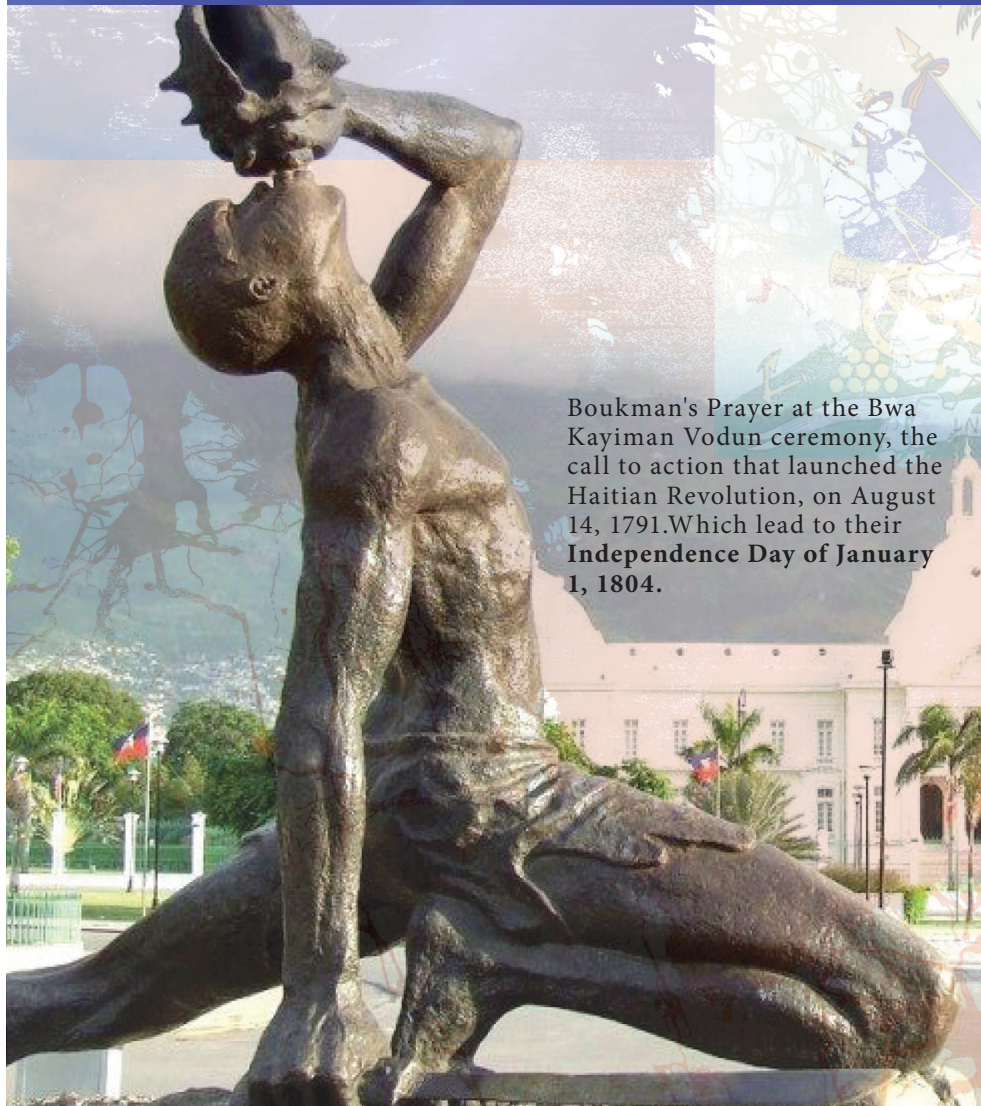




The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Bwa Kayiman



Boukman's Prayer at the Bwa Kayiman Vodun ceremony, the call to action that launched the Haitian Revolution, on August 14, 1791. Which led to their Independence Day of January 1, 1804.

This statue called "Nèg Mawon" or "The Unknown Slave" is the symbol of Haiti and its Revolution. With a sword in his hand and broken chains around his ankles, he summons his country men and women to his side. Long live the Haitian Revolution.

We owe so much to the Haitian people. On August 14, 1791 the Black slaves of Haiti stood up and began the fight which threw off the yoke of their oppressors.

They were the first and still the only slave people who, though armed combat freed themselves from slavery. But they didn't stop there; they welcomed every slave person in the Americas to their country - where everyone who made it became free. The Haitians were the first free people in the Americas and they helped many other countries throw off their enslavers and free their people. With Haitian help Simon Bolivar fought and won the independence of many of the southern American countries. The United States was shaken by the successful Haitian revolution

BOUKMAN'S PRAYER

Bon Dje ki fè la tè. Ki fè soley ki klere nou anwo. Bon Dje ki soulve lanmè. Ki fè gronde loray. Bon Dje nou ki gen zorey pou tande. Ou ki kache nan nyaj. Kap gade nou kote ou ye la. Ou wè tout sa Blan fè nou sibi. Dje Blan yo mande krim. Bon Dje ki nan nou an vle byen fè. Bon Dje nou an ki si bon, ki si jis, li ordone vanjans. Se li kap kondwi branou pou nou ranpòte la viktwa. Se li kap ba nou asistans. Nou tout fèt pou nou jete pòtre dje Blan yo ki swaf dlo lan zye. Koute vwa la libète kap chante lan kè nou.

because they feared their ownslaves would rise up and fight for their freedom.

Search out Haiti's history and learn of the heroes who paved the way for our own liberation. Learn who Jean Jak Dessalines, and Toussaint Louverture, the leaders of the Haitian Revolution, were.

The debt Black people in America owe to Haitians can be repaid. Go to and visit this mighty country and pay homage to its brave and unbending people. They have paid a huge price for the freedom they took. We can help them celebrate history this week and every week. August 14 at a Vodun ceremony marks when it began, ending in liberation on **January 1, 1804**, 215 years ago.

Boukman's Prayer

The God who created the earth, who created the sun that gives us light. The God who holds up the ocean, who makes the thunder roar. Our God who has ears to hear. You who are hidden in the clouds, who watch us from where you are. You see all that the Whites have made us suffer. The White man's God asks him to commit crimes. But the God within us wants us to do good. Our God who is so good, so just, orders us to avenge our wrongs. It's our God who will direct our arms and bring us victory. It's our God who will assist us. We all should throw away the image of the white man's God who is so pitiless. Listen to the voice for liberty that sings in all our hearts.

El Latin  **News**
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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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Staying Safe During The Pandemic Is EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it's important to remember that some of the most effective steps we can take to prevent its spread begin right at home.



Wear a mask that fits properly and covers your mouth AND nose (no scarves or gaiters).



Practice social distancing and stay at least six feet from others when possible.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place. When soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.



Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough or sneeze into your elbow if tissues are not available. With either method, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water afterward.



Limit or avoid indoor gatherings with people outside of your household and host outdoors when possible. This is important for adults more than 65 years of age or people with underlying medical conditions, who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily. This includes tables, light switches, sinks, countertops, and bathroom surfaces. Most common household disinfectants work, but be sure to follow instructions on the product label.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19, CALL YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

You can find the most up-to-date information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). Helpful information is also available from the New Jersey Department of Health online at [covid19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid19) or by phone at 1.800.222.1222.



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Policing the Police

BY AL ALATUNJI

From a Black family violently held at gunpoint in Phoenix, AZ, to an officer fatally shooting a Black man recently in South Bend, IN, there continues to be a rash of police-related incidents that have led to accusations of police misconduct and racism. Trenton like most urban communities has had its share of accusations of police abuse, misconduct and racism. Such police-related abuse, misconduct and racism would become a thing of the past if Senator Kamala Harris (D-GA) and some of her colleagues have their way. Senator Harris along with several have introduced legislation in Congress which would encourage improved training for police officers and use of independent investigation and prosecution to eliminate inherent conflicts of interest.

New Jersey does not have a detailed system for public reporting of allegations of police misconduct and abuse, therefore there is no accurate number of police abuse and misconduct statistics for the city of Trenton or any other area in the state.

The legislation, entitled the Police Training and Independent Review Act, would create a financial incentive for states to require training for law enforcement officials on fair and impartial policing as well as best practices for working with members of the community who are disabled and mentally ill. It would also encourage communities to use independent prosecutors to investigate law enforcement officials' use of deadly force by authorizing the U.S. Attorney General to award grants to states that require an independent investigation and, if warranted, prosecution in cases where one or more of the alleged offenses result in death or serious bodily harm.

"It is imperative that we address implicit bias and help to create bonds of trust between police and the communities they serve. It will save lives," said Senator Harris, who is also a candidate for president. "I'm proud to support the Police Training and Independent Review Act, which builds on my work as California

Attorney General in implementing the first statewide implicit bias training program for law enforcement and advocating for teams within the California Department of Justice to investigate officer-involved shootings."

The types of independent investigation and prosecution of law enforcement that would be eligible for financial incentives under the Police Training and Independent Review Act include: the use of an independent agency, civilian review board or outside law enforcement department, such as the State Police, responsible for independently investigating and prosecuting all officer use of force allegations; appointment of the State Attorney General, or a special prosecutor overseen by the State Attorney General, responsible for conducting the criminal investigation and prosecution and the use of an independent prosecutor, who does not reside or work in the same county as the county where the officer's use of force was committed.

"We've lost too many young men and women—from Chicago to Champaign to Ferguson and around the nation—in tragic and preventable police-involved deaths," said Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), chief sponsor of the legislation. "Families like Laquan McDonald's that have experienced heartbreak are no less deserving of justice than any other family, but too often they don't get it." The legislation is supported by the NAACP and the ACLU.

"The NAACP is pleased to support this important legislation," said Hilary O. Shelton, Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and the Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy. "Upon enactment, this legislation would clearly begin to help restore the much needed trust and integrity between law enforcement agents and the people they are sworn to serve and protect. The fact that the Police Training and Independent Review Act requires training for law enforcement officers on fair and impartial policing will help build the essential trust that is crucial to the safety and security of our communities."



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Guest OP-Ed, Letter to the Editor

Trenton Public Schools, Where Do We Go From Here?

GENE BOUIE –

Although I am a current member of the Trenton School Board and former its President; I do not write this op-ed with the approval of, or on behalf of the Trenton School Board, but as a concerned resident and taxpayer of the City of Trenton, NJ. Don't our children deserve a quality education? If the City of Trenton is to rise, it will be on the shoulders of the Trenton Public School System. Parents move their families to areas where there is a strong educational system. Parents want assurances that their children will receive a quality education. Want to increase the City tax base? Want companies to relocate to Trenton? That work starts by transforming the school system.

Trenton Public Schools has now had 8 Superintendents (permanent, interim and acting) in the past 11 years. I recall two years ago having conversations with Dr. Fred McDowell, a young, new Superintendent of Trenton Public Schools about transformation. At the time, my heart ached for the children of Trenton because 7 out of 10 students could not read on grade level, and 9 out of 10 students could not perform math on grade level. The district's performance on QSAC (DOE – Quality System of Accountability Continuum) was 27% on Curriculum and Instruction against a target of 100%. Of course, student performance on the PARCC assessment was poor. High school graduation rates were below desired and less than 30% of high school graduates attended a postsecondary institution and many of those that did were not prepared to be successful. The district was at the mercy of transportation vendors because a couple of years earlier financial challenges required the selling of the district's bus fleet.

Dr. McDowell is leaving the district as of 8/30/2019 and the local commentary embraces this news as something to be celebrated. Too often, people respond to his departure with unhelpful quips like, "about time", "why wait until August", "this is great news", or "I guess we got rid of him". I wonder why? Let's review the district progress over the past two years:

- QSAC performance on Curriculum and Instruction improved from a low of 27% in 2017 to a high of 72% in 2019
- In the 2018-19 school year across all elementary schools 61% of students improved on grade level in reading.
- 2017-18 Math proficiency increased from 3% to 10.8%. 2018-19 Preliminary data indicates Trenton students are continuing to increase their performance in Math:
 - Grade 3 Proficiency increased from 14% to 17%, which is the 1st Benchmark Year for College and Career Readiness
 - Geometry Proficiency increased from 14% to 22%
 - Algebra 2 Proficiency increased from 5% to 12%
- Students awarded the Seal of Biliteracy went from 21 in 2018, to 53 in 2019
- Curriculum has begun to align with the Amistad Act passed into law in 2002, requiring African American History be taught in every school district in New Jersey
- For the second year in a row the district has received the ASBO award for excellence in financial accounting, only one of two districts in the entire state to do so.
- Over the past two years, 9 schools have come out of status which means they are no longer subject to state directed interventions.
- After having only three school buses in the Spring of 2017 and being at the mercy of transportation vendors, the district now owns 24 state of the art school buses.
- Due to effective transportation cost management and efficiency, (61) districts

scored as Excels, spending significantly less than predicted. Trenton's decision to tier its transportation system allowed the Trenton School District to be ranked 21st in the State.

- In September the district will launch the program entitled the Trenton Restorative Academy (TRA). The purpose of the Trenton Restorative Academy initiative is to provide a positive, nurturing environment for students that have not been unsuccessful in a traditional educational setting. Students will develop holistic social and emotional skills in a least restrictive environment and transition back to their sending school upon program completion.
- The Trenton Global Academy is designed for English Language Learners (ELLs) aged 14- 21, who have recently arrived in the United States. The Trenton Global Academy Newcomer program will offer these students an opportunity to engage in an Individualized Program Plan (IPP) of study that builds academic mastery while receiving intensive supports to acquire English Language proficiency. This program addresses the need to prevent long-term ELLs by offering an opportunity to transition into English only classrooms with ESL support before the required exit score of 4.5.
- The district rehired 60 paraprofessionals that were terminated due to budget constraints.
- Over the past two years where other districts have had layoffs, the Trenton School District has hired over 200 employees.
- On June 28, 2019 the district will purchase 500 Perry Street, the current location

of the Ninth Grade Academy. The district will carry zero debt and there will be no increase in the taxes of Trenton taxpayers to fund the acquisition.

In my opinion, there has clearly been an effort, or a conspiracy, to discredit Dr. McDowell and purposefully ignore/discount the progress that has been made ultimately in an attempt to relieve him of his responsibilities as Superintendent. This much was obvious dating back to August 2017 through the last Board meeting in June. I have heard comments like, "things are a mess", "things are worse than I have ever seen", "he is a tyrant", "he is arrogant", and "he does not care about the students of Trenton". I wonder why? What is at the root of this mindset and behavior? Clearly, it is not what is in the best interest of the students. When I think about Dr. McDowell's vision and roadmap for the district, he mentioned desiring to institute a magnet school for Trenton's gifted and high performing students to compete with the charter schools. He wanted to institute an early college school that would allow students to graduate with a high school diploma and an Associates degree at the same time. My concern is that we may never see these things become a reality. There is still lots of work to be done, and progress to be made especially in the area of Special Education. My sincere hope is that Trenton will ultimately secure through the Superintendent search a candidate who is an instructional leader that will build on the progress the district has made.

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¿Quiénes lideran Latinoamérica en tiempos de pandemia?

Laura Lucía Rodríguez Peña

El mundo está completamente trastornado y diversos presidentes han hecho el ridículo tomando medidas que son criticadas por la misma Organización Mundial de la Salud. Algunos presidentes latinoamericanos han sido noticia por sus declaraciones polémicas frente al COVID-19.

El presidente mexicano Alfonso Manuel López Obrador, hace apenas unas semanas salió a decir



Similar al caso de México en Brasil el presidente Jair Bolsonaro se ha negado a tomar el virus en serio, de hecho ha declarado que “el virus hay que enfrentarlo como hombres. Todos moriremos algún día”, esta posición es realmente peligrosa porque todo un país depende de las medidas adoptadas por el gobierno central. Grandes centros urbanos como Sao Paulo concentran el 35% de infectados de el país, y las autoridades sanitarias del país han revelado no tener la capacidad de realizar pruebas a toda la población de Brasil, sólo pueden realizar 258 pruebas por cada millón de habitantes (el país cuenta con 210 millones de habitantes)

Es evidente que el panorama en Latinoamérica aún no es tan oscuro como el que está atravesando Europa. Sin embargo, vale la pena resaltar que Latinoamérica es una región con recursos económicos limitados, una gran población de empleados informales que trabajan en las calles, habitantes de calle,

públicamente que las personas no debían sucumbir ante el pánico y debían abrazarse todos, siendo esto una contradicción a las medidas recomendadas a nivel global, que son mantener distancia para evitar la propagación del virus. A pesar de la emergencia que ha causado la pandemia, el presidente de México continuó de gira por el país y se negó a practicarse la prueba del coronavirus, incluso sabiendo que ha tenido reuniones con personas que ya dieron positivo. Su respuesta ante el COVID-19 ha sido una de las razones por las que su popularidad pasara del 58.7% al 46%, según la encuesta Mitofsky que mide la aprobación del presidente a nivel nacional.

Por otro lado, en Ecuador el presidente Lenin Moreno ha declarado que el país no cuenta con los insumos de salud y funerarios necesarios para afrontar la crisis, por lo tanto el gobierno ha inhumado más 50 cadáveres en un terreno, lo que para muchos no es una forma digna de sepultura y lo equiparan a una fosa común. Sin embargo, vale la pena resaltar que este presidente ha reducido su propio sueldo y el de altos mandatarios al 50% para disponer mayores recursos a las emergencias sanitarias.

migrantes y refugiados, es decir, una pandemia de la escala del COVID-19 puede causar estragos mayores que los que está causando en el hemisferio norte.

Por estos motivos, es necesario contar con mandatarios que ante todo respeten a la población, y destinen los recursos necesarios hacia el área de la salud. De nada vale tener una economía fuerte si la población sufre y muere de forma indiscriminada. Los presidentes pueden estar causando risa pero sus acciones, o más bien de la falta de ellas, pueden ser fatales ante lo que se avecina.

Los infectados han aumentado considerablemente y se necesitan acciones oportunas para ayudarlos a ellos y también para auxiliar a aquellos que pueden estar en situación de vulnerabilidad por haber perdido su empleo en esta época de confinamiento. Las economías de todo el mundo se verán afectadas y las consecuencias no serán visibles sino hasta dentro de unos meses cuando el Producto Interno Bruto se contraiga hasta un 4.6 %, según el Banco Mundial. Ante esto las declaraciones ridículas de AMLO, Bolsonaro y otros mandatarios ya no dan risa sino temor.

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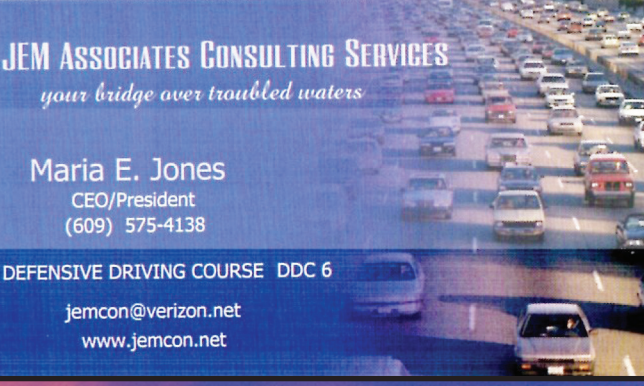
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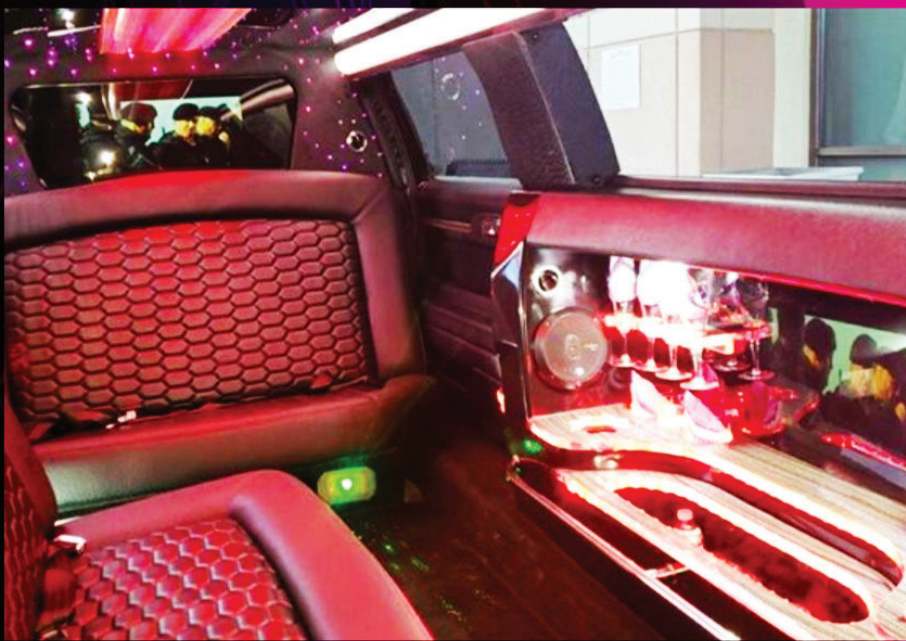
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BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

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BY ARSHAY COOPER

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The choice is yours: do you pick one thing, or take the other? Stay where you are, or reach for better? This or that, any way, you always have to decide: do you take either, or... as in

A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING

The True Story of America’s First All-Black High School Rowing Team

ARSHAY COOPER



“A Most Beautiful Thing” by Arshay Cooper, do you take the *oar*?

Growing on Chicago’s West Side, Arshay Cooper was used to seeing blood on the sidewalk. Gunshots were like lullabies and he hated it. His father was long gone, his mother was then too addicted to care for her children, and he “had a funeral” for her in his heart. Later, once his mother was clean and he started attending high school at Manley Career Academy, he became firm in his belief that his future was not on the streets. He knew gang-banging wasn’t for him, so he mostly stayed home and watched *Family Matters*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, and *A Different World* on TV, absorbing their lessons and wishing his life was more like that of the characters.

And then he saw a boat.

It wasn’t just any boat, though: it was long and sleek and Cooper quickly

learned that it was used in a sport he’d never heard of. The white female coach said team members would be taught all they needed to know; the white man who’d put the program together said that there’d never been an all-Black high school rowing team, and he promised that anybody who stuck with the program would succeed in life. Though Cooper’s schoolmates talked smack about it, and in part because of a girl, Cooper and his best friend signed up for “crew.”

And everything clicked into place.

Rowing required discipline. It was exhausting, emotionally and physically. There were sacrifices. But when on the water, rowing, he says, “I don’t hear gunshots or ambulance sirens. I don’t see gang signs and I don’t have fear... I feel powerful.”

Here’s all you need to know: “A Most Beautiful Thing” lives up to its name.

It doesn’t start out that way, though: in laying the ground for his tale, author Arshay Cooper writes about the realities of growing up in a Chicago neighborhood that he hints could have been any-inner-

city-where, any-inner-city-time. This gives the story its muscle and allows readers to better picture the scenes and the struggles he and his young teammates withstood. You’ll be happy to know that there isn’t a shred of boasting or false pride in that.

Once you’re that far into the book, then, you may notice that Cooper masterly makes you feel a part of the team. At that point, just go ahead, take their losses to heart. Be proud of the changes they’ve made. Think about the grace on race that Cooper offers. Grin like a fool at the triumphs, and laugh at their nonconformity.

It’s perfectly okay to get teary-eyed at the epilogue, really.

This is the feel-goodest of feel-good books, and you should have it now. Reading “A Most Beautiful Thing” will leave you feeling merrily, merrily, merrily.

Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

“Ready to Rise”

BY JO SAXTON

c.2020, Waterbook - \$16.99/\$22.99
Canada 224 pages

You know you have it.

There’s all kinds of potential inside you but how can you actually use it? Says author Jo Saxton in her new book “Ready to Rise,” it takes deter-

for the world at large.

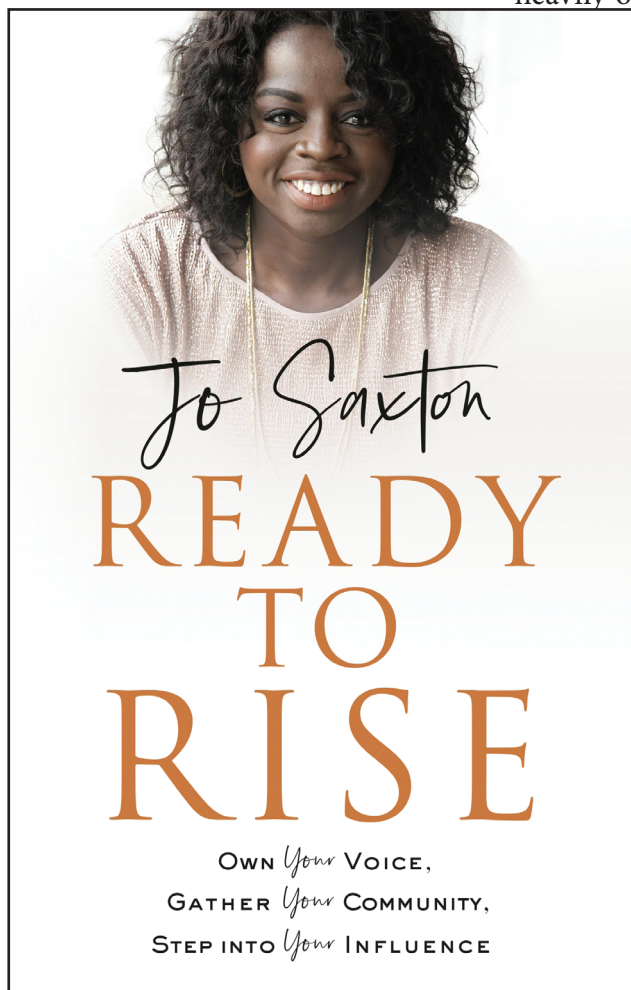
Disempowerment, for example, is detrimental to women who are searching for mentors or “living examples.” As for business, “including women in leadership improves a business’s bottom line,” and diversity improves its culture.

Personally, Saxton says that she relies heavily on her faith to find the right

path toward influence. She often thinks of the women in the Bible, the travails they endured, and the actions they took. Biblical tales have many lessons for today’s women and their quest for “faith-shaped purpose...”

Embrace the gifts God has given you, Saxton says; He was happy to give them to you, so you should use them. Find your voice and use it, too; outspokenness with purpose is not a bad thing. You are smart; never forget that. Learn to “grow your grit” and build the “village” you need for success. And finally, take care of yourself, in mind, body, and spirit, and you’ll be amazed at what you can accomplish.

The very first thing you need to know about



mination, a community, strength, belief in yourself, and a little leaning on God.

After hearing her seventh-grade daughter give a speech to classmates, Jo Saxton reflected on what her child said and how, as a teenager, Saxton’s daughter understood that she had it within herself to help fix “a broken world.”

That was a lesson that Saxton herself didn’t possess at that same age.

Born in Nigeria, the child of a broken home, Saxton was raised by an elderly foster mother whom she cared for deeply. Still, she says, she was fearful that something was wrong with her, and leadership was very far from her mind then.

“... I was the last person who should be given opportunity for influence,” she muses.

Many women are like that, in that respect, Saxton suggests, and it’s not good – for a woman herself, for any business she may be invested in, or

“Ready to Rise” is that it’s very faith-

based. That doesn’t *at all* make this a bad book, but it’s absolutely going to change the audience for it: women who’re looking for a strictly-business book will want to look elsewhere.

Yes, the advice here is solid and do-able, especially for the woman who truly needs that first baby-step toward self-confidence, or for the quiet type who’s newly assimilating into a large corporation. Yes, author Jo Saxton offers a wide variety and range of business-related topics as they relate to women in the workplace, but most of those are woven with mostly Old Testament stories and musings on the life and works of Jesus and several women of the Bible. Again, not bad – just *be aware*.

Men, of course, can read this book but it’s really meant for women who need a faith-based boost. If that’s you, then find it: “Ready to Rise” has potential.



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