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Reimagined Eubie Blake Extravaganza comes to Karamu

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THE REAL DEAL PRESS

Volume 4 / Issue 13 / January 20, 2019

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events



- **The Museum of Contemporary Art** is hosting a series of events beginning at 11a focused on direct action in the spirit of Dr. King. Kicking off the day will be a Teach-in with Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries. An associate professor of history at Ohio State and member of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Jeffries's first book, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*, tells the story of the ordinary, everyday folk who transformed a bastion of white supremacy into a fount of black power. Other programs on the day's agenda include a session on affirmative political sign making with artist and activist Favianna Rodriguez,

and a panel discussion on protest and civil disobedience. The day's events are free and open to the public. 11400 Euclid Ave. [44106].

- **The Greater Cleveland Aquarium** and the [United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland](#) are teaming up for a special fundraising event in honor of MLK Jr. Day. Each guest who donates at least \$1 to UBF between **10a-4p** will receive same-day discounted \$10 admission to the aquarium [2000 Sycamore St. Cleveland 4411x]. This event raised more than \$2,000 last year for UBF. This year the Aquarium will highlight influential African Americans in the fields of marine science and scuba

diving. 216.862.8803/greater-clevelandaquarium.com.

- Dr. Otis Moss Jr. and former Cleveland mayor Michael R. White will receive Drum Major for Change awards at the 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program of the **Cleveland Public Library**.

Dr. Moss served as co-pastor with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta before his long and tenure distinguished as senior pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland. White served as Cleveland mayor from 1990 through 2001.

The celebration of Dr. King's life and legacy will also feature

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This Week In Politics

The county reform band has stopped playing but the malady lingers on

By R. T. Andrews
Editor

Last week, upon receiving the news that the local branch of the civil rights organization

Last week's Quicken Loans Arena expansion top off was small consolation for a beleaguered Budish.

nearest and dearest to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — the Southern Christian Leadership Conference —
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NOTICE

Is your organization sponsoring a Black History Month event? Send the details, including date, time, address, sponsor, cost, and the name, email, and phone # of a contact person, together with a brief description of the event. Email or fax: rita@TheRealDealPress.com • 216.672.4304

The county reform band has stopped playing but the malady lingers on

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was planning to bestow a Humanitarian Award upon County Executive Armond Budish, we asked aloud whether civil rights activism was dead in Cleveland. Not long after that page one query, Ellen Connally reported over at coolcleveland.com that Budish gave Cleveland SCLC a \$5000 contribution on December 31, pretty much engraving a price tag on the plaque.

So now the question might be, which is deeper, the Cleveland SCLC's depravity or Budish's desperation.

This has been a tough week for the county executive. Besides appearing to buy an empty honor on the cheap, three of his top administrators, including a member of his cabinet, were indicted for various alleged crimes and misdemeanors.

While there is no reason to suspect Budish of breaking any laws, even his friends are coming around to the view that the county's chief executive is over his head.

Even the announcement that the Quicken Loans Arena expansion topped off this week with placement of the top girder could only have been small consolation for the be-

leagued Budish. For his growing legion of critics, it was a reminder that a) the County was snookered on the deal, b) the jail crisis illuminates there were wiser choices for county investment than expanding a sports arena, and c) he reneged on solemn promise to find the funds to establish new mental health facilities that quite possibly could have saved some of the eight lives lost by those in the county lockup since June.

That Budish is flailing should be no surprise. He slid into the executive's chair with no demonstrable managerial experience beyond having presided over a tiny law firm. His short and undistinguished legislative record was leveraged primarily by his fundraising prowess and some fortunate political timing.

It is hard to imagine that the Budish political career will last beyond 2021 when his current term will end, if indeed he toughs it out that long. And county prosecutor Michael O'Malley, who has been demonstrating a healthy independent streak, appears unlikely to cut the Budish administration any slack.

There is likely no shortage

of candidates who would love to replace Budish in what was envisioned at the time of county reorganization as the second most powerful elected office in the state.

But nine years into this new form of county government, voters are still waiting for the man or woman who could make that vision something more than a daydream.

What to Watch

This coming Tuesday, the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, SEIU Local 1 Cleveland Janitors and SEIU Local 1199, will launch their fight for a new contract with a path to a \$15 hourly wage. The campaign will kick off with a rally at the Tri-C Metro Campus.

According to its website, SEIU claims to be "the fastest-growing union in North America." Its roughly 2 million members make it the largest health care union, with 900,000 members, including nurses, LPNs, doctors, lab technicians, nursing home workers, home care workers; the largest property services union, with 225,000 members in the building cleaning and security industries, including janitors, door men and women; and the largest public services union, with 850,000 local and state government workers, public school employees, bus drivers, and child care providers.

THE REAL DEAL PRESS

Reporting on the interplay of race, class and power in the civic, business and cultural spaces of Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Our mission is to attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community engagement for a healthier, stronger community.

We welcome letters to the editor. Please include your name, address, and best phone number. [Address and phone will not be published.] We may edit for clarity and space.

Submit letters, press releases, notices, calendar items, and corrections via email at rta@TheRealDealPress.com or fax 216.672.4304.

Published weekly at Cuyahoga County OH. All rights reserved. © 2019.

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Arts Calendar

Reimagined Eubie Blake Extravaganza comes to Karamu



Shuffle Along, originally produced in 1921, was one of the most significant musicals of the 20th century. The historian Harold Cruse, writing in his magisterial work, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual*, called it “the most outstanding Negro achievement in the theater since the Negro broke with the old minstrel form in the 1890s.” Writing in 1967, Cruse said it had yet to be equaled or surpassed, as it had set a new standard for the American stage musical.

Shuffle Along was written and performed entirely by African Americans. It brought the Harlem Renaissance to Broadway, and paved the way for the integration of theaters in New York City and across the country.

Bill Rudman, executive director of [The Musical Theatre Project](#), and Karamu House

CEO Tony Sias, have written *The Impact of Shuffle Along*, a multi-media concert version of the 1920s musical. Their production will enjoy its world premiere Feb. 7-10 at Karamu House, 2355 East 89 St. [44106]. The Sunday matinee is already sold out.

Impact, which celebrates the contributions of the legendary African-American musical theatre team of ragtime composer Eubie Blake and lyricist Noble Sissle, is a partnership between Karamu and The Musical Theater Project.

The concert will combine performances of 19 songs, six videos, five dances and two poems by Langston Hughes. It will feature Treva Offutt, Justin C. Woody, Evelyn Wright, and The Joe Hunter Trio and ragtime pianist George Foley.


Tickets are \$30. Call/visit 216.795.7077/ www.KaramuHouse.org for tickets or more information.


Artist talk today at East Cleveland art gallery

Painter Rodney Carpenter will speak this afternoon at Snickerfritz Gallery, 13247 Euclid Ave., East Cleveland 44112. His talk is part of an occasional series. The program begins at 3p. Call 216.851.6910 for more info.



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ALL ARE INVITED

Community Forum Discussions

Dialogues on Activism and Elections: 2019 and Beyond
Sunday, January 27th • 9:30-10:45 am

Countywide activist groups grew immensely in 2018. Will they continue to be stable, grow, or taper off? How will activists advance their agendas this year? What specific community issues, actions, policies, or media encourage volunteer commitment?






How can we personally strategize our activist time and resources?
 Panelists: Steve Holecko, Director, Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus; Audrey Morris, Co-Chair, Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters; Norman Robbins, Research Director, Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates. Moderator: Erika Anthony, Vice-President, Government Relations, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, and Co-Chair, Cleveland Votes.

First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights OH 44120





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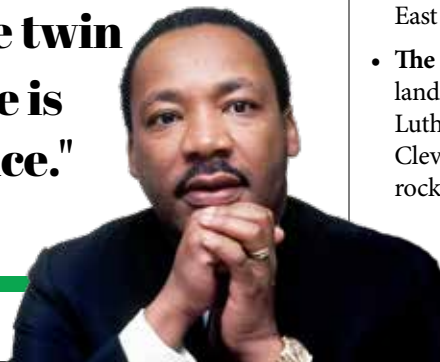
Saturday, Jan. 26, 10a-7p: **African Fashions Black History Month Sale.** Courtyard by Marriott, 3690 Orange Place, Beachwood 44122.

Wednesday, Jan. 30, Noon: **Bedford State of the City speech.** Mayor Stan Koci and City Manager Michael Mallis. Light of Hearts Villa, 283 Union St., Bedford 44146.

Thursday, Jan. 31, 4-7p. **Help Wanted: Building Wealth in Minority Communities.** City Club program featuring panelists Michael Jeans, CEO, Growth Opportunity Partners; John McMicken, CEO, Evergreen Cooperatives; and Krystalynn Shefton, Director of Real Estate Development, Famicos Foundation. Goldhorn Brewery, 1361 East 55 St, Cleveland 44103. For more info, call/visit 216.621.0062/CityClub.org.

"The inseparable twin of racial injustice is economic injustice."

-- Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events

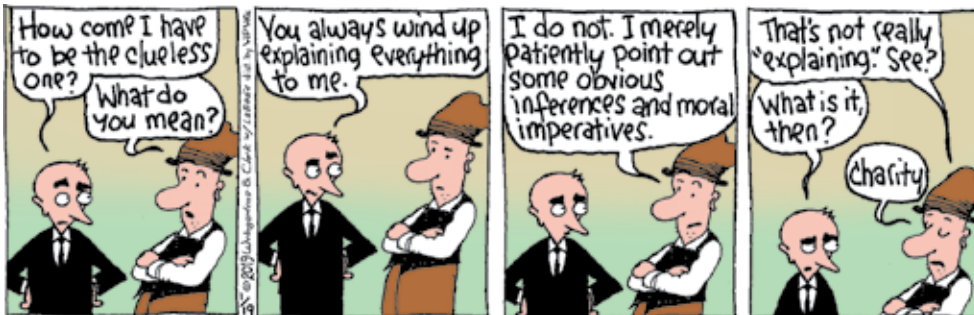
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performances from Cleveland Metropolitan School District's All-City Arts Drum Line, Distinguished Gentlemen of the Spoken Word, and vocalist group Harmony, along with keynote remarks from activist Yvonne Pointer. The program begins at 1p at the MLK Branch, 1962 Stokes Blvd. [44106].

- **The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage** [2929 Richmond Rd, Beachwood 44122] is offering free admission in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tour MMJH's core and special exhibitions, enjoy the music of On the One Band and the Evelyn Wright Quartet. There will also be a panel discussion at 3pm on race, gender and the Power to Vote. Hours: **11a-5p**. Call/visit 216.593.0575/ maltzmuseum.org.
- **The Cleveland Museum of Art**, normally closed on Mondays, will host a special MLK Day Celebration from 11a-4p, with educational programs and performances by community groups. Free. 11150 East Blvd. [44106] 216.421.7350 / clevelandart.org.
- **The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** [1100 Rock and Roll Blvd., Cleveland 44114] is offering free admission in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Donations of cold weather clothes to benefit Clevelanders in need will be accepted. Call/visit 216.515.8444/ rockhall.com for details, hours.
- **Karamu House** will screen a film at celebrating the life of Dr. King at 1pm in the Jelliffe Theatre. Admission is free but reservations are required. RSVP [here](#). 216.795.7070 / 2355 East 89 St. [44106]

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