

JAN. 20, 2017, A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Ah, a New Year is upon us. A time of fresh BEGINNINGS.

I feel soooo refreshed, & ready for brand new experiences, knowledge, & all those other wonderful gifts that the start of new things bring.

Nevertheless, there's something very ominous about this particular beginning. My eternal soul is starting to recollect a time awfully familiar to this Jan. 20th beginning... like when I was one of the plebs, at the beginning of the FALL of the ROMAN EMPIRE.

This ETERNAL SELF is also guiding me to warn my modern-day plebs to grab a teflon raincoat, & a sturdy umbrella, because a major storm's a brewing!!! Therefore, if you want to survive what's coming next, you better get to brain-storming... IMMEDIATELY!!!

ADDENDUM

In the universal spirit of new BEGINNINGS = TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES (to **CREATE OUR OWN ENVIRONMENT**), here's a little **FFT**, f/our Guild's president, that stimulates my grey matter in regards to this new BEGINNING:

Familia,

Many of us woke up to a different reality from the one we expected. Many have expressed deep MOURNING & FEAR. However, as a progressive legal community, we know that regardless of what the outcome would've been, we would STILL BE STANDING IN SOLIDARITY & providing legal support to MOVEMENTS.

As an org. that values HUMAN RIGHTS **OVER** PROPERTY INTERESTS, the **National Lawyers Guild's** relentless defense of those rights will always be needed. As our nearly 80 years as an org. have shown, WE WILL RESIST

& WE WILL OVERCOME. In response to possible deepening government abuse & repression, people's movements will develop creative strategies to RESIST, ORGANIZE, & HOLD CORPORATE & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE. [e.g., why Trump's administration look like a KLAN RALLY?!!] We will COLLECTIVELY learn new ways of DEFIANCE & as we have stood in SOLIDARITY with PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD, they WILL STAND WITH US. We WILL openly question the LEGITIMACY of our government when necessary. [With you Rep. John Lewis] We will SUPPORT those who DISOBEY it's institutions when necessary. We will CREATE ALTERNATIVES to OPPRESSIVE INSTITUTIONS & STRUCTURES. We WILL call out & hold accountable those with TYRANNICAL DISPOSITIONS. We WILL ORGANIZE & EDUCATE & TEACH with a new passion & focus. We WILL BUILD COMMUNITY in ways perhaps we haven't yet needed to, & it WILL be TRANSFORMATIVE for our work. We are NOT THE 1st NOR THE LAST to face the threat of ENHANCED REPRESSIVE TACTICS targeting communities of color, LGBTTIQ, people with disabilities, women & gender non-conforming individuals, Muslims & immigrants, & WE WILL OVERCOME IT TOGETHER.

In Solidarity,

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, Pres., NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD (Guild Notes, vol. XLII, #4 winter 2016, p.3)

Now, LET'S BRAINSTORM, JOIN (or CREATE) A MOVEMENT, & GET TO CRACKIN'! !

Namaste

1/19/17