

The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Standing With The Immigrants

BY AL ALATUNJI

They come to the US seeking a better life, a better day for themselves and especially their children. They heard that the US was a land of opportunity and freedom. A place that welcomes all those who desire to live free of repression and violence. A place where every man and woman can "sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid."

They come from countries where poverty, unspeakable terror and violence are the everyday norm. A norm they do not want for themselves and especially their children. Where the opportunity for a better life for themselves and especially their children does not exist. So they come.

They come from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, the Dominican

Republic and other parts of the Caribbean, Africa, Asia. Hundreds, thousands of miles. They are told that the US is a shining city on a hill with open arms for the wretched of the earth. So they come. They come with little or nothing other than their hopes, dreams, prayers and faith

Their journey is uncertain. They are not sure what they will encounter nor the trials

and tribulations that stand before them. But they believe God will take care of them. They know if God's eye is on the sparrow He must be also

watching over them. So they come. I am a child of immigrant parents. My parents landed in Philadelphia shortly after 1916. They left the land they were born to escape the terror and violence that was omnipresent. A violence and terror which knew no boundaries, no limits. A violence and terror that daily reared its head in unspeakable ways. A terror and violence so cruel, so inhumane that Jesus himself must have wondered if His dying on the cross to free men and women of their



Immigrants continued on page 11




DOMINGO 8 DE SEPTIEMBRE VUELVE EL DESFILE PUERTORRIQUEÑO DE TRENTON



Ira Blackman was the owner of Blackman's Right On Boutique. He was the first person to sell ethnic items in the Trenton area. His store was on Broad Street, downtown Trenton. Photo by Karen R. Hilton

El Latino News
 En Contacto con la Comunidad
 Trenton – Mercer County

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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COMPENSATORY-FUNCTIONAL DEFINITIONS

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

Racist = 1) A white person who, directly or indirectly, speaks and/or acts in a manner that helps to establish, maintain, expand, and or refine the practice of White Supremacy (Racism), at any time, in any place, in any one or more areas of activity, including economics, education, entertainment, labor, law, politics, religion, sex and/or war.

2) A White Supremacist.

3) A person (white) who practices White Supremacy (Racism).

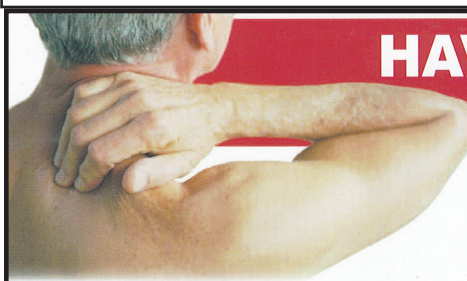
4) Any white person, who is mentally or physically able to speak, and/or act, to eliminate White Supremacy, but who does not do so.

Racism = 1) The scientific practice of unjust subjugation, misuse, and/or abuse of persons classified as "non-white", by persons classified as "white", on the basis of color or non-color, and/or on the bases of factors associated with color or non-color.

2) White Supremacy

[note: it is incorrect to use the term "White Racism". To use this term is to imply that racism exists in a form other than White Supremacy].

You can order the digital edition of "The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept online at: <https://www.digitalxpress.shop/product-page/the-united-independent-compensatory-code-system-concept-textbook-counter-racist>



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Light The Way

TANGELA WRIGHT

On Tuesday, August 27, 2019 A International Overdose Awareness Candle vigil took place at the Rescue Mission on Carroll Street in Trenton. The vigil was in response to the movement of silence in honoring those that have been lost to substance use & those



currently struggling with addiction. The speaker of the evening was Barrett Young who is currently the Chief Coordinator of the facility. He lead off telling the residents had come out to show support that they are not bad people but made a bad decision. The current statistics show there

were more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. Among these, 47,600 involved opioids. The sharpest increase involved fentanyl.

If you are not sure if you personally need help or if a friend may need some help here are a few tells that can help you or that friend.

Have friends or family told you that you are behaving differently for no apparent reason—such as acting withdrawn, frequently tired or depressed, or hostile? Be open to listen to them and ask yourself, if they are right? Be honest and understand that they are only loving, concerned about your well being and would like to help you.

Blacks And The Criminal Justice System

BY AL ALATUNJI

Blacks are seven-times more likely than whites to be wrongfully convicted of murder. Further, Blacks are three times more likely than whites to be wrongfully convicted of sexual assault.

This is all according to the Innocence Project, which recently shared the harsh reality of being Black behind bars and the survival mechanisms innocent people employ to overcome being wrongly convicted.

“From their very first interaction with the police, to being arrested, booked, charged, convicted, and sentenced, Black people are discriminated against and disproportionately criminalized at every stage of the

criminal justice system,” according to the Innocence Project report, #Black-BehindBars: Sparking a conversation on the Black wrongful conviction experience in the U.S.

The report, which focuses on incarcerated individuals that have benefitted from the efforts of the Innocence Project, notes that to be a Black exoneree in America means:

You are one of the 222 Blacks of the 365-total exonerees of all races, proved innocent by DNA since 1989, when the first exoneration by DNA occurred. This includes the 84 Blacks on death row that were exonerated (from a total of 164 exonerees of all races)

You spent an average of 10.7 years

behind bars for a crime you didn't commit vs. 7.4 years for White exonerees (approx. 25% longer, on average)

According to studies 4.1 percent of defendants who are sentenced to death in the United States are later shown to be innocent: 1 in 25 Whereas death sentences are well-documented there is not enough known about other kinds of criminal cases to estimate the rate of wrongful convictions for those. The rate could be lower than for capital murders, or it could be higher. In the US with millions of criminal convictions a year and more than 2 million people behind bars, even a one percent error amounts to tens of thousands of innocent people wrongly convicted. Prosecutors maintain that charges

Yes it will be hard to be completely honest about what you maybe struggling with but it will make a world of a difference for you and your life. These changes could be signs you are developing a drug-related problem. Parents sometimes overlook such signs, believing them to be a normal part of the teen years. Only you know for sure if you are developing a problem because of your drug use.

These are just a few signs to look for in a child/teens: hanging out with different friends, not caring about your appearance, grades are declining, missing classes or skipping school, losing interest in your favorite activities, getting in trouble in school or with the law, having different eating or sleeping habits, having more problems with family members and friends &

We would like to encourage you to ask for help. It is the first important step and we want you to know that you are important to you family, friends and the village.

Visiting your doctor for a referral to treatment is another way to seek professional help. You can also contact an addiction

specialist. There are 3,500 board-certified physicians who specialize in addiction in the United States. The American Society of Addiction Medicine website has a Find a Physician feature on its home page.

It takes a lot of courage to seek help for a drug problem because there is a lot of hard work ahead and most importantly you will need a good support system. However, treatment can work, and people recover from addiction every day. Like other chronic diseases, addiction can be managed successfully. Treatment enables people to counteract addiction's powerful, disruptive effects on brain and behavior and regain control of their lives.

If anyone is looking for more information/help here are a few helpful numbers: Suicide-1-800-273-8255, lifeline-1-800-784-8433, Depression-1-630-482-9696, Drug/Alcohol-1-877-235-4525, Mental Health-1-800-442-9673, Darkness to Light-1-866-367-5444 or Recovery 1-877-818-3563.

they bring are based on the strength of the evidence rather than prior convictions. However, Blacks may only come to the police's attention as potential suspects because of a prior criminal record, regardless of how minor. Profiling and the over-policing of Black and Latino neighborhoods increases the chance for a police encounter that may contribute to false arrest and conviction.

Blacks in the US have never been given a presumption of innocence in the criminal justice system. For Blacks it has always been guilty until proved innocent and then still guilty.

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Barack Obama Elementary School

BY AL ALATUNJI

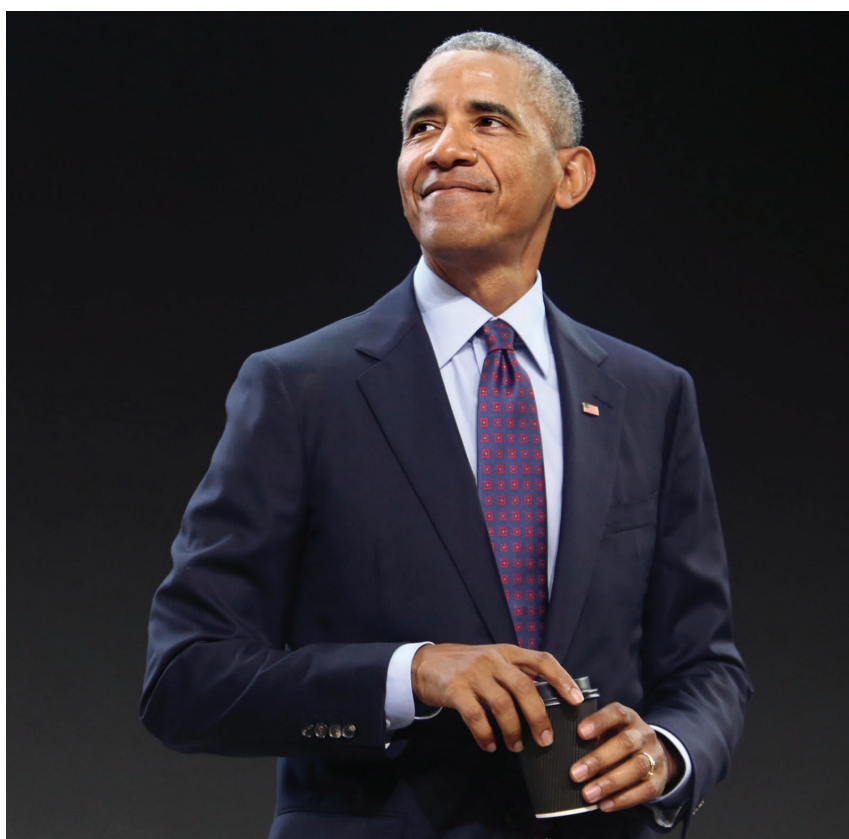
Trenton was once a leader. It was a major manufacturing center in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One relic of that era is the slogan "Trenton Makes, The World Takes." The city adopted the slogan in 1917 to represent Trenton's then-leading role as a major manufacturing center for rubber, wire rope, ceramics and cigars. Wire rope used in the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge came from Trenton. New York City's first Black mayor David Dinkins also came from Trenton. Trenton Central High School at one time was ranked third best academic high school in the nation.

It was the site of the Battle of Trenton George Washington's first victory considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War. In 1784 it briefly served as the capital of the US.

Somewhere along the way Trenton lost its industrial avant-garde nature. It no longer was a leader. It became sleepy, slowly sleepwalking its way one day to the next.

To use the ending line from Spike Lee's "School Daze," it time for Trenton to WAKE UP. WAKE UP.

It is time for Trenton to stop being a follower and once again becoming a



leader. To that end, Trenton's governing body and its education leaders can do the following: Become one of the nation's first school district to name a school after

President Barack Obama. In particular rip the name of Woodrow Wilson off the front of the elementary school located on Girard Avenue and

rename it the Barack Obama Elementary School. Wilson Elementary School, is named after one time governor of New Jersey and former US President Wood-

row Wilson. Wilson was a stone cold racist who as president oversaw the unprecedented segregation of the federal bureaucracy. His administration implemented separate toilet

facilities for federal government workers based on race in federal buildings. The establishment of separate eating tables, dressing rooms, restrooms and lockers took place under Wilson's administration, and yes he was fully aware of it and did nothing to prevent it. Wilson's name on that school is an abomination and disrespects the Black and Latino students who attend. Give students who attend that school a role model for whom they can identify and can be inspired by. Woodrow Wilson is not that person.

In addition to naming the elementary school after President Obama, State Street from East to West, the entire street, should be renamed after the first Black president.

The statue of George Washington at the Battle Monument should be removed and given to Washington Crossing State Park. George Washington the first president of the US was a slave owner. That is not a "hero" Black children in Trenton and elsewhere need to look up to.

Come on Trenton WAKE UP, WAKE UP become a leader again.

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**“Diversity of people
and perspectives
is essential to
effective leadership
and operational
success.”**

— Mayor W. Reed Gusciora



Congratulations to **Taya Brown-Humphrey**, an 18-year veteran of the water industry who has just been named Superintendent in charge of day-to-day operations at TWW’s water-filtration plant, which produces 27 million gallons of water each day. Born in Trenton and educated at Trenton Central High School and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), where she earned a degree in chemical engineering, Taya is also a T-4 licensed operator. She will help lead Trenton Water Works, one of the oldest water utilities in the country, into a productive and high-tech future. Taya is pictured here with Dr. Shing-Fu Hsueh, Director of the city’s Department of Water and Sewer, and Trenton Mayor W. Reed Gusciora.

City of Trenton • W. Reed Gusciora, Mayor • Dr. Shing-Fu Hsueh, P.E., P.P., Director • City Council



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En Contacto con la Comunidad

Trenton – Mercer County

La misión de la ONU y la Comisión Internacional contra la Impunidad en Guatemala CICIG, está cerrando sus operaciones después de 12 años. GUATEMALA_ “Señor Iván Velásquez, usted y todo el gran equipo de la Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad deben estar conscientes de que la mayoría de la población guatemalteca reconoce su labor y agradece su entrega en estos años”, dijo el Procurador de los Derechos Humanos, Jordán Rodas, al titular de la CICIG, que culminó su labor en Guatemala el pasado martes.



Iván Velásquez al titular de la CICIG, que culminó su labor en Guatemala tras 12 años de gestión.

Hablando de Futbol

Basta ya de violencia en los estadios

POR: OSCAR MUL-XIU - TWITTER:@ OSCARMX19

En esta ocasión hablaremos de un fenómeno que me ha llamado poderosamente la atención, la violencia existente en nuestros países, empieza a trasladarse a nuestros estadios de una manera alarmante. Recuerdo muy bien esos días de mi infancia, previos al partido de futbol en el que iríamos como familia, mi padre, mi madre, yo y mi hermano menor, y en algunas ocasiones amigos de la colonia u otros familiares.

Era toda una aventura, salir rumbo al estadio, llegar, hacer la cola para comprar los boletos, acceder al inmueble, presenciar el partido y después, nos llevaban a tomar una malteada y comer una hamburguesa. Aún recuerdo esos días en familia, mis padres felices y nosotros, también.

Lamentablemente son momentos que ahora como padre ya no podre disfrutar en compañía de mis seres queridos.

Algo nos está pasando como sociedad, en el que es muy común escuchar la alta tasa de violencia e inseguridad en nuestros países hispanos, y que poco a poco se ha ido trasladando hacia dentro de los estadios de futbol u otros recintos deportivos.

Basta con recordar acontecimientos de violencia recientes, por ejemplo: El del año pasado en la final de la Copa Libertadores de América en el que la jugarían los equipos argentinos, Boca Juniors Vs River Plate. Fue tan alto el índice de violencia e inseguridad, que los mismos organizadores optaron por trasladar el partido no solamente fuera de Argentina si no fuera del continente!

Si, al no encontrar suficientes garantías de seguridad, tuvieron que llevar la final hasta España, si el partido termino jugándose en el estadio del Real Madrid, el Santiago Bernabéu de la capital Española.



En estos últimos días, en Honduras en el partido entre el Olimpia Vs Motagua, simpatizantes de ambos equipos iniciaron una bronca campal en pleno partido en donde lamentable varios aficionados perdieron la vida. Invadieron la cancha, incluso se abrieron las puertas del estadio como medida de seguridad, para que la gente pueda salir del inmueble y ponerse a salvo.

En México es muy común que semana a semana existan estas manifestaciones de violencia en casi todos los estadios de la liga local. Ya basta! Los invito a una reflexión, piensen en lo lindo que sería el poder llevar a su familia a un estadio de futbol, pasar un momento inolvidable en compañía de tus seres queridos. Sin tener que estar preocupado o pensar si estarán a salvo o no.

BASTA YA! De violencia, no participe en ella dentro o fuera del estadio, exhorta a tus amigos y familiares a que tampoco participen, si todos ponemos nuestro granito de arena juntos lo podremos lograr, recuerda que los buenos somos mayoría. Juntos podemos lograrlo!!

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DOMINGO 8 DE SEPTIEMBRE VUELVE EL DESFILE PUERTORRIQUEÑO DE TRENTON

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-Para este domingo 8 de



septiembre está previsto el retorno del Desfile Puertorriqueño de Trenton. Previo al desfile los organizadores realizaron el pasado martes 3 de septiembre el izamiento de la bandera puertorriqueña en los altos del edificio de la alcaldía de la ciudad de Trenton, donde el alcalde Reed Gusciora fue el invitado especial. El Desfile según informaron iniciará

en el estacionamiento de CURE Insurance Arena localizada en la South Broad Street y Hamilton Ave., a partir de las 12 del mediodía y terminará al frente de la alcaldía de Trenton. David Maldonado quien hizo de Maestro de Ceremonia durante el izamiento de la bandera, también presentó a toda la directiva y miembros de la junta, quienes recibieron uno por uno el aplauso del público presente.

“Esto va a ser maravilloso. De aquí a diez años Trenton tendrá más concejales hispanos en la alcaldía” dijo Pedro Medina uno de los miembros de la Junta del Desfile Puertorriqueño.

Por su parte el alcalde Gusciora señaló estar contento de compartir las tradiciones y las manifestaciones culturales de la comunidad puertorriqueña de Trenton y Nueva Jersey en general. Además resaltó las muestras de solidaridad que tuvieron los puertorriqueños de Trenton con los damnificados del huracán Maria, que afecto hace dos años.

Oportunidades para niños de 3 y 4 años, distritos reciben fondos de expansión preescolar

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-El gobernador Phil Murphy anunció esta semana que



1,450 niños más de 3 y 4 años se beneficiarán de una educación preescolar de alta calidad, a partir del 1 de octubre del 2019. Con \$ 20 millones más de dólares para la educación en el estado, 28 distritos escolares adicionales ubicados en todo el Estado Jardín recibirán fondos para abrir nuevas aulas para los niños en edades de 3 a 4 años en todo Nueva Jersey.

Hubo un aumento significativo en el interés del distrito este año, con más solicitudes que en años anteriores.

Al hacer este anuncio en el Centro de Infancia Temprana Eugenio Maria Hostos en Union City, el Gobernador dijo que se sentía optimista por el futuro de nuestros hijos debido a la mayor inversión estatal en las experiencias de aprendizaje temprano de más niños pequeños. Adriana Birne, direc-

tora del Early Childhood Center declaró que “¡Los primeros años son realmente los años de aprendizaje!” Este es el tercer año consecutivo en que los fondos estatales han incluido un aumento de dólares para implementar el modelo nacionalmente reconocido de Nueva Jersey para niños en edades preescolar de alta calidad.

El ser humano, la peor de las plagas

POR LAURA LUCIA RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

Hace pocos meses escribí sobre la quema de manglar en México, cientos de hectáreas que tardarán años en recuperarse. Hoy vemos como en Brasil, el pulmón del mundo sucede lo mismo pero en dimensiones exacerbadas, la Amazonía ha perdido en los últimos 18 días 10.000 hectáreas de bosque. Esta noticia es desgarradora, pues miles de especies endémicas han perdido la vida y miles más están en riesgo de hacerlo en los próximos días debido a la mala calidad de aire que han dejado los incendios.

el último río haya sido envenenado, sólo después que el último pez haya sido atrapado, sólo entonces nos daremos cuenta que no nos podemos comer el dinero”.

Se dice que hay varias causas de esta tragedia ambiental, pero la más acertada parece ser la quema intencional para transformar el bosque en áreas ganaderas que satisfagan el consumo de carne y la producción de soya. Es inaudito que un gobierno permita semejante atropello a la fauna y flora de su propio país, es por esto que muchos Estados y ciudadanos han



Esta es una situación que debe indignar no sólo a los brasileños, cuyo presidente no tomó ni ha tomado decisiones contundentes, sino a todo el mundo, pues esto afecta a todos los seres del planeta. La Amazonía provee más del 20% de oxígeno que requieren los seres vivos, con las condiciones actuales y el ritmo acelerado de la contaminación mundial muchas personas y animales morirán a causa de enfermedades respiratorias.

Sin embargo, esta noticia no es una novedad para los habitantes de la región quienes han soportado más de 72.843 incendios, solamente en el 2019 (CNN ,2019). Sí estas cifras no lo asustan, pues deberían, ya que son una clara evidencia de que la especie humana tiene el tiempo contado. La historia nos ha demostrado que el planeta tierra ha logrado recuperarse de grandes cambios climáticos como calentamientos y eras de hielo, los que no logran sobrevivir son las especies que habitan en él.

A pesar de saber todo esto la ambición del hombre es absurda y continúa dando prioridad al enriquecimiento económico sobre la preservación ambiental, como dice una célebre frase de los nativos norteamericanos Cree “*Sólo después que el último árbol sea cortado, sólo después que*

manifestado su rechazo a Bolsonaro, presidente de Brasil. No obstante, este activismo mediático no es suficiente si no se complementa con acciones que conlleven al impacto positivo. Es momento para que las personas a nivel global analicen sus tradiciones de consumo y empiecen a realizar cambios que en colectivo signifiquen un alivio para la madre tierra.

Hoy en Colombia también se registra la pérdida de 600 hectáreas de Bosque, en el departamento de Huila debido a las altas temperaturas que presenta la región. Es necesario que los líderes mundiales tengan en sus prioridades la conservación del ambiente y no la destrucción que se han encargado de perpetuar durante todos estos años, pues el daño no lo pagan los grandes terratenientes sino los campesinos y las personas que cada día respiramos un aire más contaminado.

Es nuestro deber de actuar con conciencia en las urnas y votar por quienes antepongan la conservación del planeta por encima de la acumulación de riquezas.

Fuentes:

CNN, 2019. Lo que sabemos hasta ahora de los incendios en el Amazonas: la selva podría ir en camino a un desastre.



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"I Know I Can"

Mental Health Stigma Still Affecting Blacks

By AL ALUNTUNJI

Historically, seeking psychotherapy has been difficult for Blacks according to many mental health professionals. It has been considered more of a white people's thing.

Psychotherapy is not only a concept with European origin, but also a concept that traditionally does not fit the community-oriented, collective approach to healing and support more apt to be used by Blacks. The Black church has often been an institution which has been used to provide such a service.

Instead of finding healing in coming together, the client is separated, often sitting in a one-on-one session with a professional. The idea of being focused on, analyzed, can be perceived as threatening.

The US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health says poverty level affects mental health status. Blacks living below the poverty level, as compared to those over twice the poverty level, are three times more likely to report psychological distress.

Further, Blacks are 10 percent more likely to report having serious

psychological distress than Non-Hispanic whites, and the death rate from suicide for Black men was more than four times greater than for Black women, in 2014.

A report from the US Surgeon General found that from 1980 to 1995, the suicide rate among Blacks ages 10 to 14 increased 233 percent, compared to 120 percent for non-Hispanic whites.

Such statistics have alarmed members of Congress, in particular members of the Congressional Black Caucus into action.

The Congressional Black Caucus in April of this year established the Congressional Black Caucus Emergency Taskforce on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health to look at the mental health problem. They have held hearings on mental health and the increasing number of suicides among black youth.

Recently, award-winning actress and "Empire" star Taraji P. Henson testified before members of Congress on mental health issues in the Black community.

"I am here using my celebrity, using my voice, to put a face to this, because

I also suffer from depression and anxiety," Henson told the members of Congress. "If you're a human living in today's world, I don't know how you're not suffering in any way."

"It breaks my heart to know that 5-year-old children are contemplating life and death, I just...I'm sorry. That one is tough for me. So, I'm here to appeal to you, because this is a national crisis. When I hear of kids going into bathrooms, cutting themselves, you're supposed to feel safe in school," Henson stated.

"I'm here to appeal to you because this is a national crisis," Henson said. Henson founded the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation in 2018 to eradicate the stigma surrounding mental illness in the Black community with a specific emphasis on the suicide rate among Black youth.

"I really don't know how to fix this problem, I just know that the suicide rate is rising," she said. "I just know that ages of the children that are committing suicide are getting younger.

Every year, 1 in 5 adults in the US experience a mental illness, but a National Alliance on Mental Illness study discovered that Black adults utilize mental health services at half

the rate of white adults.

Yet, experts said even as the conversation around mental health has grown significantly with celebrities and others in the spotlight sharing their stories, most Blacks still refrain from seeking help. It remains taboo to even talk about.

There are more than 200 classified forms of mental illness and some of the more common disorders are depression, bipolar disorder, dementia, schizophrenia and anxiety disorders, according to Mental Health America, the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness.

Mental illness is not a joke, something to laugh at. Nor is it something which should be swept under the rug. The mental health of the Black community both individually and collectively is something which must be seriously addressed with understanding, compassion and love.

Contact:

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
Phone: 609-838-5488



September 25, 2019 | 6 pm

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Nubian News Book Review

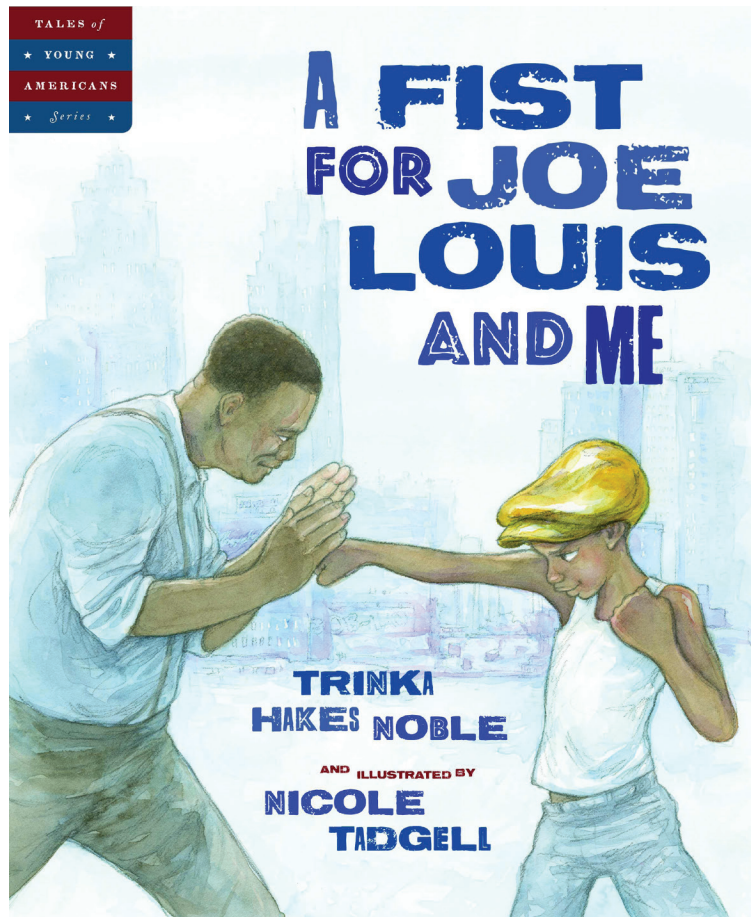
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

“A Fist for Joe Louis and Me”

BY TRINKA HAKES NOBLE, ILLUSTRATED BY NICOLE TADGELL

c.2019, Sleeping Bear Press
\$17.99 / \$22.99 Canada 40 pages

Your teacher says “no fighting on the playground.”



No pushing, no smacking, and definitely, no hitting. It's not nice, he says. That's what bullies do, you know. But as you'll see in “A Fist for Joe Louis and Me” by Trinkia Hakes Noble, illustrated by Nicole Tadjell, sometimes fists and gloves equals a fistful of friendship.

It was the best of traditions: every Friday evening, right after work, Gordy's dad gave Gordy boxing lessons. After that, they'd eat dinner together and listen to the fights on the local radio station. It was especially good when Joe Louis was in the ring. But then “times got hard,” people started talking about Germany, and Gordy's dad lost his job. The Friday night tradition stopped for awhile, and Gordy's mom had to take in some tailoring to pay for the family's groceries. One night, when Mr. Rubinstein, whose family left Germany to escape the Nazis, stopped to drop off the work, his son, Ira, came along. That was when Gordy learned that other kids admired Joe Lewis, too.

But Ira didn't know the first thing about boxing! He didn't even know what “dukes” were, so Gordy had

some teaching to do. Every time Mr. Rubinstein dropped off some work for Gordy's mom, Gordy and Ira practiced boxing out in the alley. Gordy taught Ira how to keep from getting hit too hard and they had fun pretending. They even made up boxing names for themselves.

Weeks later, that practice and pretend came in handy when a real bully came after Ira. Gordy stepped into the fray because he knew Joe Louis wouldn't let Ira fight alone, but hitting someone in anger made him sick.

Was that how Joe Louis felt?

That evening, Ira and his father came over to listen to Joe Louis versus Max Schmeling on the radio. For years to come, it would

be called The Fight of the Century but in the end, it wouldn't last long: just a little over two minutes.

Its effect on two little boys, however, would last for many years...

Considering all that's happened in the recent past, “A Fist for Joe Louis and Me” couldn't be more timely.

Using as a backdrop an event that made history nearly ninety years ago, author Trinkia Hakes Noble tells a story of a young African American boy and his friendship with a Jewish boy. It's a tale set during the Depression when anti-Semitism and racism made poverty seem a little bit sharper but Noble's characters don't complain; instead, they face problems together, which leaves behind the idea that we can find common ground and mutual interest, if we're open to them. That, and artwork by Nicole Tadjell, make it an appealing message for any age. This book is meant for gradeschoolers but be sure to go over the author's note with your child, found at the end. It adds meaning to the story inside “A Fist for Joe Louis and Me” and it makes this a book your child will fight to own.

How to exercise your rights, the right way, when falsely accused!

KELL RAMOS

Years ago, I went to a mall with a friend. When we returned to the car, I decided to change my shirt. As we began to drive, police cars raced over, with sirens blaring. They jumped out with guns drawn, screaming, “Get out of the car, Hands up!” We complied. They threw us on the cement, pressing their knees on our necks. Mall Security called them, thinking we were stealing my own car. After the paperwork all checked out, they let us go, with no apology.

I went home, videotaped myself explaining what just happened, recorded the marks on my body, and their footprints on my new shirt. I then hired a lawyer and soon after, a financial settlement was reached and justice was served.

The second incident was In 2006. Trenton was experiencing a huge gang problem. The city planned a Gang Summit called, “The Covenant of Peace.” A gang leader spoke to

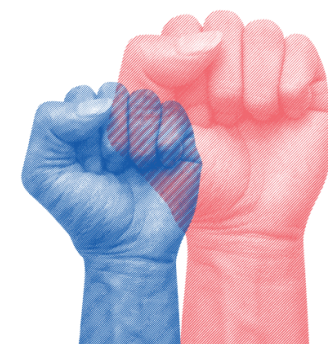
years later.

I was recording everyday, but one day in particular, while filming at a library where the gang leader had started a Life Skills Program, a tactical police unit appeared with machine guns. They made everyone leave, and the same cop took my camera away again. He said that if he ever saw me filming again, he was going to lock me up and he didn't care what for. Now I feared I was going to be set up and in real trouble.

I hired an attorney and filed a lawsuit against the Police Department, for 1st amendment rights violations. The case was heard, but the judge dismissed it. Then the ACLU got involved and filed an appeal. Now the case was being heard by the second highest court in New Jersey, who voted unanimously to reopen the case. They decided that I was a journalist, gathering news of public interest, and that my first amendment rights had been violated.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
**Stopped by
Police**

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the crowd that day. He was tired of the violence, and was trying to start a peace movement within his own gang. When he was done, I asked if I could tell his story in a documentary, and he agreed.

The first night of filming we were all arrested and an officer took my video camera and locked it in my car, then it was towed for illegal parking. He didn't believe I was a legitimate filmmaker, trying to tell an important story. That would be taken care of,

Eventually, years later, financial terms were settled and justice was served again. My case is now in the law books, nationally and is often cited as precedent. I have been contacted by people with similar cases and I give advice, encouragement and my experiences. It doesn't pay to fight with law enforcement, in the moment, when being wrongfully accused. The fight really only happens in a courtroom, usually with lawyers involved, but those are the most satisfying victories.

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Immigrants - continued from page 1

sins was worth it.

My parents saw the bodies of men, women and sometimes even children hanging from trees ropes tied around their necks and the bodies of others castrated, mutilated and burnt alive by godless mobs. Mobs driven by rage, hate, fear, ignorance and just plain evil.



The land where my parents fled had two sets of laws employed differently depending on which group a person belonged. A land where some had rights and others had none. A land where some were considered people and others were treated worse than animals.

My parents' journey was not as long as those who travel now days from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala today but there journey was also northward from the south. Uncertain what the future might hold they put their trust like immigrants today in a God whose son turned water into

wine, restored the sight of those who could not see, cleansed those with leprosy, befriended a prostitute, raise the dead and died on the cross that they might have eternal life. So they came.

Similar to what the recent immigrants are facing in the US today, my parents were also confronted with the realities of being a person of color

in the US. My parents experienced racism, discrimination, racial and anti-immigrant hatred. The US could be just as hostile, inhuman as the land they had left, but it was better than where they had been.

My parents came from the rural South when the South was basically its own country separate and apart from the rest of the nation. It had its own distinct way of life much different from Philadelphia where my parents settled. It was just 40 years prior to my parents being born that the South had seceded from the Union and



Left to right-Gail Wright, Ms. Mercer Senior Pageant Queen winner 2016, Lawaner Wilkins, Pageant Director, Imogene Brown, current Pageant Queen. Photo by Karen R. Hilton

formed its own nation. It had fought a war with the North over slavery and had lost. The embarrassment, hostility, bitterness and resentment to the North and its Black residents still existed at the time my parents lived in the South and after. That resentment and botterment ran deep like a river.

My parents were just two of the six million Blacks who left the South after 1916 and settled in the urban Northeast, Midwest and West during what is called the Great Migration. Like my parents they sought to escape the South's apartheid system of Jim Crow. A system

in which not only did Black lives not matter, but relegated Blacks to an inferior, subservient existence void of civil and human rights.

They sought to escape the white supremacist domestic terrorism of white mobs, the Klan and white citizen group, racism, violence and just unChristian evil. So they came just like the recent immigrants come. As a child of immigrant parents, I stand shoulder to shoulder with my brothers and sisters who have come and are coming from south of the border, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. I welcome you with arms wide open.



How ugly is this.



Photo by Karen R. Hilton
Alvina Platt-Gregory, author of Poetic Parables and Edna Roman author of My Life With An Addict at Classics Bookstore, Alvina's book signing.

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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, September 7th, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Shiloh Community Mentor Summit, by Shiloh Community Development Corporation. Meet our community's finest mentoring programs under one roof! Find a mentor for your child! Become a mentor - make a difference! Shiloh Baptist Church, 340 Reverend S Howard Woodson, Trenton, NJ
- Saturday, September 7th, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Essex County African American Caribbean Festival by African American Caribbean Committee of Essex County. The best of the Caribbean lands in Essex County the second weekend in September with live performances from the best performers from around the world. This is another free event. And draws thousands from the Tri-State area. Branch Brook Park, Prudential Groove Center, Newark, NJ
- Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 10 AM - 10 PM - Trenton Puerto Rican Parade - 2019 · Hosted by Trenton Puerto Rican Parade Committee. We look forward to seeing our streets filled with pride and joy and everyone displaying our Puerto Rican flag. This is a time to come together to share our culture and traditions with the world. Details with parade route and festival information will soon be provided.
- Monday, September 23rd, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Seventh Annual Suicide Prevention Conference, Story Tellers: It's Never

too Early to Talk to Children about Mental Health, presented by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHAA) and Attitudes In Reverse® (AIR™) and co-sponsored by Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) – New Jersey Chapter. At the HOPE Tower, Hackensack Meridian Health Jersey Shore University Medical Center, 1945 Route 33, Neptune, NJ. To help eliminate the misunderstanding about mental health disorders and the resulting stigma and discrimination.

- Wednesday, September 25th - 6 pm - DOING BUSINESS WITH MERCER COUNTY, Mercer County Library, Lawrence Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. Are you interested in registering with the Mercer County Small Business Outreach Program as a small business or a business owner by a woman, minority or veteran? For more information or to register,

please contact Ed Kemler at (609) 989-6555 / ekemler@mercercounty.org

- Saturday, September 29th, 10am to 1pm - Community Information Session presented by the Urban Mental Health Alliance, MCCC 102 N Broad St, Trenton, NJ. For info call 609 610-7603. Join UMHA Ex. Dir. Kimme Carlos as she speaks on emotional health, resilience and self care.

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