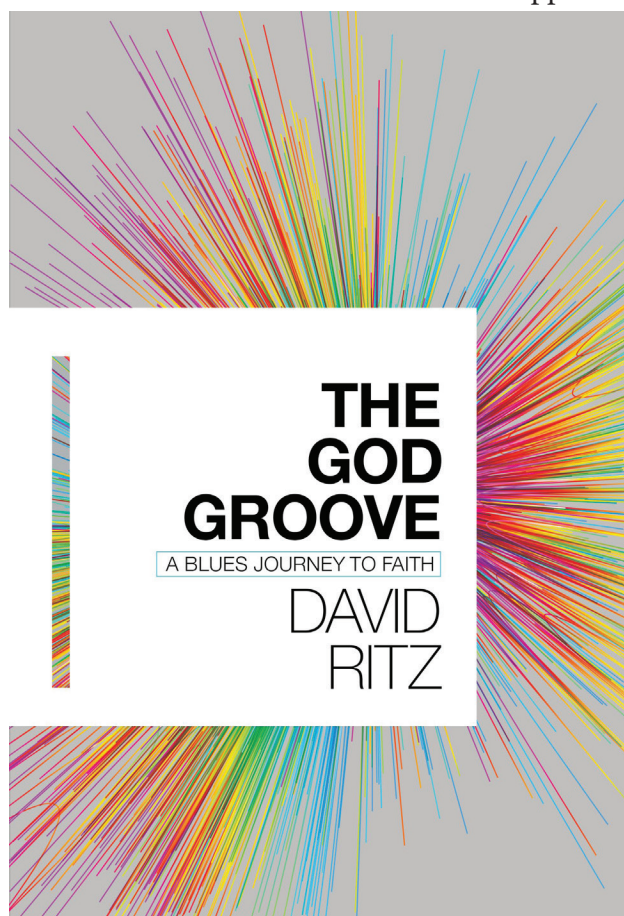
As he was ministered to, Ritz began to listen, and he began to think. He started to see Christ in a different way, and he visited churches. And yet, he still wasn't ready to call himself a Christian...

For a lot of reasons, "The God Groove" is a challenge to read.

The name-dropping is first on the list: author David Ritz worked with many premiere performers and they're all in this book, which is impressive, initially, but becomes like background noise after awhile. Alas, those star-stories get tangled up in Ritz' own tale, which can drown out his fascinating memoir; and the back-and-forth, does-he-or-doesn't-he religious argument also goes on too long.

And yet – there's an underlying personal change of direction that Ritz allows to run just beneath the surface of his story, as he meets flawed people and confesses his own flaws, including drug use and infidelity related to bisexuality. At the risk of spoiling, there's a happy ending available, but getting there might be tough.

Readers who are questioning their faith may find takeaways here. Jazz fans might also like what they see but if you're neither, you may struggle. "The God Groove" isn't awful, you might be led to just put it aside.



is – and in the new book "The God Groove" by David Ritz, isn't that the way faith is?

Growing up in New York City, David Ritz fell in love with music. Finding it was "as easy as walking down Fifty-Second Street," or just to his parents' living room: Ritz's father loved classical music and shared his passion with his son.

For Ritz, though, jazz was the thing. It was always there in New York but when he was a teen, his family moved to Dallas, where hearing jazz meant a lengthy search and at least a "ninety-minute bus trip." One day, in his quest for good music, he stumbled upon an open door from which emanated tight harmonies and soaring voices.

He'd found a Black church, but he was reluctant to enter. Though his family had never been all that religious, the fact remained that Ritz was

Spoken Word

Blood Paved Concrete

Silence falls through the night
Ghetto song birds in search of wings
Sirens of unprotective police illuminate dark crevices, alleyways
A mother has lost her heartbeat
Another shadow just lost it's soul
Shots fired from weapons of mass destruction
Stain
Burn the flesh
Capture the essence of the morning bitterness...
Strange fruit dangles from the blossoms of silver bells
The smell of murder seeps through the air
We inhale
Pitch another tent in homage to life
Pluck away the barriers to get to the root
Breath into the bitter sweet
blood paved concrete
©2019 Nekiel Butler

Nekiel Butler is the focus of our poetry spotlight. She is an excellent poet, with a wonderful spirit. Nekiel is native to Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated from Jackson State University with a BS in Criminal Justice. Supporting those that pursue creativity, is Nekiel's passion and it's the common thread that runs through the colorful tapestry as a Program Coordinator with Mercer County Community College. As a 40-year old Poetry Instructor, her experience entail skills at designing youth programming and program implementation.



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East Trenton is Alive In Jusu

"It's amazing, that's my favorite blessing, actually, that I know I am from Liberia. The only thing that I don't know is my grandparents. They got killed in the war so I never got a chance to meet them, but to directly know that's my place of origin, that's my favorite blessing."

We're talking with Bentrice Jusu. She is the young woman who created the huge mural on the side of the building at East State St. and North Clinton Ave.

The mural which took a long while to get done was put up once but had to be taken down because "it wasn't right." Then with the help of Wills Kinsley and George Z the project got done correctly.

The mural depicts East Trenton as it could be, as it is and what came in the past.

Old Trenton "the parts that make us proud, the architecture, the industrial history, that's actually the revolutionary history that is associated with Trenton.

"What is a whole compilation of violence, some would say, stuckness but also, and most important, the possibility of youth.

And what is going to be will be determined by who persists and who remains here."

Wondering why she decided to put it up in East Trenton she says the people of East Trenton have come together and celebrate their neighbor for the past 14 years. "That's amazing to me."

The community just this past



weekend had a big celebration. More than any other part of town with the help of the East Trenton Collaborative the residents of East Trenton have organized. They hold regular meeting to come up with ways to improve the housing and business development of their area.

Bentrice, her last name is Jusu which means the 'right hand of God', reaches out to the youth in the city. She currently works with an organization she created, Both Hands. There she brings together some of the talented youth who have a gift and

desire to share themselves through art.

Whether it is through the spoken word of put paint to canvass or computer graphics, she is there to develop, not only the art but the person.

She says "art can be a real mechanism of change, a real catalysis to save people, to save youth. Like it saved my life time and time again."

The mural can be seen directly across the street from the East Trenton Collaborative building on North Clinton Ave, in Trenton.

Bentrice Jusu



Time For A Change

BY AL ALATUNJI

It has been just a little over a year that Trenton's current City Council has been in office. It's report card grade for the year is an "I". An "I" not for incomplete but incompetence and ineptness; gross incompetence and gross ineptness. It truly is not a grade one wants to give or receive. Nevertheless, it is a grade that Council has worked hard to attain in a short period of time.

From the outset the current Council, also known as the Three Stooges plus Four, has engaged in petty squabbling, personal and character attacks on each other, cat fighting and other conduct normally associated with spoiled children. Dysfunction, schisms, cliques and confusion reign supreme.

Then there is the fiasco of the Council

voting against advancing a redevelopment proposal bringing 400 jobs to the city, basically because it was not the Council's idea. Unfortunately, however, the Council has not had an idea prior to that time, at that time or since that time.

Council's bizarre conduct surrounding the economic redevelopment proposal as well as its dysfunctional behavior from day one is almost laughable if it was not so tragic. Trenton can not afford to lose out on any opportunity to bring jobs to the city, economic growth, development and progress for its residents.

Yes, this Council has deserved its negative grade and the ridicule, distaste and contempt of so many. At the same time, it is not a personal attack on the members individually or collectively. They are all honorable

men and women. However, the job is far beyond their individual and collective abilities and commitment. Trenton because of its great challenges needs a Council of visionaries, thinkers and pioneers who individually and collectively have a fierce urgency and commitment for change and progress.

To mock and ridicule the Council, although richly deserved, is not enough. For Trenton residents to resign themselves to the governance by the current Council until the next Council election in 2022 three years from now would be more tragic than Council's gross incompetence and ineptness.

Those who really care about Trenton and believe it can and must do better need to come forward and begin the process of changing Trenton for a better day. Such change cannot wait three more years. Such a process must

begin today. As they say "if you can't change the people, than you change the people." It is time for a change.

The process is called recall. Now is the time to recall the current City Council. If nothing else it will serve as a message to those who seek elective office, "if you don't come correct than don't come at all." Let's repeat that again, "if you don't come correct than don't come at all." Egoists, narcissists, miscreants, incompetents need not apply.

The book of Genesis recalls Abraham pleading with God and was given assurance that the city of Sodom would be spared if he could find ten righteous people. Trenton only needs three people to start the recall process; just three.

Trenton deserves better, it can do better, it must do better. It is time for a change.

What's Happening

- Every Thursday through September 5th, 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Trenton Summer Concert Series, Mill Hill Park, Downtown Trenton. Bring your lawn chairs and sun umbrella. Free
- Every Tuesday, Open Mic with Benny P, 8:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Trenton Social, 449 South Broad Street, Trenton
- Every Thursday - Children's Thursday Theater, 3:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Saturday, Board Game Workshop, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Monday, Bible Conversation Group, 12 Noon to 1:15p.m., Starbucks Community Room, 102 S. Warren St., Trenton - For the non-religious, the spiritual, and everybody in between 609 836-1403
- Every second Saturday, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Championship Bar and Music Club at 931 Chambers Street in Trenton NJ there is 'Barz All Night'. Each artist gets to perform 3 songs and some freestyle cypher during intermission.
- Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Open Mic Night with your favorite host Cinnamon R. Martin. Get a front row seat to some of the best talent that Trenton has to offer. Items for sale at this unique small business shop. 25 East Bridge Street, Morrisville, PA. There is a \$5 donation for the event.
- Saturday, July 27th at 6 PM - 10 PM - Hip-Hop / R&B Night with Day26 · Hosted by Mercer County Park Commission. Mercer County Park - Festival Grounds, 1638 Old Trenton Rd, Princeton Junction. Day26 has had a number of chart topping hits, and their amplified performances have revolutionized the sounds of R&B and hip-hop. Opening support for Day26 will be Sammy Cokas. Tickets are on sale now through CommunityPass for \$20. Ticket includes parking.
- Sunday, July 28th, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm -- Bookshop on Lafayette Booksigning, The Bookshop on Lafayette Street is a collection of stories and poems about a bookshop--with Pulitzer-Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa, Dodge poet Doc Long, Trentonian writer Jeff Edelstein,

- Eric Maywar, Ilene Dube, David Lee White, Nancy Scott, Barry Gross, Jackie Reinstedler, Tom Webster, John Gummere and Leon Rainbow. At Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion, 299 Parkside Ave, Trenton, New Jersey (Cadwalader Park)
- Saturday, August 3rd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - Community Clean Up, hosted by South Ward Committee Person, Damian Malave. Come to the John Beech Playground (3rd St. Park) hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided after the clean-up.
 - Saturday, August 3rd at 9 AM - 2:30 PM - Victorious Is My Name! Empowerment Conference · Hosted by FaithWorks Unlimited Ministries, LLC, at Mercer County Community College James Kearny Campus Trenton, NJ 102 North Broad Street, Trenton. Victim Rights, Education & Advocacy. Powerful speakers include: Kimme Carlos (Urban Mental Health Alliance); The Latin American Legal Defense & Education Fund (LALDEF), and Jonette Smart (NAACP, Trenton Branch). Come to be EMPOWERED and INSPIRED!! This is a FREE EVENT but you must register by 7/31/19
 - Sunday, August 4th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm -- 2019 Arts & Authors Extravaganza, Hosted by Kimberly Ross-Hollingsworth. Live Indoor Art Show, Live Band, Book Signings and Readings, (WE WELCOME ALL GENRES) Prizes and Drawings, Spoken Word, Music & Entertainment, Light refreshments and Cash Bar! Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill, 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, New Jersey
 - Tuesday, August 6th, 5:00 pm til 9:00 pm - National Night Out 2019. City of Trenton and Trenton Police Department sponsor the Night Out at Trenton's Police Headquarters. For more information contact the Trenton Police Dept at 609 989-3118
 - Sunday, August 11th at 12 PM - 11 PM Willingboro Jazz and Music Festival · Hosted by POO Production and Willingboro Recreation & Parks Department. Mill Creek Park, 300 Beverly Rancocas Rd, Willingboro, NJ. FREE EVENT, PARKING: \$15 BRING YOUR LOUNGE CHAIR AND SUN UMBRELLA, NO ALCOHOL AL-

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- Saturday, August 17th at 12 PM - 6 PM - Parade of the African Diaspora. All organizations, clubs, volunteers, and vendors will have the opportunity to sign up for the 1st Parade of the African Diaspora at the next First Fridays on Front Street

taking place on June 7th. We value your participation!

- Saturday, August 24th ----Dr. Mwalimu Shujaa will be honored by the Watu Cultural Exchange at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church on East State St.

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