

# The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

## Trenton Historian Dr. Jack Washington

BY AL ALATUNJI

B.S. degree in Social Studies Education at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The Nubian News pays a Black History Month tribute to Trentonian and Trenton historian the late Dr. Jack Washington. Dr. Washington was a veteran and a highly respected Trenton Central High School history teacher. He was the author of over a half dozen published books on the history of the Black community of Trenton as well as urban education policy and philosophy.



Dr. Jack Washington  
Photo by Karen Hilton/Karen Kaptures

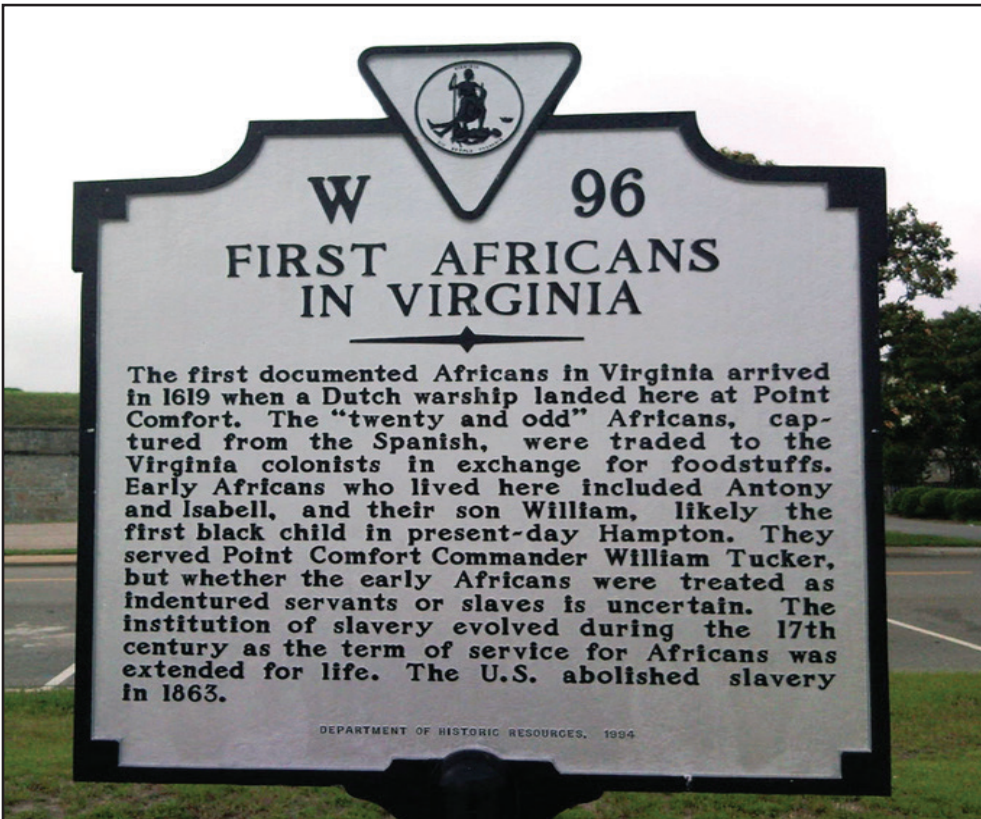
Books written by Dr. Washington include "In Search of a Community's Past: The Story of the Black Community of Trenton, New Jersey, 1860-1900"; "School Desegregation: A Study of the Decision-Making Process in the Trenton Public Schools, 1955-79"; "The Quest for Equality: Trenton's Black Community, 1890-1965"; "A Black Soldiers Past: The Story of Mitchell Davis Post #182 of Trenton, N.J."; "The Long Journey Home: A Bicentennial History of the Black Community of Princeton, New Jersey, 1776-1976"; "No Excuses: The Crisis in Urban Education in the New Millennium," and "White Collar Factory: Black Education in Urban America."

Dr. Washington was born in South Carolina. As a child his family moved to Newark, New Jersey where he was educated in the Newark and East Orange public school system. After graduating from the Newark and East Orange public school system, Dr Washington went on to earn a

After college, Dr. Washington was recruited to the Trenton Public Schools as a teacher of Social Studies and served for 43 years.

Dr. Washington continued his education and earned an M.Ed. degree in Social Studies Education from Trenton State College (now known as The College of New Jersey) in 1975; and an Ed.D. degree in Intercultural Education from The Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University in 1983.

Teacher, mentor, role model to many, Dr. Washington was a proud Black man who wanted people to know the history of Black people in Trenton and its surroundings. Dr. Washington died in 2017, however he lives on through his works. Join the The Nubian News as we honor and celebrate the life and work of Dr. Jack Washington. He will remain a significant and indelible part of the history he studied and shared.



**1619 - 2019** --- 400 years of bondage. The prophesy says we would stay in bondage for 400 years and then we would set ourselves free. This year marks our year to break all the remaining chains. This year Black and Brown people will throw off the last remaining remnants of servitude. Story page 4



Sarah Dash, Chairman Bobby Seale and Larry Hilton, at the play, "To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter To My Unborn Child From Fred Hampton" See story page 9  
Photo Karen Hilton/Karen Kaptures

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

Go to page 6 - Edited by Carlos Avila



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# Sit down with Senator Shirley Turner

By BERNARD SHABAZZ

Senator Shirley Turner asserted her commitment to serve her constituents and help direct them to sources that can assist with education, grants, financial aid,

2 year no-cost college, after school mentoring programs, state training and employment opportunities.

She went on to reaffirm her dedication to make sure released felons have access to employment, rationalizing that they have to eat and live

world, yet our seniors cannot afford medication because of greed.

She went on to observe that certain drug abuse is no longer considered a crime, being that Opioid addiction is prevalent on Main St. suburban America. Nonetheless, the Opioid epidemic has become a national crisis. She offered that a way to address immediate crises, is to equip police officers with Narcan, used for Opioid overdose reversal. She intends to legislate a drug court for individuals arrested for drugs to be

treated for addiction, require they attend class to obtain a GED if needed, then attend trade school to allow those individuals to become productive tax paying citizens.

Then we switched gears and talked about the past.

I thanked Senator Turner for always following up on my letters to her from 2007 to 2010 concerning assaults on NJ Transit Bus Operators by passengers. Her tirelessness in the effort to provide

safety to NJ Transit Bus Operators resulted in plexiglass safety barriers being installed in NJ Transit 2011 Series buses.

During Black History Month we applaud Senator Turner who continued to alert and persuade NJ Transit Directors to install the plexiglass barriers. These protective barriers should be named the Shabazz-Turner NJT Bus Safety Barriers, to acknowledge the historic joint effort and desire of a citizen and elected official to make the solution to a public safety concern become a tangible reality.



An interview with NJ Senator Shirley Turner

too. Currently, NJ Department of Transportation has a program that hires released felons, to give them the opportunity to become productive, tax paying citizens.

On January 9, 2019 Senator Turner posted her 2007 bill to improve oversight and accountability on her webpage. She explained that our tax money is going to corporations instead of reducing our taxes or paying our pension liabilities, funding education or providing important programs to families and individuals who are underserved. Senator Turner cited the example that \$40 million of our tax money was given to a North Jersey corporation to create jobs. This corporation did not create any jobs and then relocated to North Carolina. She pledged to hold corporations accountable.

Senator Turner expressed increased diligence to help seniors get affordable medicine, making a point that we are the richest country in the

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# Black Lives Not Blackface is What Really Matters

BY AL ALATUNJI

Once again an incident has forced a significant number of Americans to examine America's racist nature. This time courtesy of Virginia governor



blackface become so offensive that it took on the importance and significance of a racial crime against Black people? Was it not just a few years ago many of us watched "Soul Man," and other movies and TV shows where blackface was just a prop and not the story?

Have we as a society become so uptight, hypersensitive righteous in the name of political correctness that we are creating issues and controversies where none truly exist? This hypersensitivity is not just regarding race, but gender and sexual orientation as well. A man may be afraid to hold the door open for a woman now, because she or someone else might attack him as being a sexist. Heaven forbid a man gets too close to a woman in an elevator or on a bus. He might find

Ralph Northam, for whom a photo of two individuals one in blackface and the other in a KKK robe was discovered on his 1984 medical school graduation yearbook page.

The governor denied he was either of the people in the photo, even though the photo was on his yearbook page. Within minutes after the photo became public, Democratic and Republican politicians leapfrogged over each other to denounce the governor and call for his resignation. The governor has resisted calls to step down.

Revelations of the photo ignited a political firestorm. However, it appeared at times that the response by members of both parties was purely political and smacked of hypocrisy. Many people, Black, white and others, were dumbfounded as to the furious reaction by politicians and the media to the photo, in particular the controversy surrounding the blackface. "What is the big deal about wearing blackface? It is just a costume. It is comedic, harmless entertainment like Halloween. What is all the fuss?" Then again, how many politicians and others who felt compelled to publicly condemn Northam, found themselves in private saying the same thing as many of their constituents, "What is all the fuss?"

How and when did the wearing of

himself being charged with sexual assault. There is a lot of hypocrisy in this overly sensitive climate.

Instead of concerning ourselves with substantive concerns we are being distracted with the superficial.

Far more important than if the Virginian governor dresses in blackface is, what has he done or not done to improve or impede the lives of Black people while governor? As a physician prior to his political career, did he make life and death decisions rooted in racism that negatively impacted his patients who were Black and other people of color? Did Blacks and other people of color receive inferior health care because he believed them to be inferior? Are not those questions more important to focus on than when and why he dressed in blackface?

There are white people so preoccupied with Blacks that they want to be Black. What we do not know is what those preoccupied whites want to do to and about Blacks. That becomes a much more important question.

Requiring candidates for public office to reveal their records of hiring and promoting Blacks and other people of color as well as the advancement of policies to improve the quality of life of Blacks and other people of color is where focus needs and must be given.

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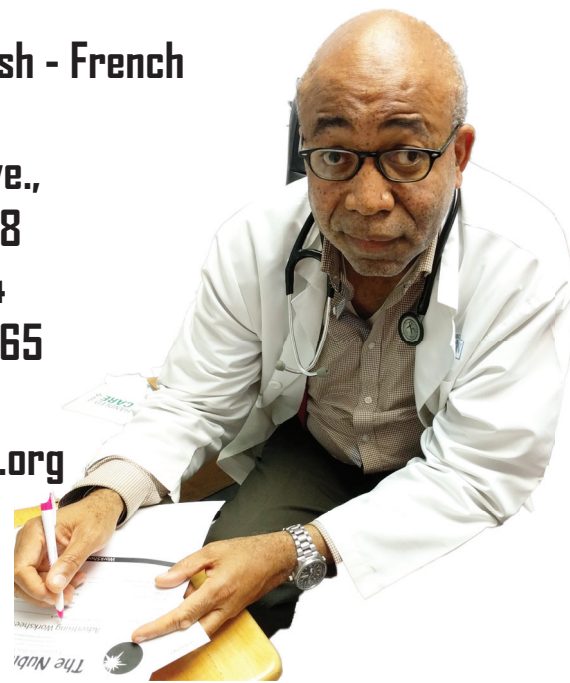
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# Original Sin of US Black History

BY AL ALATUNJI

In 1619, 19 enslaved Africans were brought to what would later be part of the United States. The Africans who disembarked in Jamestown, Virginia were captives stolen first by Portuguese slave traders and then by English pirates who sold them into bondage. Thus began a tumultuous history between Blacks and whites in America. Jamestown, and its legacy, represents the racial origin of what would

purpose of facilitating the creation of the world's most expansive industrial and consumer economy reaping riches that were built on the unpaid and underpaid labor of Blacks. This history of human exploitation, genocide and crimes against humanity has never been fully accepted by the children of the fathers who engaged in those original sins of slavery. They have not acknowledged the benefits, riches and privilege gained from the barbaric actions committed



become the racist paradigm of the United States. The subsequent four centuries have produced a long struggle for freedom, justice and equality for the descendants of African slaves that continues into the present but remains rooted in the nation's original sin of racial slavery. A sin that manifests itself each day in many profoundly troubling and negative ways.

February is Black History Month. Corporate advertisers, media outlets and others use the month long celebration to highlight accomplishments of Blacks in politics, entertainment, education, sports, business, science and other facets of American life. However, to allow various special interests to euthanize and sanitize that history would be a crime almost equal to the crime of the actual history. There should be no misunderstanding or misrepresentation of one of the darkest, most inhumane acts of mankind.

Black people were stolen from their homes, chained and herded onto ships that took them across the Atlantic Ocean on a voyage during which many died.

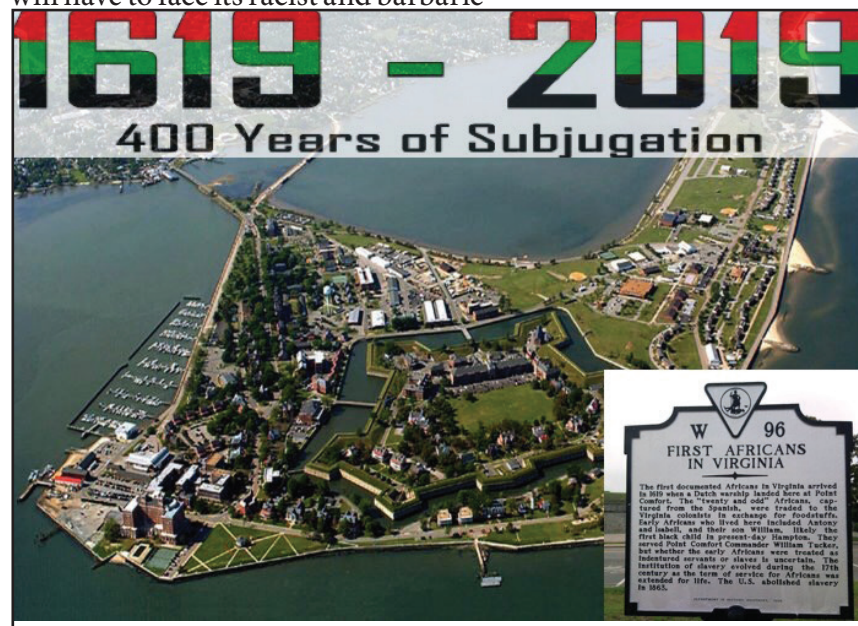
Once arriving in the Americas, they were sold as property and forced to work as slaves all their lives. Dogs and cats were treated with more love and respect than Black people.

From 1619 to today, Black lives do not matter other than for the sole

against Black people. We cannot allow Black history to be swept under rugs nor whitewashed. The good, the very bad and the very, very ugly must all be presented because it is an integral part of the story of Black people in America. It is a history which has effectively been hidden in textbooks, social studies and history classes, and movies. The sanitized version of the history of Black people in the US has remained an important propaganda mechanism used by the American government in its efforts to manipulate Third World governments and their people in pursuits of economic, political and military interests. It is important to know the history and accomplishments of the likes of Elizabeth Bessie "Queen Bess" Coleman, Crispus Attucks and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams. It is just as important, to know the negative history of the Black experience in the US which includes the legalized rape of Black women and girls, torture, lynchings, dog attacks and fire hosings, intentional false imprisonment, state sanctioned murder of unarmed Blacks by functionaries of the state, forced sterilization of Black women, Jim Crow, uncontested testing and human experimentation. It is a history that whites refuse to acknowledge and accept, but they must if America is to redeem itself.

In 2019, slavery's aftermath hovers over contemporary American race relations in deep and profoundly disturbing ways. If the United States is to survive as we know it today it will have to face its racist and barbaric

history openly and honestly as well as seek redemption, restitution and reformation. If it fails to do so it will end up on the trash bin of history as a result of its failure.



The 400 Years of African American History Commission Act (H.R.1242/Public Law 115-102), which was passed by Congress last year, has established 2019 as a year-long Commemoration "to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619; to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; and to educate the public about the arrival of Africans in the United States; and the contributions of African Americans. to the United States."

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Jill Johnson, CEO, Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership (IFEL) and Kamau Kujichagulia, Publisher of The Nubian News at the Capital City Area Black Caucus meeting. The conference, held at the Trenton YMCA on Pennington Ave. was the 4th in a series to discuss ways to improve Trenton's future. The Caucus is sponsored by the

African American Chamber of Commerce, moderated by John Harmon, CEO and the Trenton Y, Sam Frisby, CEO.

The agenda at this meeting was centered around "Economic Opportunity". Participants discussed public policies that will impact the social and economic disparities in Trenton. Ms. Johnson spoke of the wealth gap in the Black business community and it being closed only if there were an 'in-

tentional' effort to do so by the white corporate world and society at large. Karen McBride, President of Trenton City Council, said Trenton was working to ensure contractors who worked for the city complied with Section 3 of the Civil Rights Act. She said Trenton needed a Compliance Office and if contractors did not

comply City Council was empowered to 'pull back' or rescind contracts. Arron Watson, Deputy Administrator for Mercer County, said the county was working on a disparity study to better see how well or poor-

reason Trenton couldn't do the same thing.

Aaron Fichtner, President, NJ Council of County Colleges, said there was now a provision in the law that says any family making less than \$45,000/yr can qualify for a free



John E. Harmon, Sr., Founder, President & CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce

ly the Black business climate is. Yoshi Manale, Chief of Staff of Trenton, talked about New York City having a 30% set-aside for minority businesses and that there was no

education at any NJ county college. There is work being done to upgrade to \$75,000 per family.

Photo on left by Leslie Lauts

# Letters To The Editor

## Honors Courses at Trenton High School

Honors course is a term commonly applied to a variety of high school classes that are considered to be more academically challenging.

The decision of parents, teachers and ultimately a student to enroll in honors classes has many benefits. Students who enroll in honors classes generally receive more academic recognition and use the classes to help them secure scholarships and entrance to their target college or university, a goal consistent with current state and national platforms for educational excellence and equity. Studies abound that support the idea that tracking students into accelerated programs improves student outcomes (<https://www.nber.org/papers/w22104>).

As we anticipate positive growth of Trenton, why would we want to leave our native sons and daughters behind? Children and families born and raised in Trenton will be ill-equipped to compete in a re-imagined Trenton if they have no experience in competitive classes.

For many years, high school students all over the world who exhibit an early interest in higher education have enrolled in honors courses/accelerated programs and gifted education. Some of the benefits are the academic exercises the student voluntarily accepts are more rigorous than standard-credit courses thus preparing them well for what to expect in college. They adopt and or refine time management skills, as extra studying requires discipline and they experience the feeling of self-confidence and accomplishment from completing and successfully passing the course.

At the state level, individual Departments of Education create academic standards, and each district within the state defines its rubrics and create its curriculum. Approval at the state level is a type of endorsement that further validates the inclusion of rigorous classes within the curriculum. The approval of standards is under the supervision of the district Superintendent.

To that end, parents of Trenton students who have once again met the presented criteria, followed the prerequisites, and supported their children

are being told that their students' work is not accepted by white schools. What does that even mean? On what basis are they being denied credit for a state approved course?

Do receiving districts have that kind of discretion? On what basis has this authority been established? Is there a template for gauging acceptable and non-acceptable transcripts? What are the criteria for course completion/transfer/acceptance and even more to the point, has Trenton's Superintendent asked these questions of local and regional district superintendents? Has he blindly accepted the refusal of receiving districts to count as equal the experiences of Trenton's students/programs to the detriment of his student population and ultimately our community? This is a clear devaluation of our program of studies.

What does it say about an administration who would willingly snatch an opportunity from students rather than identify the alleged concerns with Honors program and order them fixed, especially when the number of students who transfer is relatively small when compared to the population of life-long students who are educated in the Trenton Public Schools who benefit from participation in accelerated and/or challenging programs.

Houston, we have a problem. If the horse we bought and even gave a bonus to isn't fighting for our students, I think we have bought ourselves a maimed Philly and should put him out of commission. On his way out, let's look at the team that went against the voice of the community and decided to select him anyway. It is time to throw the whole kit and kaboodle in the trash: both the selection team and the superintendent. We have enough mess to clean up here without buying more and giving it gratuities!!

BY: TRENTON BRANCH NAACP EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS TAIWANDA TERRY-WILSON & COREEN T. GROOMS



# El Latino News

En Contacto con la Comunidad

Trenton – Mercer County

## SOLIDARIOS CON SU AMIGO

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-La pareja de esposos Oswaldo y Maria Mazariegos, tras conocer la muerte de su querido amigo Víctor Barrios Flores, se propusieron ayudar a su familia



Maria Mazariegos, Oswaldo Mazariegos y Sara Yamileth Batres se unieron en solidaridad para ayudar a su amigo y compatriota quien en viada fue Víctor Barrios Flores.

quienes estaban desesperados allá en Guatemala al conocer la noticia. Barrios Flores era conocido en Trenton por que trabajaba de chofer llevando carros de Nueva Jersey hacia Guatemala, ese era su oficio que realizaba periódicamente para ganar un dinero y dar sustento a su familia. Esta vez la muerte le sorprendió en el camino cuando cruzaba el estado de Tennessee.

“Mi amigo viajaba hacia Guatemala,

en el camino se enfermó, le dio un coma diabético, le llevaron al hospital la madrugada del sábado y al siguiente falleció.” Dijo Oswaldo Mazariegos quien con su esposa Maria hicieron una página “GoFundMe” para pedir ayuda a la comunidad y así reunir

un dinero que les permita enviar el cadáver de su amigo hacia Guatemala, ya que no tenía familiares cercanos en el área de Trenton.

“Queremos reparar el cuerpo hacia Guatemala y allá que su familia le pueda dar cristiana sepultura” dijo Maria manifestando que es lo correcto que una persona debe hacer

por su amigo y familia que este en esta clase de situación.

Sara Yamilet Batres amiga de Oswaldo se comunicó con nuestro medio para reforzar el llamado a la comunidad. Tras unos días se conoció que también la Asociación Cívica Guatemalteca se unió y lograron reunir todo el dinero que se necesitaba para enviar el cuerpo y una ayuda a la familia allá en Guatemala.

## Educación Sobre La Violencia Domestica

Por Carlos Avila

LAWRENCEVILLE- Violencia Doméstica y el Respeto a las Mujeres, fue el tema que se abordó durante la reunión que organizó Mercer County Council for Young Children (MCCYC) el pasado martes 22 de enero en Lawrenceville.

Evelyn Aguilar y Reyna Carothers trabajadoras sociales de Womanspace Inc., fueron las encargadas de liderar

de la sala de conferencias de Gateway CAP.

Se habla de violencia doméstica cuando una persona trata de controlar y de ejercer poder sobre su pareja en el contexto de una relación sentimental. Pueden darse diferentes tipos de abuso: físico, emocional, sexual o financiero. En la mayoría de los casos, los maltratadores son varones y las víctimas, mujeres, aunque también



Evelyn Aguilar y Reyna Carothers trabajadoras sociales de Womanspace realizan presentación sobre Educación contra la violencia doméstica en Lawrenceville, NJ.

el grupo que contó con la participación de madres y padres de familia que llegaron de distintos sectores del condado de Mercer.

Durante la conferencia, varias madres de familia, tuvieron la libertad para hacer preguntas y también la confianza para compartir sus experiencias personales, lo cual fortaleció el diálogo que se realizó en el interior

hay a la inversa, según se dijo.

“Womanspace Inc.” es la agencia sin fines de lucro que ofrece servicios a víctimas de violencia doméstica y abuso sexual tanto para mujeres como para hombres en el condado de Mercer. La línea de emergencia para llamar en caso que usted necesite ayuda es 609-394-9000 la llamada es confidencial en inglés o español.

## Clases De Ingles Gratis Los Dias Sabados En Hightstown Library

POR CARLOS AVILA

HIGHTSTOWN—El inicio del programa gratis de inglés como Segundo idioma- ESL en Hightstown se inaugurará el próximo sábado 23 de febrero a partir de las 10:30 AM



stown.

En un esfuerzo entre la Librería de Hightstown y Mercer County Council for Young Children se identificó la necesidad de crear un lugar donde los padres de familia inmigrantes de todas las comunidades que no

dominen el idioma inglés puedan estudiar durante los días sábados en un lugar seguro y en un horario accesible.

“Aquí en Hightstown y East Windsor existen muchas personas recién llegados y necesitamos aprender el idioma” dijo Luisa Cruz madre de 2 niñas pequeñas. “Muchas veces queremos ayudar a nuestras hijas con sus tareas escolares y no podemos porque no hablamos inglés” manifestó Cruz. MCCYC es un programa que ayuda a padres de familia a navegar y encontrar recursos en el ámbito de la educación y de la salud.

Las personas interesadas pueden llamar al teléfono 609-364-0977 para más información. El curso es gratuito y durara de 10:30 AM hasta el mediodía.

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## OPINION

## LA CICIG DEBE IMPLEMENTARSE EN OTROS PAISES

POR CARLOS AVILA

GUATEMALA — Tras varias semanas de suspenso, al fin la Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Guatemala (CICIG) reanudó sus actividades judiciales dentro del país centroamericano. La CICIG comenzó a funcionar en Guatemala desde el 2007 y ha descubierto actos de corrupción en distintos niveles, ha ayudado a fortalecer a los tribunales y ha profesionalizado el Ministerio Público, lo que le ha ganado la aprobación de buena parte del pueblo guatemalteco.

A principio de enero de este año, el presidente Jimmy Morales anunció el fin de la comisión, una comisión de Naciones Unidas que investigaba aparatos clandestinos y de seguridad incrustados en el Estado guatemalteco. Sin embargo La Corte de Constitucional, suspendió dicha decisión.

El presidente Morales ha acusado a la comisión de realizar acusaciones selectivas y de alguna manera hasta ahora ha evadido el proceso de investigación que la CICIG ha intentado realizar en su contra.

Como es de conocimiento público, Guatemala es un país con grandes desafíos, que sufre una enorme desigualdad social, donde la mitad de los niños están malnutridos y las áreas rurales se encuentran olvidadas, por falta de empleo, agua potable, producción de recursos y alimentos que satisfaga las necesidades de las clases sociales más vulnerables.

El tema de la corrupción es un monstruo que carcome el desarrollo no solo del pueblo guatemalteco sino de la mayoría de los habitantes de los países centroamericanos, que se han visto forzados a emigran en caravanas en busca de una mejor vida en otros países, principalmente a Estados Unidos de Norteamérica.

Ante todo, el pueblo de Guatemala ha sido un pueblo valiente, que se ha hecho respetar con los gobiernos de turno, que no han sabido gobernar transparentemente y ha salido a la calle a protestar y luchar por sus ideales y no ha parado de alzar su voz para hacer que esta comisión regrese al país y continúe su ardua labor frente a poderes corruptos que están bien organizados incluso con el narcotráfico.

La labor independiente de la CICIG llegó a que varias autoridades sean procesadas ante la justicia y hoy en día estén en prisión por actos de corrupción.

Sin duda la labor de la CICI de Guatemala debes ser un ejemplo de comisión para que se implemente en otros países latinoamericanos, si desean que sus futuros gobernantes piensen dos veces antes de entrarle a la corrupción y al enriquecimiento ilícito.

Los políticos deben saber que su misión es servir a su pueblo que los confió y los eligió para que trabajen por el bienestar de sus compatriotas y no para buscar la riqueza de los dólares de una forma corrupta.

## ¿Estamos ante una nueva Venezuela?

POR LAURA LUCIA RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

El día 23 de enero de 2019 comenzó a escribirse un nuevo capítulo en la historia de Venezuela, multitudinarias marchas en las ciudades de dicho país y en otros países demostraron, una vez más, la inconformidad del pueblo venezolano con el gobierno de Nicolás Maduro. Sin embargo, este día ocurrió algo diferente, en un podio en la ciudad de Caracas, el diputado Juan Guaidó hizo referencia a los artículos 233, 333 y 350 de la

(respectivamente).

Este es un asunto importante y debe analizarse cuidadosamente pues los recursos de Venezuela, en especial el petróleo, es de gran interés para las grandes potencias, las teorías (que parecen sacadas de películas de acción) no se hacen esperar y ya se ha hablado de aviones estadounidenses listos en Colombia, espías rusos, aviones de escape para Maduro, entre otras. No obstante, esto no debe tomarse a la ligera y bajo la eferves-



constitución venezolana y se proclamó presidente interino de su país. De manera casi inmediata Estados Unidos manifestó su apoyo oficial a Juan Guaidó, y durante el transcurso de ese mismo día Brasil, Colombia, Perú y otros países del continente sumaron su apoyo. La Unión Europea por su parte le sugirió a Maduro convocar a nuevas elecciones presidenciales, dada la dudosa legitimidad de las últimas y la inconformidad del pueblo venezolano (visible en las marchas), pero el presidente Nicolás Maduro se negó objetando que debían esperar a 2025. En respuesta a esto, la Unión Europea declaró su apoyo total a Juan Guaidó como presidente "encargado". (Canal 1, 2019) Todo esto ha puesto al país en boca del mundo, en donde no se han hecho esperar las especulaciones que sugieren diplomacia secreta con Estados Unidos, interés de las grandes potencias por los recursos naturales de Venezuela, hasta el punto de despertar antiguas dinámicas de la guerra fría en la que Rusia, China y Estados Unidos una vez más rivalizan, esta vez a causa del apoyo a Nicolás Maduro o apoyo a Juan Guaidó

de la lucha social y política es difícil reconocer los intereses de los países hegemónicos sobre el país suramericano que ahora tiene dos presidentes.

Ahora bien, aunque las estrategias internacionales, las posturas políticas y la diplomacia no debe salir del mapa de estudio es necesario notar que mal que bien gran parte de la comunidad venezolana se siente agradecida con el apoyo a Juan Guaidó por parte de las democracias alrededor del mundo; ya que esto promete ser un cambio, y lo mejor que le viene a Venezuela ahora es el cambio, este país viene atravesando una severa crisis en la que el 60% de la población se encuentra en situación de pobreza, muriendo de hambre y migrando masivamente a los países vecinos.

No resta más que observar y estudiar la evolución de este el que fue hace algunas décadas una de las economías más estables y prometedoras de América Latina, esperando que el cambio que ahora viene para Venezuela no sea nada más que algo positivo que beneficie a su gente.









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# Play: Slain Black Panther's Love Letter To His Unborn Child. Appearance: A Black Panther

BY SHAKUR TOWNS



Co-founder and national Chairman of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale. Photo by Karen Hilton

was nine months pregnant with their child. She gave birth 3 weeks after his death.

The play is a one-man show by Richard Bradford called "To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton." While I do not consider myself a critic, I enjoyed the performance of Richard Bradford was brilliant! Bradford portrays the slain activist in the moments just after his death; delivering a monologue about his life, his views and

There was a special Friday night in Trenton for this Black history month. Besides enjoying an opening play at the Mill Hill Playhouse about the 1969 assassination of Mark Clark and Fred Hampton, Chairman of the Chicago Black Panther Party, it was also an opportunity to meet a legend in the struggle for liberation, political activist and co-founder and national Chairman of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale.

On December 4, 1969, 21 year-old Chairman Fred was murdered by Chicago police in a pre-dawn raid of an apartment where he and some other Panthers lay sleeping. Lying next to him was Deborah Johnson, his fiancée, who

the Panthers, to the son he never met. The play takes place in the room



Richard Bradford Star of "To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter To My Unborn Child From Fred Hampton" Chairman Seale and John Doyle, Director. Photo by Karen Hilton/Karen Kaptures

immediately after Hampton's death, where he speaks to the audience,

while also addressing his unborn child.

Richard Bradford is from the Germantown section of Philadelphia and began acting at the Freedom Theater there about 13 years ago, when he was in his late 20s. He went on to train with acclaimed actor Johnny Hobbs and study at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York. He also worked with Philadelphia's Iron Age Theatre.

After the show, the audience was treated to an open-mic forum with Bobby Seale. He talked about his early years with Huey Newton and how they formed the Black Panther Party for Self Defense in Oakland California in 1966. "I started out believing that we needed political power to change things. We needed those political seats." The Oakland police department changed all that. "We began by organizing to put up a stop sign at a deadly intersection. When no one listened to us at City Hall or the police department, we took our guns out on the street to watch each other's back and put up the signs ourselves." After that, the Panthers became the

main focus of the Oakland PD. J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI targeted the Panthers, as the party grew across the country. Chairman Bobby also spoke about the Chicago 8 trial and how he was bound and gagged in the courtroom by Judge Julius Hoffman during the trial. The trial and the

charges stemmed from an appearance Seale had made in Chicago at a rally outside of the Democratic National Convention. Seale addressed a crowd of about 2,000 in Lincoln Park. His speech, advocating a violent response to police, was later made the basis for charging him with a violation of the 1968 Anti-Riot Act.

He complained bitterly that he had been denied a right to the lawyer of his choice. His attorney was hospitalized for surgery and Judge Hoffman refused his request for a continuance



Jacqui Dent Ivey with books she purchased. Photo by Karen Hilton

and the right to represent himself. "He told me I didn't have the right to defend myself and I disagreed. He did not like the fact that I would not sit down and shut up. So, he began to chain me to the chair and gag me. And every chance I got, I let him know how I felt."

Reviving what may have been a failed effort long ago in Oakland and in acknowledgment of the current progressive political make up of our congress, Seale impressed the need to elect responsible leadership. "Now that we have the seats, we have to put the right people in those seats. People that will speak up for us." That may inspire love letters to all our born and unborn children saying, with a Panther roar, Power to the People.

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# Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

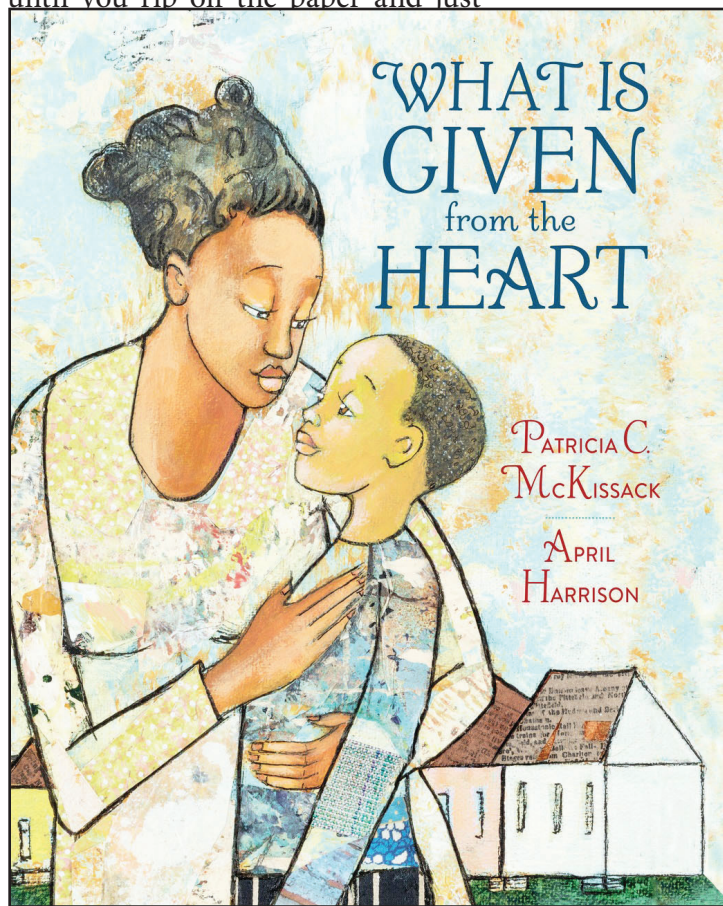
## “What is Given from the Heart”

BY PATRICIA C. MCKISSACK

ILLUSTRATED BY APRIL HARRISON

c.2019, Schwartz & Wade Books  
\$17.99 / \$23.99 Canada 40 pages

Oh, how you love opening presents! You love the surprise, first of all. What did you get? You won't find out until you rip off the paper and just



the sound of that is exciting. Maybe there's a box next, or plastic to open, or there's simply a gift for you to enjoy. Getting presents is awesome but in the new book **“What is Given from the Heart”** by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by April Harrison, its doubly special when you have nothing to give in return.

Mama always seemed so sad.

James Otis did what he could, but it was “a rough few months.” Nearly a year ago, Daddy fell asleep one day and didn't wake up; after that, the farm was repossessed and Mama had to move herself and James Otis to a tumbledown shack and there never seemed to be enough money. The final blow came when James Otis's dog ran off.

Mama liked to point out that they had each other. They had God, and they had small holidays and such, but James Otis knew it had been a struggle.

Then one day near Valentine's Day, he and Mama were in church when Reverend Dennis made a special announcement. As always, the church

was giving to the needy that spring but Mrs. Temple and her seven-year-old daughter, Sarah, had been victims of a fire and they needed a special “love box.”

The Temples had lost everything, and on the way home that day, Mama said she wanted to help. She wanted

to find something nice to give to the Temples but James Otis had no idea what that might be. Mama reminded him of Reverend Dennis's words: “Remember, *what is given from the heart touches the heart.*”

And so James Otis began to think. His crayons were broken. Sarah probably wouldn't appreciate an old toy truck. His whistle had spit all over it. His favorite old puzzle was missing two pieces. What would a little girl like? Better

question: how can you give anything when you have nothing yourself?

“What is Given from the Heart” is a book that seriously needs to come with its own choir, one that would softly sing, just when you get about halfway through reading it. Yes, this story is just *that* wonderful.

It's okay if you don't have access to tenors and sopranos, though. Your child will get the message all the same because author Patricia C. McKissack tells a tale that shows loud and clear how giving has its own rewards and riches. Even kids who turn into Gimme Monsters will see it – in part, because of McKissack's quiet, loving text and in part, because of the collage-like illustrations by April Harrison. Rounding it off, the uplifting ending couldn't be more heartwarming.

This is a book that's perfect for soft-hearted kids ages 4-to-8, but materialistic older kids might need to hear it once or twice, too. For them, or any generous child, “What is Given from the Heart” could make a great present.

## NJ EXCHANGE STUDENT RELEASES NEW MUSIC

BY SHAKUR TOWNS

Young Trenton Artist Exchange Student Drops Music EP

Trenton singer-songwriter and guitarist Makeda White is studying in the UK this year. She applied for one of the many student exchange programs that Dickenson College offers and was accepted. As a fresh-



Makeda in London

Makeda in London.psd this past summer and says her first studio experience was, “a bit nerve wracking, but I learned a lot about the technical things involved in recording. This was very different than my normal style so I'm just trying to step out of my comfort zone and do something different.” Makeda says that her normal style is more of an R&B, instrumental, guitar-based sound. This current project is more melodic and electronic, alternative. A step away from what she has done in the past. Makeda says, “I like it. At first I was a bit nervous and doubting myself, but that's all a part of the creative process.” Makeda has been playing guitar since age seven and was introduced to it by her father, a reggae artist. She has been around music all her life. Her mother sang in the church choir and she credits her mother and father as her influences growing up. The EP is titled, “Genesis,” she says it's the beginning, and is available on all platforms. “It's kind of a love story and has a nice summer vibe.”

After listening to Genesis I definitely got that summer vibe! It is a collection of nice, soulful chill music. I especially liked a tune called, “Resistance (Interlude).” Look for, Genesis by Indigo Mak on Apple Music, Spotify, Google, Deezer, Amazon, Tidal and Napster. I give it 4 stars.\*\*\*\*

doing work.”

Culturally, Makeda says there was some disconnect between Blacks from the US and the Blacks from London who are mostly African and Caribbean. She says she was able to relate because her father is Jamaican. She talks about forming bonds through food and music. Makeda says she noticed that discussions about race are seen as impolite in London, so many things are “brushed under the rug.” She says a lot of the people she met seemed to have an, “I don't see color, prospective,” in order to promote diversity for the future, “but if we don't address the past how can we have a future?”

Makeda talked about the benefit of studying abroad. “I really recommend travel if people can afford it. I feel like I learned so much more from travel than any school education could have ever taught me. Even if it's in the US. Just get out of your city and travel.”

She has just started recording this past summer and says her first studio experience was, “a bit nerve wracking, but I learned a lot about the technical things involved in recording. This was very different than my normal style so I'm just trying to step out of my comfort zone and do something different.” Makeda says that her normal style is more of an R&B, instrumental, guitar-based sound. This current project is more melodic and electronic, alternative. A step away from what she has done in the past. Makeda says, “I like it. At first I was a bit nervous and doubting myself, but that's all a part of the creative process.” Makeda has been playing guitar since age seven and was introduced to it by her father, a reggae artist. She has been around music all her life. Her mother sang in the church choir and she credits her mother and father as her influences growing up. The EP is titled, “Genesis,” she says it's the beginning, and is available on all platforms. “It's kind of a love story and has a nice summer vibe.”

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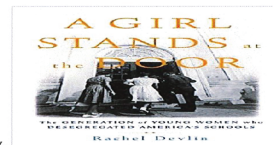


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Darren Green will discuss the landmark *Hedgepeth-Williams* legal case where two Trenton mothers challenged segregation in the Trenton schools. In Jan. 1944 the NJ Supreme Court ruled in favor of these women and the Trenton School system was desegregated. This decision laid the foundation for desegregation of schools throughout New Jersey. This is the 75th anniversary of this historic legal decision. The *Hedgepeth-Williams* case was cited 10 years later in milestone US Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. the Board of Education*.

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- 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.
- Saturday, February 16th, 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 2nd Annual Black Midwives Symposium by Mercer County Birth & Breastfeeding Collective. Join us as we welcome renowned author and speaker Dr. Joy Degruy in an in-depth discussion of race, history, and culture. Uncover truths of how White Supremacist systems have affected and continue to plague the Black birthing experience and outcomes. Mercer County Community College, James Kearny Campus, 100-134 North Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. \$30-\$35

- Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Trenton Cycling Open House, Public · Hosted by Trenton Cycling Revolution and Bike Mercer Count. Championship Bar, 931 Chambers St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611
- Friday, February 22nd, 12 p.m. City of Trenton Black History Month event: Lessons from our Past. City Hall Atrium, City Hall, Trenton NJ. For more City of Trenton Black History Month event information call 609-989-3032
- Saturday, February 23rd, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trenton Public Schools Every Day Matters Initiative Campaign to help improve student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism and link community services to help reduce barriers of chronic absenteeism. Free food, music entertainment, and face painting. Families can get free on-the-spot wellness checks, immunizations, flu shots, lead testing, toiletry kits, bus tickets and rain gear. P.J. Hill Elementary School, 1010 East State St., Trenton NJ
- Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m. - 1p.m., Black History Breakfast and Authors Showcase, Shiloh Baptist Church, 340 Rev. S. Howard Woodson Way, Trenton, NJ
- Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 6 p.m. - Paint n Sip, Public · Hosted by Hair By Rhonda Kay. Art & Soul - The Studio, 1870 N. Olden Avenue Ext, Ewing, New Jersey 08638
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- 10 a.m. - Four Centuries of African American Soldiers, Public · by Four Centuries of African-American Soldiers and The Old Barracks, The Old Barracks, 101 Barrack Street, Trenton. Admissions: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students \$5 Trenton residents
- Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Mercer County Improvement Authority will host a document shredding event for County residents. At Parking Lot 4 at 651 South Broad St., across from the County Administration Building.
- Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 9 a.m., Annual Prayer Breakfast, Life Abundant Church of God 167 Mercer St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611. Join us for a powerful breakfast of word, prayer and food for the soul, mind and body! You will be blessed! Donation \$20
- Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., Trenton Divine Poetry Night Out · Hosted by Trenton Divine Poetry Night Out. 146 Us-130, 146 U.S. 130, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505, General Admission \$20
- Saturday, March 9th, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A Father Daughter Talk with Dr. John W. Carlos and Kimme Carlos on Mental Health by Urban Mental Health Alliance. Now his daughter Kimme Carlos, Executive Director and Founder of the Urban Mental Health Alliance (UMHA), is pleased to join Dr. Carlos for a historic talk on mental

- health, social justice and our hope for the future. All funds raised will help to further UMHA's mission to empower individuals and families in urban communities with information and resources on mental health, emotional wellbeing and recovery resources, like our newest program, Healthy Minds in Mercer County, launching this spring. Please register at Eventbrite or [www.urbanmentalhealthalliance.org](http://www.urbanmentalhealthalliance.org). Event location: Princeton University, Frick Chemistry Lab--Taylor Auditorium BO2, Princeton, NJ. \$35-\$100
- Thursday, March 28 thru Sunday, March 31, 2019 - 2019 Trenton Film Festival, Public · Hosted by Trenton Film Society. Passage Theatre at the Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 E Front St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611. Trenton Film Festival will screen a juried selection of 54 new, cutting-edge films of various genres from around the world. We present post-screening Q&A's, receptions and a panel discussion that offer audiences the opportunity to interact with filmmakers who are at various stages in their careers.
- Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 343 South Broad St, Trenton, NJ - Capital Singers of Trenton present Forrest's Requiem for the Living with Sinfonietta Nova and Trenton Children's Chorus. Contact: Capital Singers of Trenton, 609-434-2781

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