

WELCOME YA ALL!!!





THE BEST UNREAD  
INFORMATIVE, DEEP REPORTING  
OF THE PAST OF THE TRUE STORY  
LEFT OUT OF FAKE NEWS

GOD ANSWERS

PRAYERS

PLEASE CONTINUE TO

READ!

T.O MY BELOW PREVIOUS POST  
ANOTHER ANSWERED  
PRAYER

✖ GET THE HELL OFF HIM !!! //  
LET HIM RIP !!!

STOP DANCING ON AND SINGING PAST  
MR. **IKE TURNER'S GRAVE !!!**

Without **IKE** you'd been a Nappy  
headed, Bare Foot, Poor NEA POE  
WOMAN IN **NUTBUSH, TENN.**  
Instead of with your second  
husband in your Switzerland  
MANSION.

. cf. [Rollingstone.com](http://Rollingstone.com)

2 of 2

END QUOTE

1 of 2

ANSWER BY

MS. ADRIENNE WARNER

WRITER  
OF

BROADWAY SMASH HIT

TINA

NUTBUSH, TENN.

I shall not write her words  
herein, because in her TV  
INTERVIEW she in her own  
wonderful vocabulary expressed  
my own Above "words"!

SEE PBS.ORG NEWS HOUR WEEK  
END.

4:00 P.M CDT

PBS WISCONSIN 21-26 PT2

2022 08-07-22

REPIX ID: N9XT  
SEPT. 1, 2013

Hi Showandtell

Time For (2022) Update...

1079

# NEW AND NOTABLE PODCASTS

RENEGADES: BORN IN THE USA  
SPOTIFY

Barack Obama

Bruce Springsteen

Renegades?

SOURCE: THE WEEK.COM / REVIEW OF REVIEWS  
MARCH 29, 2020, P. 25

THIS IS THE BLACK COMMUNITY'S  
OPINION

MR. SPRINGSTEEN YOU KEEP BAD  
COMPANY !!!

Renegades

Yea!!!  
AND

2 of 9

COMMANDATE Che

is a Girlscott

[NO disrespect to the Ladies]!!!

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R. KY.), 80,  
TO OBAMA "KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT",  
BELOW, P.

This old man is too Petrified to  
EVEN utter MR. TRUMP'S NAME!

[NOTE: RESPECT YOUR ENEMY?]

TAKE LESSONS FROM A TRUE RENE-  
GADE, TRUMPED, AND 77 MILLION VOTERS!

"I am Not the Black President"!

Obama only attacks Black Folks!

CITIZEN KAYNE WEST



SEE BELOW, P.

By Choring Ball

THE ATLANTIC / THE CONVERSATION  
JULY / AUGUST 2012, P12

"Black on Black Violence", Id

Also Obama attacked Justice Clarence Thomas in 2008.

Obama has planted the Toxic seeds of so-called Negroe gangsters (JZ, et al.) and Gays to pose as so-called Black Community Leaders to wipe us out from the Roots [Genocide].

Remember Jesse Jackson, SP  
IN 2008 WAS CAUGHT ON A HOT FOX MIC  
SAYING: I WANT TO CUT THAT N-WORD  
D--K OFF, END QUOTE 4 of 9

Why does FOX keep it hidden,

Also ASK Rev. Jackson, Sr.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. AT  
c/o Rainbow Coalition, 930 E. 50th  
St., Chicago, IL, 60615. Email JJACKSON  
@rainbowpush.org Follow him on  
Twitter @REV. JACKSON.

Lastly, For... SEE LAST NIGHT  
ENCORE THE DKK CAVETT SHOW, COM  
/ WITH GUEST RIP N.Y. CONGRESSMAN  
Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

DISCUSS THERE IS NO BLACK LEADER-  
S I.E.H. DECADE5TV.COM 08-

10-2022, 8:15 P.M. CSD.

54 of 89

THOM HARTMANN

Progressive Radio Talk  
Show Host

Circa January 2022 Mr. Thom Hartmann.com lamented on his talk show his utter dismay that upon leaving office in 2017 then, former US President Barack Hussein Obama would not at some time respond to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R. Ky.) vile attacks!

SOURCE: hartmannreport

ThomHartmann.com



### Pasadena, Calif.

**Viral party:** A coughing woman at a crowded birthday party infected at least five revelers with Covid-19 and likely many more, health officials said last week.

*Unhappy occasion*

The mid-April party, held in defiance of California's stay-at-home order, was attended by a large number of extended family members and friends. The woman who was coughing joked with other partygoers about spreading an infection, according to Pasadena spokeswoman Lisa Derderian. "She said, 'I may have Covid-19,' and lo and behold, she did." Health investigators traced five confirmed cases of the virus to the party but noted that test results weren't back for "many more" people who seemed to be ill, and five or six partygoers who live outside Pasadena have also showed symptoms. City officials admonished partygoers for putting other Californians at risk. "It was selfish behavior that could have been avoided," Derderian said. Epidemiologists noted, though, that tracing many infections to one party was a successful example of the kind of contact tracing that California needs to fit the state's lockdown.



### Navajo Nation

**Tribal crisis:** The Navajo Nation reported its 102nd Covid-19 death this week,

*Native health emergency*

Indian reservations suffer some of the country's deadliest outbreaks. Across native American land stretching from Arizona to Minnesota to Connecticut, reservations confirmed 5,200 cases, although the true tally is likely much higher. Many native Americans live closely together without electricity or running water and make huge treks for groceries, rendering social distancing all but impossible. The Navajo Nation reservation now has a higher rate of death from the virus than four U.S. states. Even before the pandemic, a majority of Native Americans on some reservations were unemployed, and their economies have since been crushed by the shutdown of nearly 500 tribal owned casinos, leaving more than 10,000 people jobless. Like other tribes, the Navajo had to sue to get their \$600 million in federal relief.

### Los Angeles County

**GOP win:** A House candidate backed by President Trump won a special election this week, becoming the first Republican in 22 years to win a Democratic-controlled seat in California. Mike Garcia, a defense contractor and former Iraq War fighter pilot, beat state Assembly Member Christy Smith in the race to finish out the term of Rep. Katie Hill, who resigned in October. Hill was a rising Democratic star before nude photos of her were published by conservative sites. Votes were cast overwhelmingly by mail, though there were some sites for ballot drop-offs. While the GOP has opposed the expansion of mail voting, registered Republicans appeared to return ballots—which were sent to every voter—at higher rates than Democrats. Garcia and Smith will compete again for a full term in November. Republican Tom Tiffany won another special House election this week in a heavily conservative part of Wisconsin.



### New York City

#### Empty bleachers:

Major League Baseball owners this week approved a tentative plan to start the season around the Fourth of July in ballparks without fans. Teams would play at their normal stadiums, or at spring-training parks in Florida and Arizona if medical and local government approvals can't be obtained. The season would be cut almost in half, to 82 games, and baseball's 200-plus minor-league teams would remain sidelined. Most contentious is a proposal to split revenue 50-50 with players, a nonstarter for decades. The players' union insists that players continue to get their full prorated salaries, but MLB's owners want a compromise, since 40 percent of revenue is tied to having paying fans in seats.



*Fields without fans*

"We've zoomed past the most important aspect of any MLB restart plan," said Washington Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle: "health protections."



### Washington, D.C.

#### Obama rips

**Trump: Former President Barack Obama assailed the Trump administration's coronavirus response in a leaked call as "an absolute chaotic disaster" last week, his harshest critique of his successor to date. "Being selfish, being tribal, being divided, and seeing others as an enemy," Obama said in the call with 3,000 former members of his administration, "has become a stronger impulse in American life." Obama blamed the "What's in it for me?" mindset for the "anemic" pandemic response. He also hammered the Justice Department for dropping its case against former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. "There is no precedent" for someone in Flynn's position "getting off scot-free," Obama said, adding, "Our basic understanding of the rule of law is at risk." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called Obama's digs at Trump "classless," saying he should have avoided criticizing his successor and "kept his mouth shut."**

### Loretto, Pa.

**Home confinement:** Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was transferred from federal prison this week because of coronavirus outbreaks ravaging detention facilities. Jailed since June 2018, Manafort, 71, will serve the remainder of his 7½-year sentence confined at home in the three-bedroom apartment he shares with his wife in Northern Virginia. One of the first people charged by special counsel Robert Mueller, Manafort was convicted of tax fraud and forced to surrender assets worth more than \$20 million. He also pleaded guilty to conspiracy and witness tampering in a case stemming from his illicit lobbying for Ukraine, and faces mortgage fraud charges in New York. Manafort argued that he is vulnerable to the virus because of his heart problems, liver disease, high blood pressure, and respiratory illness. There are more than 2,800 confirmed Covid-19 cases among federal inmates, but none to date at Manafort's Pennsylvania prison.

7 of 9



**THE VIENNESE KANYE?**

*In May, David Samuels distilled the personality and musical genius of Kanye West as he followed the Watch the Throne tour, Kanye's collaboration with Jay-Z. Many readers and commentators took note of President Obama's reiterated judgment that Kanye is a "jackass." Many others took umbrage at the headline, "American Mozart."*

David Samuels's account of Kanye West's talent and egocentricity is entertaining, but the title conceit seems oddly off-pitch. Mozart is only half-relevant: one is astounded that this childish boor could have generated sublime works like the Requiem, the "Coronation" Concerto, the Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, and so on. West's art does not stand in bizarre juxtaposition with his life; rather, his art is of a piece with his life.

**Andrew S. Mine**  
Chicago, Ill.

The works of the prolific Mozart were and are brilliant and will continue to thrill music lovers for hundreds of years to come. It is unlikely that anyone will remember Kanye West 20 years from now. If he is remembered, it will be as the narcissistic, crude, rude, silly "jackass" that he is. Like

most pop-culture stars, he is merely the current fad. If you must make an American comparison to Mozart, try Aaron Copland or Philip Glass.

**Luci Chrostowski**  
Evanston, Ill.

You have to wonder if Obama really actually listened to a Jay-Z song? And that's not to say that there is anything wrong with Jay, but let's be real here: those two concepts don't match ...

Jay-Z, at least in his music, totally contradicts the message Obama has presented over and over again to the community. A former drug dealer, who started as a mere corner boy in Marcy Projects and worked his way up to pushing kilos up and down the East Coast, Jay-Z has built an entire career on glorifying the drug and gun culture in his music ... While you have to give credit to Jay for his ability to ensure that his art does imitate his life, it is hypocritical to judge the exploits of those in the community who act like a Jay-Z song, yet condone and befriend the biggest perpetrator of that culture.

And while I have no interest in debating the validity of that "Kanye is a jackass" statement, I do wonder about the ability to be so vocal on a nonpolitical "foe" and so mum and diplomatic when it counts the most. Sort of like Elack-on-Black violence—we are aggressive and vicious to each other yet silent and humble when others—like say a Boehner or Gingrich or Cantor—attack ...

In the greater scheme of important issues related to the office of the presidency, this probably falls between what Bo had for dinner last night and the question of who Malia will take to the prom. But for me, it illustrates the contradictions between what we say we want as a

**LOG**

**According to readers, Kanye West is to Mozart as ...**

- George W. Bush is to Stephen Hawking
- a very good comic strip is to the *Mona Lisa*
- Roseanne Barr is to Einstein
- a really good cotton-candy maker is to a chef with a kitchen full of tools and ingredients

community—and that is reputable black leadership and role models—and the celebrity and symbols of power that we ultimately settle for.

**Charing Ball**

*Excerpt from a ... Danie Noire blog post*

**David Samuels replies:**

*Kanye West is an American Mozart—a petulant, egomaniacal master of the disposable forms that define American pop culture. He is a genius who speaks to us in our own musical language, just as the actual Mozart spoke to his audience in its language two centuries ago.*

**THE DESPOT'S CHILD**

*When fighting broke out in Libya last year, Jacqueline Frazier—who had been working with Saadi Qaddafi on setting up a potential free-trade zone—conducted press outreach for Libyan officials, until she grew uneasy and quit. Frazier was with Saadi in Niger when he found out that his father, Muammar Qaddafi, had been killed. In the May Atlantic, Frazier described that day.*

It's a creepy article and never quite seems to engage with the horrors and evils in which Frazier collaborated ... to help the [Qaddafi] family degrade, torture, and oppress their country a little bit more effectively.

Dancing with dictators is weird. On the one hand they appear to be regular human beings. But dark shadows loom in the background. Saadi Qaddafi is no doubt a complicated man with a range of virtues and vices. Like Carmela Soprano or Albert Speer, he didn't simply embrace the evil he served. He struggled, he made excuses, he lied to himself, he hoped for the best.

And of course he worked to charm, beguile, and bribe various people to collaborate with him as they all pretended they didn't know about the secret police, the corruption, the brutal oppression taking place just out of sight. It would all be so different once the free-trade zone was finished! ...

Frazier's account makes her look both brainless and complicit—more Eva Braun than Leni Riefenstahl. Kinder editors would have killed it, but perhaps kindness to Qaddafi enablers isn't high on the priorities of the Atlantic staff.

**Walter Russell Mead**

*Excerpt from an American Interest blog post*

80989

WILLIE DAVIS / THE NEW YORK TIMES REDUX

# Come home, Mr. President

By Jesse Jackson  
MILWAUKEE COURIER

Chicago is in a state of emergency. Lives are being lost. Fear is growing. Local officials, ministers and community activists are working diligently but cannot break the cycle. We're seeing more than one funeral a day. Our children are traumatized. Many are afraid to go to school.

In this crisis, we need the president's leadership. President Obama can provide the knowledge, vision and inspiration to bring us together to address the crisis. He can speak to the children to calm their fears.

Mr. President, as you know, last week, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, an honor student who performed in your inaugural ceremonies as a majorette, was murdered, slain when a gunman shot randomly into a group of kids gathered in a neighborhood park less than one mile from your home.

Last year in Chicago, more than 500 lives were lost to gun violence, 175 of those lives under the age of 18. As you know, Mr. President, we don't make the guns here, they are imported — just as the drugs are imported and the jobs are exported. Children are at risk as a result. Eyewitnesses are too frightened to cooperate. Police brutality has eroded trust. Even those with strong families and strong discipline like Hadiya's are too often the victims of this emergency.

The threat of violence accompanies the blight of misery. Less than 10 percent of low-income, minority teens in Chicago are employed. The wages of those who have jobs are not keeping up. Hadiya was attending the elite Martin Luther King College Prep High School and headed to college. But too many children are devastated by poverty and dropping out of school,

headed to the streets. The recession has destroyed homes as well as jobs. With mass foreclosures, plywood boards replace windowpanes. Abandoned homes shelter not families, but the desperate. Neighborhoods decline with the loss of hospitals, the closing of schools.

Mr. President, you inspired America with your inaugural call to honor the promise of Martin Luther King. In Newtown and in your gun-violence proposals, you have shown the courage it requires to lead. **FEBRUARY 09, 2013**

After Hadiya's shooting, more police were pledged to patrol the streets. But as you know from your time on these streets, Mr. President, you cannot police poverty. You cannot police broken dreams or shattered aspirations. Chicago has strong gun laws, but it cannot stop the flow of guns and drugs coming in and jobs going out.

You can issue the summons to America to face this challenge. You can reassure these children that America cares for them and values them, knowing, as you said in your inaugural address, that we are "true to our creed when a little girl born into the bleakest poverty knows that she has the same chance to succeed as anybody else because she is an American, she is free, and she is equal not just in the eyes of God but also in our own."

We know the fierce resistance you face in Washington, where powerful lobbies already are lining up to block gun-violence reforms. Yet, you have moved forward on gun violence, knowing that the summons to Americans is the first step toward overcoming those standing in the way.

So, too, it is with the crisis of Chicago and our cities.

The resistance is clear. But by summoning the country to act, by showing the children that this country cares, you can make the first step toward action. You can ensure that Hadiya's tragic death contributes not to a continuing spiral of violence, but to the first steps of renewal.

Come home, Mr. President, your city needs you.

## No single solution on shootings

On the "control" side, I've heard that limiting access to assault weapons would have the single greatest impact on reducing mass shootings. On the "rights" side, maintaining unlimited access to guns but addressing mental illness is mentioned with regularity.

Undoubtedly, human sentiment on both sides of the issue lies with the goal of eliminating the loss of innocent life by the use of guns. However, the tendency of human nature to simplify cause and effect for complex problems undermines arriving at effective solutions to gun violence.

To become mired in the position that an assault weapons ban would reduce the number of mass shootings is as counterproductive as proposing that mental health care can stop unstable people across the diverse cultural and sociological landscape of a nation from killing others.

The behavioral and sociological complexity surrounding any one unstable individual who is motivated to use an assault rifle to kill as many innocent people as possible cannot be reduced to an argument about how to make weapons inaccessible or all people free from mental health issues.

The benefit of hindsight has informed us in the mass shootings of 2012, from how or why the killer had a gun, to why he wanted to kill innocent people, to the predictive signs that could have stopped him, to the preventive measures that might have precluded the killer from gaining access to the venue of the shooting. This review of what happened leads us to erroneously believe that generic solutions can be used to eliminate the problem.

I submit that if we accept that the dynamics of human behavior and the interaction of people living together inevitably produce conflict and intermittent violent actions, we can approach the problem of gun violence from where we are instead of where we should have been, could have been, should be, could be. The contentious nature of being on one side or the other of the issue precludes an attitude of sharing the problem and its solution, as if we all take responsibility for it and are all invested in effective change toward a safe society.

In the long run, we realize no matter what side of the argument we fall on, we can all do both of these things: Be aware of safe security measures in our personal and public spaces, and be aware of the mental health needs of our fellow citizens.

# Veteran pleads insanity in slaying

An Iraq war veteran charged with killing his police officer wife in Wauwatosa on Christmas Eve changed his plea Friday to not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

Benjamin Sebena will now undergo a mental health examination by a forensic psychiatrist appointed by Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David Borowski to see if there's a basis to maintain the plea.

~~1.00~~  
~~1.00~~  
~~\*.05~~  
~~1.00~~



need to be of the violent variety, but without a clear cultural revolution, the United States will continue to lose its place in the world. The American people need to wake up, rid themselves of their complacency and start demanding real, radical and immediate change; only then will politicians finally take heed.

that revolution is not only a right, but also a duty in certain circumstances. Our Founding Fathers believed that it was their duty to revolt against the divine right of King George III, and they borrowed from the ideas of Locke when they wrote the Declaration of Independence. More than two centuries later, this nation may now be in need of another revolution. This time around, the revolution might not

Mary Evangelista  
Germantown

059

059

8-11-2022

Thousands of inmates in America are kept in long-term solitary confinement.

- 1) Is that torture?
- 2) Is it prudent?

# The toll of solitary

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**Z**ero Dark Thirty," a nominee for Sunday's Oscar as best picture, reignited debate about whether the waterboarding of terrorism suspects was torture. This practice, which ended in 2003, was used on only three suspects. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of American prison inmates are kept in protracted solitary confinement that arguably constitutes torture and probably violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishments."

Noting that half of all prison suicides are committed by prisoners held in isolation, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) has prompted an independent assessment of solitary confinement in federal prisons. State prisons are equally vulnerable to Eighth Amendment challenges concerning whether inmates are subjected to "substantial risk of serious harm."



George Will

Plainly put, prisoners often lose their minds.

America, with 5% of the world's population, has 25% of its prisoners. Mass incarceration, which means a perpetual crisis of prisoners re-entering society, has generated understanding of solitary confinement's consequences when used as a long-term condition for an estimated 25,000 inmates in federal and state supermax prisons — and perhaps 80,000 others in isolation sections within regular prisons.

Clearly, solitary confinement involves much more than the isolation of incorrigibly violent individuals for the protection of other inmates or prison personnel.

Federal law on torture prohibits conduct "specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering." And "severe"

physical pain is not limited to "excruciating or agonizing" pain, or pain "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily functions, or even death." The severe mental suffering from prolonged solitary confinement puts the confined at risk of brain impairment.

Supermax prisons isolate inmates from social contact. Often prisoners are in their cells, sometimes smaller than 8 feet by 12 feet, 23 hours a day, released only for a shower or exercise in a small fenced-in outdoor space. Isolation changes the way the brain works, often making individuals *more* impulsive, *less* able to control themselves. The mental pain of solitary confinement is crippling: Brain studies reveal durable impairments and abnormalities in individuals denied social interaction. Plainly put, prisoners often lose their minds.

The first supermax began functioning in Marion, Ill., in 1983. By the beginning of this century, there were more than 60 around the nation, and solitary-confinement facilities were in most maximum-security prisons. In an article ("Hellhole") in the March 30, 2009, *New Yorker*, Atul Gawande, a surgeon who writes on public health issues, noted, "One of the paradoxes of solitary confinement is that, as starved as people become for companionship, the experience typically leaves them unfit for social interaction." And those who are most incapacitated by solitary confinement are forced to remain in it because they have been rendered unfit for "the highly social world of mainline prison or free society."

Last year, *The New York Times* reported that of the prisoners sent to solitary confinement in California's Pelican Bay prison because of gang affiliation, "248 have been there for 5 to 10 years; 218 for 10 to 20 years; and 90 for 20 years or more."

Two centuries ago, solitary confinement was considered a humane reform, promoting reflection, repentance — penitence; hence penitentiaries — and rehabilitation. Quakerism influenced the design of Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary, which opened in 1829 with a regime of strict solitude. In 1842, Charles Dickens visited it:

"I hold this slow and daily tampering with the mysteries of the brain, to be immeasurably worse than any torture of the body; and because its ghastly signs and tokens are not so palpable to the eye and sense of touch as scars upon the flesh; because its wounds are not upon the surface, and it extorts few cries that human ears can hear; therefore I the more denounce it, as a secret punishment which slumbering humanity is not roused up to stay."

In 1890, the U.S. Supreme Court said of solitary confinement essentially what Dickens had said: "A considerable number of the prisoners fell, after even a short confinement, into a semi-fatuous condition, from which it was next to impossible to arouse them, and others became violently insane; others, still, committed suicide."

Americans should be roused against this by decency — and prudence. Mass incarceration is expensive, and solitary confinement costs, on average, three times as much per inmate as in normal prisons. And remember: Most people now in solitary confinement will someday be back on America's streets, some of them rendered psychotic by what are called correctional institutions.

George Will is a columnist for *The Washington Post*. Email [georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com)

## Time for a revolution

Elected officials in Washington, D.C., and in statehouses around the country might be wise to remember one of the most basic tenets of political theory: that a government derives its legitimacy from the consent of the people.

Politicians may now be benefiting from an uninformed or apathetic citizenry, but if that apathy turns into action, the ruling class could be in for a rude awakening. After all, for how long

will Americans continue their consent of a \$16 trillion national debt that shows no sign of shrinking? For how long will Americans continue their consent of a public school system that is broken and uncompetitive? For how long will Americans continue their consent of fewer rights, more regulations and higher taxes? **To p. 34 AT X**

English philosopher John Locke believed

TURN

ed on page 34.

knowledge and belief.

line phone

)

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# MR MANDELLA BARNES

MR. Mandella Barnes, 35, year old lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, and as of this writing, the Democratic front-runner for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Ron Johnson. END QUOTE... (R, WI)

— BY NATHAN HELLER

THE REST OF THE STORY IS AT  
VOGUE.COM/VOICES AND VOTES  
AUG 2022, PP. 70-73, 102 AT  
103

THIS IS THE BLACK COMMUNITY  
TAKE:

BLACK VOICES



Mr. Mandella is a single bold  
headed Black man running to unseat  
U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, a multi-millionaire,  
a man who is married and most  
U.S.A. politically valuable and viable  
of all is a white man. BELOW, P. P,  
5-6 of 6

ON August 09, 2022, TUES.,

The Wisconsin majority of voters rejected  
a white woman candidate in the Republican  
Governor's Primary Race in favor of the White  
man.

I can only see Mr. Mandella  
as a sacrificial "Dark Horse" to get out  
the Black and youth vote to save Gov.  
Tony Evers from a Trumpnado  
take over in November 2022 elections  
and set-up for 2024 Presidential bid.

The elites had Mr. Mandela  
Three white primary opponents  
drop-out and endorse him to  
guarantee his affirmative victory!

PLEASE ALSO SEE

THE DYING LIGHT

IS THE NEOLIBERAL ERA OVER YET?

Ed Bumpala

THE NEW REPUBLIC.COM

JULY/AUGUST 2022, P. 51-53

U.S. SENATE [Democratic]

2124 of 3609 REPORTING

WINNER

Mandela Barnes

Democrat

389,817 78%

Alex Lamy

Democrat

44,541 9%

Sarah Godlewski

Democrat

40,451 8%

Tom Nelson

Democrat

10,933 2%

SOURCE: 15-1 WMTV/NBC' NBC-15.COM

THIS OUR BLACK COMMUNITY'S OPINION

4086

# RON JOHNSON, AN EMBARRASSING LIABILITY



**RUTH CONNIFF**  
is editor-at-large  
for *The Progressive*  
and editor-in-  
chief of the state  
news website,  
the *Wisconsin*  
*Examiner*.

Imagine your fate resting in the hands of Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson. That's the jam Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell finds himself in, as he waits for the dumbest guy in the U.S. Senate to make up his mind on whether or not to run again.

The longer Johnson waits, the harder it is for other prospective Republican candidates to raise money and launch their campaigns. And the harder it gets for Republicans to win Wisconsin, the slimmer McConnell's chances of taking back control of the U.S. Senate become.

It couldn't happen to a nicer guy. McConnell, whose chief aim in life has been obstructing Democratic Presidents, even when it means opposing an investigation of the U.S. Capitol insurrection that threatened his own life, cares about nothing but power. So it's amusing to see the Darth Vader of American politics tied in knots by Mr. Goofus Goes to Washington.

If Johnson, who has been one of Donald Trump's most obsequious apologists, does run, he will be bringing along a lot of baggage with him. And that's the last thing Republicans need in a swing state that went for Trump in 2016 but where Democrats won every statewide election in 2018 and Biden pulled off a critical narrow victory in 2020.

Johnson wasted countless hours of committee hearing time on Hunter Biden conspiracies and has called for a full investigation of "irregularities" in the 2020 presidential election, which he terms an "unsustainable state of affairs." He avidly supports restrictive voting measures proposed

by Republicans in Wisconsin and, despite the lack of evidence for any amount of voter fraud, claims that we don't yet know how much fraud there was.

Some of Johnson's most headline-generating statements to date have to do with the coronavirus, including his early insistence that preventing deaths from the pandemic was not worth the economic cost of keeping people home and his promotion of dubious alternative remedies. Recently, he opined that masks "have not been particularly effective" at stopping the spread of COVID-19. He also held a press conference with people who have had rare adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines, in an apparent effort to spread fear and confusion—Johnson's specialty.

The junior Senator from Wisconsin says he is not anti-vaccine, and describes himself as "a huge supporter of Operation Warp Speed," calling the Trump Administration's push to develop COVID-19 vaccines "brilliant." But he has also warned against "indiscriminate mass vaccination," and suggested, without evidence, that vaccines are linked to thousands of uncounted deaths.

Recently, Johnson made a splash by calling climate change "bullshit"—a remark President Joe Biden mocked, prompting Johnson to challenge him via Twitter to a debate on the subject. The President has so far not accepted; perhaps he has more important things to do.

Recently, a video of Johnson's June appearance at a Milwaukee Press Club event was removed from YouTube because

it contained so many inaccurate statements about COVID-19, including claims about the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, and the unproven harmful effects of getting vaccinated.

No wonder an ever-growing field of Democrats in Wisconsin, including the dynamic state treasurer and popular lieutenant governor, are eager to run against him. He's an opposition researcher's dream.

Meanwhile, Wisconsin's other Senator, Tammy Baldwin, has one of the most progressive voting records in the U.S. Senate and won her last re-election campaign handily by ten points. So Democrats know they can win statewide in Wisconsin.

McConnell is expecting that, as usual, the opposition party will pick up seats in the midterm elections. But Johnson could thwart that plan by turning the race into a referendum on Trump—who lost his re-election bid in Wisconsin, although he still won't admit it.

Trump has been publicly urging Johnson to seek a third term—something Johnson himself promised not to do, back when he campaigned on the idea of term limits. (Reminded of his pledge not to seek another term by Craig Gilbert, Washington bureau chief for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Johnson said, "When I made that pledge I meant that pledge." Unfortunately, times have changed. Now he doesn't mean it anymore.)

"I ran in 2010 because I was panicked for this nation," Johnson declared in his press club appearance, adding, in a line he repeated at the state's Republican Convention, "I'm more panicked today."

5 of 6

Trump has said Johnson would have his "Complete and Total Endorsement" should he decide to run again. Presumably, the two of them would run around Wisconsin panicking together.

Never mind how this would complicate the race, in which McConnell wants to gin up a backlash against Biden and the Democrats. Though there are still Trump banners waving over the cornfields in the rural parts of Wisconsin, that doesn't make Johnson a good candidate. He won last time with support from suburban voters who have been turned off by Trump.

### Trump has been publicly urging Johnson to seek a third term—something Johnson himself promised not to do.

Those voters show no signs of appreciating Johnson's panic.

And then there's Johnson's opposition to the child tax credit, which hit Americans' bank accounts on July 15, and which the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates will benefit 1,159,000 children in Wisconsin—92 percent of those under the age of eighteen.

"In general," Johnson said, I don't like to use the tax code for either economic or social engineering."

Johnson had no problem engineering a tax break for his own business before he cast the deciding vote on the 2017 Trump Tax Bill—a \$1.4 trillion handout for the wealthiest Americans and big corporations. As *The Guardian* reported, Johnson began the process of selling a company he partly owned in February 2018,

just months after he insisted the Trump Administration change a portion of the tax law in a way that ultimately benefited the sale.

If Ron Johnson does run for re-election, it will be a test of Trump's hold on Republican voters.

Johnson increasingly makes overt appeals to the crazy pro-Trump base. He went to Milwaukee on Juneteenth, the new federal holiday he tried to block, saying he didn't think government employees deserve paid time off to celebrate the end of slavery, and later made a point of talking about how he was booed by African American residents in his speech at the Wisconsin Republican Convention.

He voted against a bipartisan commission to investigate the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, and he has doubled down on statements that he wasn't concerned about the pro-Trump protesters who stormed the building carrying weapons and plastic handcuffs, whom he described as "people that love this country, that truly respect law enforcement," saying he "might have been a little concerned" if they were Black Lives Matter protesters.

It's not just Black Lives Matter protesters and Democrats who want Johnson gone.

James Wigderson, editor of *RightWisconsin*, the online "forum for conservatives to debate the goals and tactics of the conservative movement in Wisconsin," recently told me that he is advising his fellow conservatives not to support Johnson, even if it means losing the election.

"If you're given a choice in 2022 between Ron Johnson and any of the Democrats so far running, then don't vote," he said. "Don't reward Ron Johnson with your vote. Maybe then the Republicans will learn a lesson."

In the long term, Republicans are hurting their chances of winning elections by embracing Trumpism, according to Wigderson. He points to the drop in Republican voters in Waukesha and Ozaukee Counties in 2020, where suburban women, in particular, defected from the Party of Trump. "When the district that was once held by [former Wisconsin Governor] Scott Walker in the state assembly is now a solid Democratic seat, that should be a warning to Republicans that they need to straighten up their act," Wigderson says.

These sorts of political calculations do not appear to trouble Johnson. His indecision about whether to run for re-election is not only tying up Republican candidates who will run for his Senate seat if he doesn't, it is delaying the same field of Republicans who want to run for governor if Johnson decides to stay in the U.S. Senate—effectively tying up two races while he dithers.

Johnson, like Trump, is an embarrassing liability to a lot of Republicans. If he wins, so do the worst currents in Republican politics—the bullying, the boorishness, the racism, the contempt for democratic institutions. All of that has become part of the Republican brand since Trump won.

If Wisconsin shakes off Ron Johnson, it will be a sign the Trump era is finally ending. ♦

A TOAST TO THE WONDERFUL

ELLEN DEGENERES

LET US ALL GOOD PEOPLE

NOMINATE HER FOR "HEART OF GOLD"

NOBLE PRIZE !!!

#NEIL YOUNG

# FAREWELL SEASON 2022

NEVER MY DEAR "HEART" H  
FOR YOUR "GOOD DEEDS SHALL LIVE ON  
FOREVERMORE!!

I wanted to write - shout-  
out some obvious observations on,  
on Hater's Obnoxious "STONING"  
of ELLEN DEGENERES, and UNJUST  
RESULTING CANCELLATION of her show.  
A public service TV show, indeed!

ELLEN ON MAY 26, 2022,  
THUR., 3:00 P.M. CDT, Show had on  
previous "ORDINARY PEOPLE" GUESTS  
Beneficiary of her Renowned GEN-  
erosity (MS. O AIN'T GOT NUTHIN ON  
ELLEN !!!), whom each in turn SHINED

SHINED GRACE UPON HER HEART OF GOLD!

ELLEN ONCE GAVE AWAY ONE MILLION  
DOLLARS TO SUCH AN ESTEEMED GUEST!!

IT WAS A TKO!!!

A KNOCK-OUT!!!

TO ALL THE PETHY HATERS!!!

— SHAKE IT OFF

TAYLOR SWIFT

WELL DONE!!!

IT'S THE RIGHTEOUS

WHO IS PERSECUTED,

NOT THE WICKED !!!

I intend here to ILLUMINATE BIBLE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS OF HOW IT'S: THE  
RIGHTEOUS WHO ARE PERSECUTED,  
NOT THE WICKED!



NOW LET THOSE WHO HAVE EYES  
SEE:

## BARABBAS

In the New Testament, the condemned thief whose release, instead of that of Jesus, was demanded of Pilate by the Multitude.

SOURCE: The American Heritage dictionary of the  
English language -- 5th ed.

PCM

previous ed.: 2000

ISBN 978-0-547-04101-8

— P. 143

CAIN SLEW his brother ABEL

Mahatma Gandhi

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BOTH ASSASSINATED

Ida B. Wells

SUSAN B. ANNE ANTHONY

BOTH PERSECUTED

AND NOW JUDGE JUDY -

NOT ELLEN...

# ELLEN FAREWELL SEASON

SEE BELOW:

- A] Why Do Some People Resent  
"DO GOODERS"? P.P. 6-7
- B] The Trouble With "BEING" NICE"  
P.P. 8-10

C] "WHAT KINDNESS REALLY IS"  
HUMAN KINDNESS FOUNDATION,  
SPRING 2022, P.P. 12-14

D] THE Goodness Paradox:  
THE STRANGE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN VIRTUE AND VIOLENCE  
IN HUMAN EVOLUTION  
BY Richard Wrangham [PANTHEON, \$29.]

BELOW BK. REVIEW  
THE WEEK.COM FEB. 15, 2019, P. 15

## Why Do Some People Resent “Do-Gooders”?

When others feel resentment toward you, doing well is a double-edged sword.

Whether it's reaching a professional milestone, attaining a health goal, or doing a good deed, accomplishments should be a source of pride. But sometimes the warm glow of our success is overshadowed by an unexpected side effect—the not-so-positive reactions of other people.

On the one hand, success can benefit others by providing a source of motivation or inspiration. For example, one study found that cancer patients preferred hearing about patients who overcame their illness to hearing about those who were worse off—the success stories provided them with hope and useful information. And research on basking in reflected glory suggests that we often take pride in the success of in-group members, even if we're not directly involved in it—sports fans are a classic example.

But other times, success is met with less positive responses, and outperforming others can put a strain on relationships and even lead to outright rejection.

One surprising domain where this can play out is in the patient-provider relationship. Researchers recently examined what happens when physicians advertise their physical fitness, a common practice in online profiles. Does a physician's success in maintaining a healthy weight inspire by example, or does it backfire?

In one study, participants viewed a series of online physician profiles; some mentioned fitness (e.g., “To keep myself fit, I like to hike, bike, and exercise”) and some did not.

The results showed that overweight and obese participants were less likely to say they would choose a fitness-focused physician to be their doctor, and this relationship was explained by a greater anticipation of negative judgment. In other words, participants were less interested in working with physicians whom they believed might disapprove of them based on their weight.

A similar pattern occurs in our perceptions of “do-gooders.” Behaving according to one's moral principles seems like a laudable goal, but it, too, can make others feel implicitly judged. One study found that when a group of non-vegetarian college students were asked to list three words they associated with vegetarians, nearly half listed at least one negative word, such as annoying, arrogant, or crazy.

But what was especially interesting was that those who viewed vegetarians more negatively were also more likely to expect that vegetarians would view them negatively, suggesting that a fear of moral reproach might underlie negative views of vegetarians.

Supporting this idea, when the threat of moral reproach was experimentally boosted, the researchers found that it increased negative evaluations of vegetarians.

Because doing well (or doing good) can mean facing negative social reactions, people are sometimes reluctant to share their accomplishments or highlight their strengths, and might even “play dumb” to avoid making others feel threatened or uncomfortable. While some degree of modesty may be socially appropriate, chronic self-deprecation can be personally costly, especially when it leads to self-defeating behaviors such as intentional failure.

“Behaving according to one’s moral principles can make others feel implicitly judged”

—Dr. Juliana Breines

Is there a way to highlight success and expertise without suffering social costs, and without alienating those one may be best positioned to help?

In follow-up studies, the researchers who studied physician choices examined the effects of two potential strategies physicians could use: 1) admitting to fitness struggles, and 2) emphasizing that their own fitness choices are personal and don’t bear on their judgments of others.

The first strategy had little impact on patients’ attitudes. The researchers speculated that this may be because the fitness struggles were framed as relatively minor and part of an overall commitment to healthy living, so the patients’ fear of being judged remained. In some settings, revealing imperfections can be humanizing and increase likability, but this may not always be the case.

The second strategy was more effective: When fitness-focused profiles emphasized non-judgment of others’ choices, both overweight and non-overweight participants tended to find those individuals more appealing. For example, expressing an interest in fitness was less threatening when it was paired with statements like, “It’s important to me that I help my patients to meet their own personal health goals” or “Everyone has their own definition of a healthy life and what it means to be healthy for them.”

These findings suggest that we don’t need to downplay personal triumphs to avoid negative social consequences, as long as we make it clear that we don’t look down on others as a result.

## The Trouble With Being "Nice"

You've heard the phrase, "So-and-so is a really nice person," and probably thought nothing of it. In my work, though, I think a lot about what it means to be "really nice" as I see a major distinction between being nice and being genuinely kind.

The way I understand it, kindness emerges from someone who's confident, compassionate and comfortable with themselves. A kind person is loving and giving out of the goodness of their heart.

At the root of extreme niceness, however, are feelings of inadequacy and the need to get approval and validation from others. Overly-nice people try to please so that they can feel good about themselves.

Genuinely kind people are giving because it's in their nature to care, and since they have no ulterior motives, they aren't concerned with whether or not other people like them.

Kind people can be assertive and set good limits. Nice people, on the other hand, bend over backward to be obliging. They deal with potential conflicts by placating the other person because they can't bear to have anyone upset with them.

Kind people have good self-esteem and because they love themselves as much as they care about others, they expect to be treated with respect. Nice people are desperate for approval, so they're often mistreated or taken advantage of.

Nice people tend to do too much for those who don't deserve it and are easy prey for users. They get into co-dependent relationships in which they care-take others in the hopes of eventually being cared for themselves.

This co-dependent interaction, however, is a lose-lose for everyone involved. The nice person fails to get the love and approval they seek, and the person on the receiving end of their attention never feels like they're getting enough care. Instead of being grateful, they become resentful toward the pleaser.

Kind people take responsibility for their own self-care. They're generous, even altruistic, but don't get caught up in a user-pleaser type of relationship.

The nice person is careful not to offend anyone and wouldn't dream of expressing a "negative" emotion. They focus on doing for others, to the detriment of their own needs. In fact, they're afraid to ask for what they want for fear of creating conflict.

Nice people stuff down their feelings and needs, not wanting to be a bother to anyone, but the problem with this is that what's inside us can't be kept down indefinitely.

Feelings and needs are meant to be acknowledged and expressed and when they're repressed, they find another outlet.

Being nice, then, has unforeseen consequences: it's painful to seek affirmation but receive contempt. Always holding back needs, feelings and opinions adds to the frustration.

Ultimately, the frustration grows into anger, but showing this anger is unacceptable to someone so invested in always being pleasant. The nice person is compelled to suppress anything "negative."

As the nice person continues to please everyone and the anger simmers underneath the surface, the internal pressure builds up. At some point emotions begin to leak, in the form of snarky comments, whining, needling, sarcasm, passive-aggressive behaviour or even outbursts of rage.

When a nice person leaks resentment it's usually met with surprise or with more anger, which reinforces their belief that anger should never be expressed.

A vicious circle is created in which the nice person pleases others, becomes resentful, represses and then leaks their anger and then represses their needs and feelings some more. As a result, they'll often get caught up in addictive behaviours which are meant to compensate for their mounting frustration.

I have found that nice people will often turn to starchy, fatty or sugary "comfort foods," to help them to stuff down their anger, soothe their hurt feelings and fill up the emptiness within – something that the pleasing didn't achieve.

The unhappy "nice" person might abuse alcohol or turn to tranquillizers, to anesthetize their pain. Some will go on spending sprees, trying to buy themselves happiness and fulfilment.

The nice person is overly-invested in the emotional pay-off they're hoping to achieve by taking care of others. They're also unwilling to face how much hurt or anger they're carrying. They're resistant to changing their behaviour, despite the consequences of their compensatory addictions.

The nice person can keep repeating this unhappy circle, over and over, but they'll never get their needs met by being a pleaser and care-taker to others. Nice people are needy people who inadvertently create more and more unhappiness for themselves.

Kind people are happy people to begin with, and they add to their happiness through acts of generosity and altruism. They rarely become frustrated or angry because their self-worth isn't dependent on the opinions of others, and because they know how to set good limits and express their wants.

The nice person has to understand that their self-worth can never be improved by being a pleaser. They must learn how to validate themselves independently of others, and let go of the co-dependent relationships which foster mutual animosity.

They must move away from seeing other people as the source of their validation and worth, and take responsibility for their own self-esteem and happiness.

When the overly-nice person can let go of the urge to please, they'll be able to identify their real needs and feelings and begin to take proper care of themselves. They can find happiness in pursuing meaningful activities and relationships instead of giving too much, becoming resentful, and possibly developing a nasty addiction along the way.



Spring 2022

## WHAT KINDNESS REALLY IS

My dear friends,

It's my honor and privilege to serve as the new Executive Director of Human Kindness Foundation. There is such a rich legacy to build upon. Growing up, a copy of *We're All Doing Time* sat on the bookshelf in our kitchen. My mother sent the book to family members and friends in prisons across the Southeast. I've thought about the idea of us all serving time in one way or another throughout my life.

We all have prisons of our souls that keep us from being the strongest and most free versions of ourselves. There's a lot that holds us back from being free people. Some of us face more hurdles than others, that's for sure, but there are forces that beat all of us down. Pain is unavoidable. It's what we do with this pain—how we learn from it, use it and turn it into wisdom—that makes the measure of our lives.

When I lived and worked in Colombia and Northern Ireland, I saw how decades of violence and war affected every aspect of society, from national politics to family dynamics. I've watched members of my own family struggle with the effects of mental illness and incarceration. Working in prisons, jails and reentry programs, I've witnessed the frustration, pain and isolation of people experiencing incarceration and its long-term consequences. In all of these cases, I've also seen people turn pain into strength by drawing from life experiences to offer love, support and wisdom. I bow before you who read this for all the ways you have used the lessons you've learned from difficulties to help others.

Our greatest resource is you—whether you're in a prison in Alaska or an office in Arkansas. I hope our work at Human Kindness Foundation always helps you remember you are stronger than you think, you are brave and beautiful, and you have so many gifts to share. I'm excited about the work we'll do together in the months and years to come.

With love and gratitude,  
Erin Parish





Foundation, Human  
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Phoenix, MD 21131

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**Where To Send Your Reply Letters:**

Please see next page for envelope image.

**Additional Information:**

Housing: H6,  
Date: Wed, Apr 20 2022 - 09:58 AM EST  
Letter #: 1504243 (1 Pages)  
Type: Mass Communication Mail

Poet Naomi Shihab Nye graciously gave us permission to share her beautiful poem, "Kindness." This poem speaks directly to our mission. It is the kindness we experience and show to others at the hardest moments in our lives that we remember most. Our pain can be the source of the kindness we offer, a kindness built on understanding what it means to love and lose and still show up for others and ourselves. We hope you love this poem as much as we do!

## Kindness

-Naomi Shihab Nye

*Before you know what kindness really is  
you must lose things,  
feel the future dissolve in a moment  
like salt in a weakened broth.  
What you held in your hand,  
what you counted and carefully saved,  
all this must go so you know  
how desolate the landscape can be  
between the regions of kindness.  
How you ride and ride  
thinking the bus will never stop,  
the passengers eating maize and chicken  
will stare out the window forever.  
Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness,  
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho  
lies dead by the side of the road.  
You must see how this could be you,  
how he too was someone  
who journeyed through the night with plans  
and the simple breath that kept him alive.*

*Before you know kindness as the deepest thing  
inside,  
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.  
You must wake up with sorrow.  
You must speak to it till your voice  
catches the thread of all sorrows  
and you see the size of the cloth.*

*Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,  
only kindness that ties your shoes  
and sends you out into the day to mail letters and  
purchase bread,  
only kindness that raises its head  
from the crowd of the world to say  
it is I you have been looking for,  
and then goes with you everywhere  
like a shadow or a friend.*

—From *Everything Comes Next; Collected and New Poems*  
(Greenwillow, 2020) Reprinted by permission of the author,  
Naomi Shihab Nye, 2022.



## On Shared Authorship

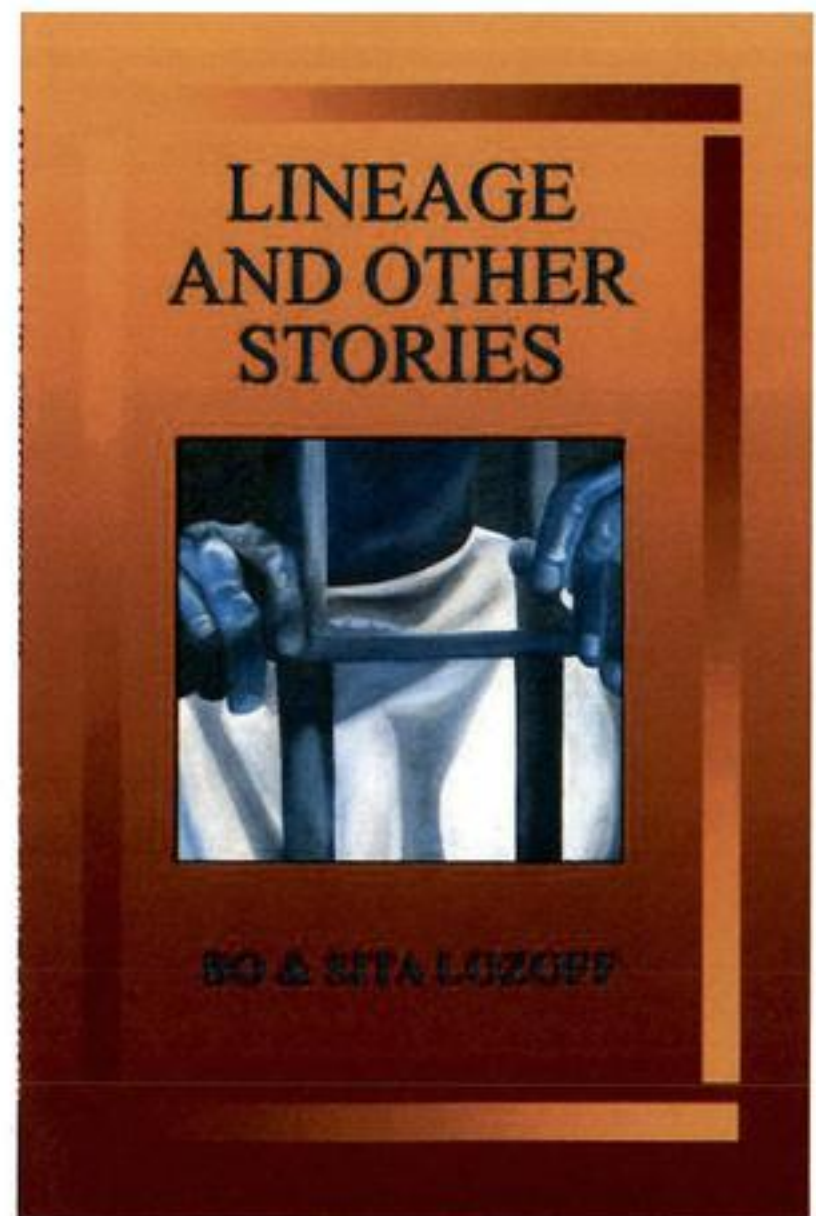
Human Kindness Foundation has a new author, although she's far from new to anyone in the family. Sita Lozoff is not just at the heart of HKF, she *is* the heart. For close to fifty years, Sita has provided spiritual leadership, emotional grounding and intellectual inspiration to everything Human Kindness Foundation has produced. That's why we are adding Sita as author to three books: *We're All Doing Time*, *Lineage and Other Stories*, and *Just Another Spiritual Book*.

No person is an island in this world. No one works in isolation. These books were co-created through a partnership between Bo and Sita. This change reflects the truly shared nature of writing these books. Each new printing will now have Bo and Sita Lozoff as authors, starting with *Lineage and Other Stories*. While this process will take several years to complete, if you're requesting one of these books, please ask for them by Bo and Sita Lozoff.

We hope to expand upon this framework of shared authorship. In the months and years to come, we are excited to call on our wider Human Kindness Foundation community to help us collaboratively author new practices and materials. We especially want to work with those experiencing incarceration—including family members of the incarcerated—to create new content to share. You have so much wisdom, knowledge and life experience! We want to create opportunities for you to share your voice. What this will look like in the future is not clear, but we'll let you know!

Human Kindness Foundation was built upon the spirit of unconditional love, unlikely connections and unquestioning inclusion. You are the spirit of Human Kindness Foundation. We thank you for walking this journey with us and look forward to the many ways we continue to build this path together towards growth, strength, connection and liberation.

Love, Erin



**Many thanks to the artists:** p. 2: Casey Seeds, Placerville, CA; p. 4: Lindsay Gruss, Johnstown, PA; p. 5: Frank Langrick, Tulia, TX; p. 6: Jason Bruni, Graceville, FL; p. 7: Alan Piwowar, Jesup, GA; p. 8: Jason Henry, Taylorsville, NC



humankindness.org

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**"If you must  
look back, do  
so forgivingly.**

**If you must  
look forward,  
do so  
prayerfully.**

**However, the  
wisest thing  
you can do is  
be present in  
the present...  
gratefully."**

**Maya Angelou**

148 of 24

## Review of reviews: Books

## Book of the week

**The Goodness Paradox:  
The Strange Relationship  
Between Virtue and Violence  
in Human Evolution**

by Richard Wrangham (Pantheon, \$29)

"If we are so good, how can we be so bad?" asked John Hawks in *The Wall Street Journal*. Thinkers have puzzled over humans' contradictory nature for ages, and for anyone who's pondered how we can be both unusually docile and murderous on a grand scale, Richard Wrangham's new book is "essential reading." The Harvard anthropologist, who first gained notoriety two decades ago by arguing that humans are intrinsically violent, also agrees with researchers who claim that the species has become gradually less violent. In *The Goodness Paradox*, Wrangham argues that the change occurred because we "self-domesticated," and did so in an unusual way: Our ancestors punished alpha-male bullies by working cooperatively to execute them. Over time, the capacity to cooperate became the more prevalent trait.



!Kung hunters: The power of teamwork

So score one for capital punishment, said Tom Whipple in *The Times* (U.K.). But note that Wrangham personally opposes the execution of violent individuals today, and he isn't claiming that today's humans, including the beta males who won the evolutionary battle, are saints. The capacity to cooperate, after all, amplifies the human capacity for war and genocide. Wrangham prefers focusing on the evolutionary record, beginning with our two closest primate cousins, said Rachel Newcomb in *The Washington Post*. Whereas chimpanzees are notoriously aggressive, bonobos are the opposite, and Wrangham claims that

the latter species self-domesticated because they had less need for aggression in their resource-rich native habitat. The proposition that humans and bonobos both self-domesticated is backed by shared physical evolutionary changes: Both became milder and more childlike in appearance over time, presumably as they grew more cooperative.

But does capital punishment have to be the key to the human story? asked anthropologist Melvin Konner in *The Atlantic*. I once spent two years amid a hunter-gatherer group, the !Kung of southern Africa, and found that women, when afforded power equal to or greater than men's in a culture, will choose men of calm temperament as their mates, thus reducing the group's propensity for aggressiveness over time. But of course Wrangham's thesis provokes argument; "that's what bold theorizing is supposed to do." Over the course of a long career, he has come up with some of the boldest and best ideas about human evolution, and now he has done it again. *The Goodness Paradox* highlights a puzzle about our history that can't be ignored, and reminds us that violence and virtue live together within us.

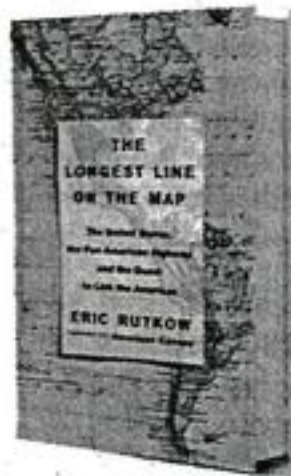
**Novel of the week  
99 Nights in Logar**

by Jamil Jan Kochai (Viking, \$25)

Jamil Jan Kochai's debut novel begins with a "comfortably familiar" setup: "a ragtag group of kids on a forbidden adventure," said Nicholas Mancusi in *Time*. Marwand, a 12-year-old Afghan-American visiting his family's homeland, chooses to organize a preteen search party when his uncle's watchdog disappears. But as the young characters meet strangers along the way and stories are swapped between them, *99 Nights in Logar* becomes a captivating portrait of a country too often reduced to stereotypes. The novel "swerves from slapstick silliness to magic realism" but is also capable of poignant reflection on family members lost to political violence, said Anthony Cummins in *The Observer* (U.K.). Kochai keeps the narrative "fizzing with surprise," threading in a mystery involving an uncle killed in mysterious circumstances. The secret is finally revealed in the last six pages—but in untranslated Pashto. "Having got our attention"—with a tale about Afghanistan that Western readers can easily enjoy—Kochai "powerfully reminds us that the onus to communicate lies with us, too."

**The Longest Line on the Map:  
The United States, the Pan-  
American Highway, and the  
Quest to Link the Americas**

by Eric Rutkow (Scribner, \$30)



History isn't always a forward march; sometimes it "resembles a relay race," said Michael Upchurch in *The Boston Globe*. In Eric Rutkow's colorful book about a dreamed-of road or railway to link the Americas from Alaska to Chile, a

repeating pattern emerges. An influential person takes up the project and drums up support; laborers break ground, but progress is suddenly halted by a financial panic, a military coup, or an encounter with insurmountable mountains or a disease-ridden swamp. It's "a testament to Rutkow's skills at distilling information" that the players never blur, and that our hopes for the project rise every time shovels hit soil.

The "engrossing" story begins with a seasick U.S. diplomat, said Charles Morris in

*The Wall Street Journal*. Five days into an 1866 journey from Buenos Aires to New York, a nauseated Hinton Rowan Helper vowed to push for a land-based route to connect the cities. Helper had little useful expertise, but before long U.S. rail barons also began lobbying Washington to fund a Pan-American railway, seeing a shortcut to Central America's agricultural riches. Washington's focus later shifted to building the Panama Canal, but the rise of the automobile sparked talk in the early '20s of a Pan-American highway, which won the endorsement of U.S. presidents from Harding to Nixon. In the 1980s, a lack of funding combined with Latin American skepticism about U.S. motives stopped the project just 65 miles short of completion.

Rutkow spends more time at conferences than with the earthmovers, said Tom Zoellner in *The New York Times*. He's most interested in the dream of Pan-Americanism. Still, he's a graceful writer, and his story "finds its highest velocity" near the end, when it focuses on Nixon's failed push to finish the road and a teacher's recent bid to bushwhack across the key missing stretch of highway: a swath of swampland and forest on the Panama-Colombia border. For now, like the Pan-American idea, "the road remains frustratingly snapped in the middle."

## Screen time could hurt kids' development

Parents who let their young children spend lots of time in front of TVs and tablets risk slowing their kids' development, a new study has warned. Researchers in Canada tracked nearly 2,500 children ages 2 to 5 and asked their mothers to report how many hours a day, on average, their child looked at screens. The moms also answered questions on their kids' communication skills, behavior, and social interactions. Researchers found that, on average, the children spent two to three hours a day in front of screens; the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that young children watch only one hour of quality

programming a day. And the more time the children spent looking at screens at ages 2 and 3, the worse they did in developmental tests at ages 3 and 5. The study had some limitations—most data was self-reported by the mothers—and the authors emphasize that correlation does not mean causation. But they suggest that the differences in development could be because kids who bury their heads in screens miss out on opportunities to practice and refine their communication, social, and motor skills—by playing with toys, for example, or interacting with family and friends. Parents can think of screen time as they



Tablets and TVs might be bad in big doses.

do junk food, study leader Sheri Madigan, from the University of Calgary, tells *Time.com*. "In small doses, it's OK, but in excess, it has consequences."



Antibiotic resistance has reached the high Arctic.

### A superbug's global spread

In a worrying sign of how far and fast so-called superbugs are spreading, an antibiotic-resistant gene first discovered in India has been found in a remote region of the Arctic. Antibiotic resistance is a growing global health concern: At least 700,000 people die from superbug infections each year. And as more bacteria evolve to fight off antibiotics—a phenomenon fueled by their overuse in medicine and farming—that annual death toll could hit 10 million by 2050. To study the global spread of superbugs, researchers took soil samples from eight locations in Svalbard, a frozen Norwegian archipelago in the high Arctic, and then analyzed the DNA of bacteria and other organisms in the earth. A gene linked to multidrug resistance, first observed in a hospital patient in India in 2008, was found in more than 60 percent of the samples. Scientists believe the superbug arrived in the Arctic in the fecal matter of migrating birds or human visitors. Study leader David Graham, from the U.K.'s Newcastle University, tells *ScienceDaily.com* that the discovery confirms that "solutions to antibiotic resistance must be viewed in global rather than just local terms."

### The genes that make night owls

Late risers are genetically predisposed to needing a lie-in—and may be more likely to suffer mental health problems as a

result. That's the conclusion of a major new study that examined the genetics of some 700,000 people in the U.S. and U.K. By looking at how participants described themselves—a "morning person" or an "evening person"—researchers identified 351 genes associated with early rising. Previous research identified only 24 such genes. When researchers then looked for links to mental health issues, they found that night owls were about 10 percent more likely than early risers to develop schizophrenia, had a higher risk of depression, and reported being less happy on well-being questionnaires. Study leader Samuel Jones, from the U.K.'s University of Exeter, says the 351 genes he and his team identified may affect how a person's brain reacts to external light signals. "These small differences may have potentially significant effects on the ability of our body clocks to keep time effectively," he tells *The Guardian* (U.K.). Jones says it remains unclear why night owls may be more susceptible to mental health issues, but suggests it could be because they have to work against their natural circadian rhythms in school and at work.

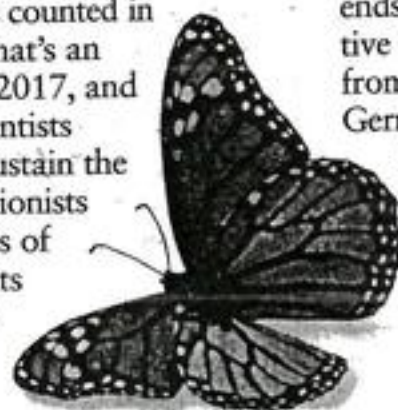
### Monarch butterflies dying out

The western monarch butterfly may be heading for extinction, reports *CNN.com*. In the 1980s, up to 10 million of these beautiful insects would overwinter in California each year, having migrated from inland areas of the western U.S. But a mere 30,000 monarchs were counted in California last year. That's an 86 percent drop from 2017, and below the number scientists think is necessary to sustain the population. Conservationists believe the main causes of the decline are droughts brought on by climate change, and habitat

destruction—the acreage of milkweed, a food source and the only plant the insects lay their eggs on, has been shrinking. The non-profit Xerces Society, which carries out an annual Thanksgiving monarch count, notes that the drop-off has come despite extensive conservation efforts by environmental groups and state and federal agencies. "If we want to have monarchs migrate through the western U.S., as they have for centuries, sustained work is needed," the organization said in a statement. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will likely announce in June whether the monarchs should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

### Health scare of the week Blood pressure and brain volume

Scientists have long thought that high blood pressure takes decades to affect the brain. But a new study suggests that young adults with elevated blood pressure also often show signs of brain shrinkage. Researchers recruited 423 people ages 19 to 40, who underwent an MRI brain scan and at least one blood pressure reading. They found that participants with higher blood pressure readings—even within the 120-140 systolic range, which is generally considered normal—had less gray matter volume in several areas of the brain than those whose readings were under 120. The finding counters the assumption that brain-volume changes happen only in older people with hypertension. "This is a gradual change that probably happens throughout life, and ends where people have a stroke or cognitive decline," lead author H. Lina Schaare, from the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, Germany, tells *The New York Times*. "A blood pressure around 130 in young people is not necessarily benign." Schaare now wants to examine whether reduced gray matter volume at an early age can increase risk of stroke, dementia, and other conditions.



JUDGE JUDY and JOY BEHAR

JOY: "SHE HAS A MEAN  
STREAK..."

WE LOVE THAT." !!!

SOURCE: ABC.COM / THE VIEW  
FRI. 10:AM. MAY 16, 2014

16 08 24

ELLEN DEGENERES  
STILL THE QUEEN  
OF MEAN

USMAGINE.COM/  
NOV. 1, 2021, P. 27

# EVERYBODY LETS GET STONED  
- BOB DYLAN



Judge-y Judy

HOW JUDY JUSTICE EXTENDS  
CONTEMPT FOR THE POOR

BY YASMIN NAIR

INTHESETIMES.COM

FEBRUARY 2022, P.P. 32-35, 37

AND PLEASE SEE herein below,  
P.P. 19-23

# Judge-y Judy

How *Judy Justice* extends contempt for the poor

BY YASMIN NAIR

**J**UDY SHEINDLIN, OF THE EPONYMOUS show *Judge Judy*, is so famous that, at a Shoah Foundation ceremony honoring former President Barack Obama, *he* was asked if he had ever watched *her*. Obama's response was a classic example of Obamian diplomacy (Sheindlin was nearby, making things particularly awkward): "Who doesn't love *Judge Judy*?"

It was a clever dodge, even if a little obvious. As it happens, millions watch Sheindlin even if they don't love her — *Judge Judy*, which ran on CBS from 1996 to July 2021, occasionally outranked even *Oprah* in its ratings. It made Sheindlin a multimillionaire and the highest paid daytime host. CBS was paying her \$47 million a year by the time she parted ways with the network to start a new show, titled *Judy Justice*, on the Amazon-owned IMDb streaming service. Reports indicate she has so far received \$25 million for a first season of 120 episodes, which debuted on Nov. 1, 2021.

*Judy Justice* is a reality show that features disputes over such matters as child custody, pet ownership and employment contracts. Sheindlin is a retired judge and serves only as an arbitrator, even though the set is made to look like small claims court. Participants sign contracts agreeing not to contest the results of the arbitration, and viewers are made to believe that the cases appear on Sheindlin's docket as if she were an actual judge—though the cases are, of course, vetted. Like

all reality shows, *Judy Justice* carefully chooses its participants. In fact, Sheindlin's scouts scour legal cases across the country to find suitable candidates. One of the defining questions that determines inclusion appears to be: *How much of a mess can you be on television?*

The train wreck scenarios enable Sheindlin to pretend to be simply a benign and impartial judge trying to restore order among unruly people. This attitude allows her to show contempt for people of color and poor people (groups that often intersect on the show) and to be shockingly rude to them in ways she'd never dare with, say, wealthy or middle-class white people—all the while acting like someone who is forced to be overly stern with random people who just happen to behave badly, as she would have it, in front of her.

Nearly all of the people who end up on the show are poor or close to indigency, collapsing under mountains of debt as they struggle to keep up with demands of landlords, children and former spouses. Blouses have stains; some teeth are crooked or missing; pressed suits fall uncomfortably off the shoulders of those who have clearly been advised to "clean themselves up" for court. *Judge Judy* awarded a maximum payout of \$5,000, an amount that has been doubled on *Judy Justice*; it's likely the higher sum is designed to attract more participants. The show also flies people to California, all expenses paid.



Farm manager Hannah Wilson wheels away equipment after wrapping up a day of hosting volunteers at Yes Farm, part of Black Farmers Collective's mission to build "interconnectedness with the environment and the community."

partnerships with summer camps and afterschool programs. "I get to teach some kids a little bit more about farming, or the science behind farming, and that's been really beautiful," Wilson says.

Farm manager Masra Clamoungou, also 25, says he was never particularly interested in working on a farm growing up but has benefited from his Black Farmers Collective job physically, spiritually and mentally. He says growing up in Seattle didn't expose him to wilderness or farms beyond what he saw on television, but elective classes at Seattle Central College sparked an interest.

"There was a small sustainable food systems, sustainable agriculture program at that college, luckily," says Clamoungou, who identifies as biracial (Black and white). "I randomly took a few classes there and they really spoke to me." Clamoungou adds that he wants to help younger generations "preserve that culture of not just farming, but just being connected with ecosystems, connected with the land around them."

### Roots take hold for the future

BECAUSE MOST U.S. FARMS ARE FAMILY-owned, Williams says offering Black Farmers Collective to his staff after his retirement could be seen as a bit nontraditional—most land isn't owned by a nonprofit and would traditionally be passed down

to family members. And Williams confirms that land ownership is the group's next big step, which would be a significant development.

"My hope is that we can develop the systems to make us sustainable and the shared skills to keep us moving forward," Williams says. "I don't have training in nonprofit development. I've just built [Black Farmers Collective] with hard work, greeting people with an open hand and a smile and lots of luck."

Williams says Wilson is very capable of building a path for the organization that will help it move in the right direction, while Wilson hopes to bring in another generation of farmers to learn—before handing over the reins to build up a third farm.

Wilson also wants to create a learning space for people of color, building the opportunity to showcase Black leadership and have a community "with folks that look like you."

Williams says he hopes his vision of the future expands beyond just what's possible in one neighborhood.

"If you grow a plant in the pot, there's only so far the roots can go. There's only so big that plant can be," he says. "If you can put the plant in the land, and those roots can stretch out and get the nutrition and experiences from that, then they can grow much larger and be way more fruitful." ■

**RANDI LOVE** is a graduate candidate at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY and a Reuters-NABJ fellow.



In exchange for their appearance, participants agree to be humiliated and berated for the supposed choices that landed them there. They are screamed at by a woman who only works five days a month and who, after the shooting is done, hops on her private jet to fly to her 23-acre home in Naples, Fla., to enjoy a daily lunch with her husband at the Ritz-Carlton.

Episodes 25 and 26, for instance, linger over a dispute between two Black women whose families had

taken a shared vacation in Florida. The plaintiff appears to claim the defendant still owes her money, though it's hard to tell what the real issue is even after multiple viewings—because matters escalate quickly, with everyone screaming. Sheindlin asks probing questions that are unrelated to whatever the case might be but allow her to moralize. At one point, she wants to know whether the plaintiff drank while at dinner at an Applebee's. When the woman says she had a glass of wine, Sheindlin prods her into confessing she may have had two. Sheindlin, in the manner of a nun, points out that

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNEE SCHWANK

20 of 24

wine lowers inhibitions. None of this information is related to the case, but Sheindlin is a white boomer multimillionaire who appears to sincerely believe her success is owed to her and that anyone who suffers deserves it. She has the air of the elder white Karen stereotype, the ones who wear expensive athleisure on morning walks and pick up errant tin cans and place them in the trash while looking around to see which person (preferably someone of color) can be glared at accusingly.

These episodes have Sheindlin facing down a group of Black single women for whom it can be presumed a dinner at Applebee's is a treat and for whom the money they were scraping together for a big vacation was a chunk of their bank balances. At one point, Sheindlin tells the plaintiff's sister, also a grown woman, to uncross her arms and tells the defendant's adult daughter to stand up straight without resting her chin on her arms, which are propped up on the bench. Finally, *after* Sheindlin has spent time asking for needless details and watching videos of shouting matches between undifferentiated people (she takes their phones to watch) that don't seem relevant to the case, she decides they're all being much too unruly and loudly screams *SIT!* four times to three of the women. It's a shocking sight, to see a white woman so brazenly treat a group of Black women as if they're dogs in need of training. Sheindlin then turns and says smugly to the audience and to her staff, "You see? I tried to play nice. If I can't play nice, I play it any way you want to play it."

The message is clear: *These people won't listen to reason unless you shout it at them.*

Sheindlin claiming she tried to "play nice" offers her cover. It's a way of saying, "I can't control who comes into my courtroom—but I *can* control their behavior when they get out of line." This self-presentation—of a no-nonsense judge who has the same set of rules for everyone—obfuscates the fact that cases seem like they are chosen specifically for their incoherence, and for plaintiffs who (hoping to make some amount of cash from their experience) may not have the cultural savvy to push back against the demeaning manner of a woman who appears in a position of authority. It also helps cover the fact that Sheindlin is an instigator, letting tempers boil over.

At the end of this two-episode "case," Sheindlin

simply tells both families to take out restraining orders against each other—something that could have been decided very early on with minimal fuss. An actual judge in an actual court, untroubled by the need to playact for the camera, would have made the decision in 15 minutes. But by the end of the second episode, Sheindlin has made it seem as if she *had* to suffer with people so incapable of behaving that they need to be yelled at. There is, of course, a long and racist narrative of unruly Black people needing to be disciplined by stern white figures who are just there to show the right way to be. It's a form of social and political control, legitimized by the charade of righteous justice being handed down through some kind of judicial process.



Sheindlin's role as moral superior and social arbiter extends to white people as well, especially those who stray from normative standards of life and presentation. In one case, for instance, a gloriously punk woman wants to sue her ex-boyfriend on clearly specious charges of property damage. It emerges that she in fact stole his car and peed on the seats. The case is cut-and-dried even to a layperson, but Sheindlin extends the questioning needlessly while the camera lingers on the woman's tattooed, buzz-cut, leather-jacketed person, admonishing her that she needs to move on from her ex—even though Sheindlin has no business or authority to say so. The message is simple: *Look at this useless, actual punk.*

Sheindlin's vicious barking has become part of her lore, collected in various places on the internet for people to revisit and laugh over. It's all part of her persona as everyone's favorite stern Jewish mother, a low-rent Ruth Bader Ginsberg. This new, retooled version of *Judge Judy* knows better than to mess with the formula. The differences are superficial: Sheindlin's robe is now burgundy instead of black, she has dispensed with her white lace collar and the set is nominally more modern looking (but still overwhelming in its wood-ness). The effect is of everyone operating inside a box. Despite the new influx of cash, *Judy Justice* looks as homey as its predecessor and as if it hires the cheapest camera operators and set designers. In early episodes, Sheindlin's robe almost merges into the wooden panels of her chamber, lending her the look of a snarling Cheshire cat.

**YASMIN NAIR**  
is a writer, academic, and activist. She's currently working on her book *Strange Love: A History of Social Justice And Why It Needs To Die*. Her work can be found at [yasminnair.com](http://yasminnair.com).

21 of

The most significant change is personnel. In a move that appears to have shocked even her long-time fans, Sheindlin chose a new bailiff, Kevin Rasco, without telling Petri Hawkins-Byrd—who had worked on *Judge Judy* for 25 years. According to Hawkins-Byrd, he only found out through the media and had to call Sheindlin to confirm. She apparently told him that paying him a salary that matched his experience was untenable (clearly, her own salary must have bankrupted Amazon), but did not acknowledge she could have talked to him first and at least tried to negotiate. Both Rasco and Hawkins-Byrd are Black, and Sheindlin has not publicly addressed the matter of what is, at the very least, an egregious personal insult to someone with whom she had a decades-long professional relationship.

The new show also features more on-screen staff. A law clerk, Sarah Rose Levy, sits to Sheindlin's right, and a court stenographer, Whitney Kumar, sits to her left. They're all extremely attractive and Levy is the most conventionally so, her porcelain skin, wide eyes and untroubled brow lending her the look of an expensive, vintage Dresden doll. She also happens to be Sheindlin's granddaughter. At the end of every case, Sheindlin retreats to her chambers with Levy who, sipping delicately on the nectar of nepotism, proceeds to ask her grandma some softball questions. This gives Sheindlin a chance to further criticize the participants while delivering homilies about the necessity of personal responsibility, independence and bootstraps. (All irony dies on this show).

Of all the episodes so far, it's episode 15 that most illuminates the anti-poor sentiments of *Judy Justice*. All the elements that make for salacious viewing are present: The plaintiff and defendant are mother and daughter (inter-family squabbles that dredge years of simmering resentments are a favorite), the case is mostly about a tummy-tuck procedure (cosmetic surgery is always a draw for audiences) and the entire story involves a large, possibly interracial family whose members mostly live (or have lived) under the same roof, including children with different fathers and the same mother (happily combining a "the poor breed too much" narrative with one about how "the poor just sleep around"). It gives Sheindlin the chance to do what she seems to love best: dispense her form of justice while demeaning and scolding people.

As the story unfolds, Annalise Araujo is being sued by her mother for charging \$7,000 in tummy-tuck payments to her mother's credit card. None of them appear to have much money beyond

the basics, and yet Araujo claims the money was a gift—the sort one might expect from a wealthy socialite mother at Christmas—and that her mother was fulfilling a parental responsibility of sorts. There's also the matter of car payments for a car that's in both of their names, and it appears that Araujo has not been regular on that front either. Deciding the case is not a complicated affair, since the mother has a record of her daughter's com-

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## **The message is clear: These people won't listen to reason unless you shout it at them.**

mitments to pay. But because this is *Judy Justice*, the money matters are beside the point. Sheindlin toys with Araujo, subjecting her to a barrage of questions designed not to elicit any useful facts but to reveal what she clearly thinks is a dumpster fire of a life.

It transpires that Araujo left her customer service job of seven years because of Covid-19 and to become a full-time homemaker, as she puts it to Sheindlin. Sheindlin grills Araujo with her characteristic cruelty and mocking contempt, demanding to know why she left her job and for whom she was a homemaker, the implication being that her new boyfriend could not possibly count. Sheindlin asks Araujo how much she made at her job—\$600 a week. Then, how much does Araujo get from unemployment—\$600 a week. At this point, Sheindlin lets out a "gotcha!" laugh and shares a smirk with her staff. Then she launches into a rant about what's wrong with America: "The fact that you're getting the same amount for not working as you did when you were working means that there's something wrong with the government, which is why nobody can get anything done around this country now because everybody says, 'We don't have to work, now I can stay home, I can be a homemaker when I'm 26 years old.'"

Sheindlin's contempt here is no surprise. She's made similar comments before and once campaigned for Michael Bloomberg, who believed the poor needed to be taxed more so they would change their behavior and somehow, maybe, become less poor.

22 of 24

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As she makes her judgement in favor of the mother, Sheindlin can't resist getting in more digs at Araujo. "She needs a car because she's a *homemaker*." Then a stinging insult: "You're 26 and you have four kids? Yeah, you have enough children for a while."

This kind of eugenicist talk is directed at a young woman who doesn't make for a particularly sympathetic figure as she rolls her eyes and insists her Social Security-dependent mother could easily pay for the procedure. The audience in the courtroom laps it all up, laughing every time the judge hurls another insult at Araujo, who stands seemingly unmoved by the vitriol. Afterward, Levy begins with what purports to be a sympathetic note, saying about Araujo, "The defendant and I are practically the same age and I couldn't imagine trying to prioritize yourself that young with four children at such a young age, so that must be difficult. But priorities are always key. What do you think?" (Of course, this is like asking Rep. Lauren Boebert what she thinks of Muslims.) Sheindlin sighs, "You [should] think with your brain before you have a bunch of kids, with two fathers. The children who are the innocents always suffer—before you decide to have kids make sure you're able to take care of them."

Sheindlin's dispensations of "justice" have little to do with resolving any legal issues. Instead, they're about effectively imprisoning people inside societal expectations induced by their class positions. A suburban, upper-class housewife would not have been sneered at for calling herself a homemaker with her husband and for wanting a car to ferry her children to endless activities. But a working-class 26-year-old who wants to escape her life of childbearing and care and marriage, and who sees Covid-19 as a potential rescue plan, is rhetorically beaten back by a judge who has no problem hiring her own granddaughter as a doubtlessly high-paid "law clerk."

*Judy Justice* is filled with contempt for anyone who isn't, well, like Sheindlin herself. She's enraged at people living off subsidies—after all, this means there might be fewer people to serve her breakfast at the Ritz or collect her trash for low wages. Even physical labor doesn't impress Sheindlin. In episode 23, she looks at a photo of a wrought iron maker's gate and sniffs that the object—simple but lovely—isn't much by way of work (no doubt, her home's own gates rival those at Versailles). As with the labor of childcare and homemaking in the case of Araujo, Sheindlin's brand of justice, a highly popular one, involves erasing everything that people have to do and focusing only on who they are in her eyes:

deadbeats who think they're owed something.

Sheindlin has never been shy about her success or her wealth. Her biggest rival is the *Judge Judy* show, which now runs in syndication. As she put it nonchalantly when asked about the prospects for *Judy Justice*, "I did the math, and I've already got enough for 24/7 nursing care until I'm 150." That all of her money has been made by working less

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## In the logic of this economy, the poor deserve whatever trials and tribulations they suffer.

each month than most Americans have sick leave has probably occurred to her; she just doesn't care.

Sheindlin can't send anyone to prison, but *Judy Justice* illustrates the carceral economy that undergirds American life, the one that dictates the poor and precarious need to always be terrified of the fear of harsh consequences for even the slightest infractions (lest they face an angry, white, berobed judge lady who berates and humiliates them). In the logic of this economy, the poor deserve whatever trials and tribulations they suffer; they will always need to have their lives, their money and even their bodies regulated by people with infinitely more resources.

Like its predecessor, *Judy Justice* is cruel and contemptuous toward the poor, but Sheindlin's cruelty and contempt have earned her devoted fans among regular viewers and celebrities (including Amy Poehler, Nicki Minaj and Samuel L. Jackson). *Judy Justice* allows us to abdicate not just our responsibility for widespread inequality and dire poverty, but to turn all of that into a comforting spectacle. Sheindlin often notes that the people who show up in her court are also among her viewers (and many openly volunteer that information), a startling reminder that we've reached a stage in which shows like *Judy Justice* can numb us to the stark evidence of our own precarity.

Poverty, according to the show, is a result of individual choices; anyone who's struggling deserves to spend the rest of their lives in misery. It's not "justice" it peddles but the spectacle of people's lives as they spin out of control. ■

23 of 24

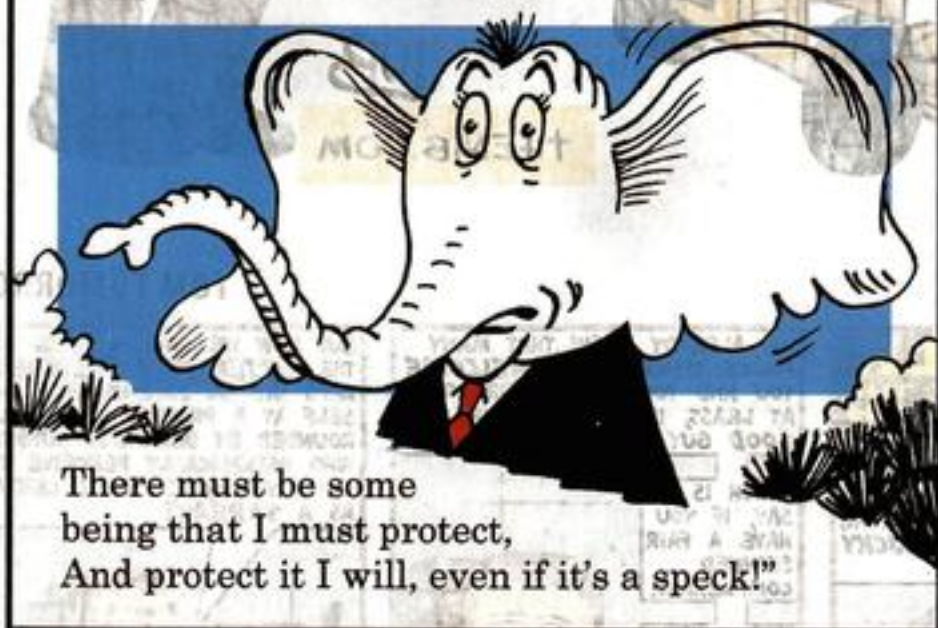




In Mississi-pee, enjoying the swampus,  
Horton the Justice sat pious and pompous,  
Happily chewing the lilies and kelp,  
He suddenly heard the tiniest... *Yelp!*



"What's that?" cried the Justice, looking around,  
"My great gorgeous ears, perceived a small sound."



There must be some  
being that I must protect,  
And protect it I will, even if it's a speck!"

When Horton explored, he heard the voice clearer,  
It was inside some creature, so he got very near  
her.



"No, Horton! I'm *here!*  
There's a speck that's inside me,  
But *I* called for help! Please hurry and hide me!"

"The speck can't say Yelp! Or think, talk or pray.  
It's *me* who's in trouble! Make these goons go away!  
I don't want a baby! Help *me*, pachyderm!  
They're forcing me to take this speck to full-term!"



Horton said, "What's that? It's the fairer sex!  
But I don't speak for women, I speak for the specks.  
I got my job from an elephant president,  
So I'm loyal to elephants, one hundred per cent!"



# JUDGE JUDY

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