

Start your week with  
The Real Deal Press.  
Text realdealpress to  
48421 and be the first  
to know when the  
new issue posts!



Looking Around America  
**Michelle's Becoming**  
Page 3

# THE REAL DEAL PRESS

Volume 4 / Issue 14 / January 27, 2019

*EQUITY, INCLUSION, DIVERSITY*

## Honoring the real Dr. King



OSU Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries at MOCA for MLK Day, 2019.

By R. T. Andrews  
EDITOR

Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries made it plain this past Monday at the Museum of Contemporary Art: Martin Luther King Jr. was a radical far ahead of his time.

Jeffries delivered an informal but well-prepared talk to an ethnically and generationally di-

verse audience of perhaps sixty people who braved biting-cold temperature and wind on MLK Day. It is safe to say that for this audience, the increasingly bland and bleached establishment version of King's adult life and work that reduces his groundbreaking political and social activism to romanticized and mythologized sound-bites about colorblindness and Christian love and nonviolence was thoroughly shattered.

King didn't want people to ignore his black skin. As Jeffries pointed out, tracing the trajectory of the revered social and political activist's life, King was steeped in blackness from birth to death, and especially during his formative years all the way through Morehouse College in Atlanta.

King didn't want race or color set aside; he wanted them not to be a basis for discrimination.

Jeffries placed King's life and work firmly in the context of the black presence in American history; King, he said, "wanted what black people had been fighting for since emancipation: fundamental human rights."

Jeffries said "civil rights" emerged during the 1950s and

'60s as a narrower framing of human rights, in the shadow of the Cold War concerns. But King defined freedom as having both human rights and civil rights. He reminded the audience that the 1963 "March on Washington [was] for Jobs and Freedom".

Jeffries discussed King's advocacy not just for a minimum wage, but also for a guaranteed income. He said that King always defined himself as a Democratic Socialist whose worldview was defined by a Christian witness that required people to be engaged on the ground.

King was a black nationalist in terms of both his upbringing in Jim Crow America — a social system enforced by violence and designed to demean and prepare black people for exploitation — and his clear understanding that the problems black people faced were rooted in their race.

Jeffries walked his listeners through the complexities of King's nonviolent approach, which emerged as a strategy for working around the omnipresent violence of white people. Jeffries credited Massillon, Ohio native James Lawson for leading the way for the development

**King didn't want people to ignore his black skin; he wanted it not to be a basis for discrimination.**

of nonviolence as an effective tactic.

"King was dragged, kicking and screaming, into the frontlines of nonviolent, direct action," said Jeffries.

Jeffries' talk illuminated the multifaceted, collegial, emergent aspects of the Movement. King did not have a problem with Black Power, he said, and understood its virtues in the continuum of black protest.

Professor Jeffries made the journey up I-71 from Ohio State University where his course offerings include African American and American history, with particular focus on the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement; Race, Ethnicity, and Nation; and Power, Culture and the State.

The program was videotaped and will likely be available on YouTube at a later date, according to a museum official. Contact the Museum for further details.

*This Week in Politics — Quick Take*

**Coalitions Clash over Lead Abatement**

This past Tuesday's much-ballyhooed photo-opp-cum-press-conference at Cleveland City Hall yielded [only a promise](#) to make Cleveland "lead-safe" by 2029. If that sounds a long time away, well, it is a long time away, especially if you are going to be born in Cleveland anytime in the next decade, or were in the past few years. In response to this Lead Safe Cleveland Partnership, CLASH — Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing — [announced plans](#) to continue its drive for a ballot initiative in support of a citizen-sponsored ordinance to mandate a more comprehensive reform.

**Vacant Cleveland Heights council seat draws 40 applicants**

When the living nightmare of the Trump maladministration is past, it may turn out that its most positive legacy is that it sparked a new generation of civic engagement. How else can you account for forty residents applying for the city council vacated by Cheryl Stephens, who was elected to Cuyahoga County Council in November.

The applications are all online for [public review here](#). All 40 applicants will be video interviewed by the local League of Women Voters. The videos and applications will be sent to the current six council members who will decide who and how many applicants are interviewed in person and thereafter select their newest colleague.

**DeWine era starts with diverse look**



Credit is due Ohio's new governor for walking the walk with his new cabinet that appears fairly reflective of Ohio's population. Of greater consequence will be whether his policies do the same. We have our doubts, especially with respect to the "heartbeat" bill he recently reaffirmed his intention to sign.

**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](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com) or fax 216.672.4304.

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

Publisher & Editor: R.T. Andrews

Layout & Design: Steve Aresmon Thomas

Contributing Writers: Marilyn Dyson, Kirby V. Freeman, Nathan Paige, Taru Taylor.

The Real Deal Press

☎ 216.672.4301

✉ [rta@TheRealDealPress.com](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com)

🐦 @RealDealPress

**Business Ledger**

**American Legacy Network seeks investors**

American Legacy, which started life as a magazine and is now on the path to becoming a television network, is selling 10,000 shares of common stock at \$100/share [Minimum 2 shares]. ALN, which focuses on black history, culture and entertainment, launched its subscription video-on-demand (SVOD) streaming service last year. ALN was founded by Cleveland native Rodney Reynolds. The offering closes this Wednesday. See details [here](#).



**New Business opens**

Pearlene Lovelady, the award-winning "Cake Lady", has opened Lovelady's Cakery, Bakery and Catering Ltd. at 23091 Emery Rd. near Green in Warrensville Hts. Call/visit 330.963.3769 / <https://www.loveladyscakery.com>.

**BWC recommends largest private employer**

**rate decrease in 60 years**

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) this week proposed a 20-percent reduction in the average premium rate it charges private employers, its largest rate cut in nearly 60 years if approved by the agency's board of directors.

BWC Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud says fewer workplace injuries and falling estimates of future medical costs are driving her recommendation to lower rates for the ninth time since 2008.

If approved by the board next month, the rate reduction would take effect July 1. The proposed cut would follow a 12 percent reduction last year and a pattern of no increases since 2006. Overall, the average rate levels for the 242,000 Ohio employers in the BWC system are at their lowest in at least 40 years. Claims, meanwhile, have fallen 18 percent since 2010 to 85,136 in 2018.

The proposed 20 percent rate cut is an average. Actual premiums paid by individual private employers depend on a number of factors, including the expected future claims costs in their industry, and their recent claims history.

**The Real Deal Press is now published on Sundays. Start your week with us. Text [realdealpress to 48421](text:48421) and be the first to know when the new issue is up!**

**SMART.**

**SPARKLING.**

**SUBVERSIVE.**

**Every Sunday**

Looking Around America

# Michelle's Becoming

By Marilyn Dyson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Michelle Robinson Obama did not dream of marrying a politician or becoming FLOTUS. She didn't and still doesn't like politics. Her goals were the same as most girls and women: to have a professional career and be a wife and a mother. But Michelle Robinson faced choices that caused, what she called, "swerves" in her career. These changes not only changed her personal path but also changed the nation's path.

For me, the most significant parts of her story are traits and decisions that enabled her to attain her goal. Mrs. Obama describes her intense competitiveness in wanting to learn and have a good education. She describes how her mother, and later she, participated in schools' activities to make sure their daughters' educations were the best possible.

In explaining her journey, Mrs. Obama describes adjusting to the cultural differences of moving from her South Side neighborhood school to a diverse Chicago high school and then into her Princeton dormitory. From Princeton she goes to Harvard Law School, graduates and reaches her goal of working in a large law firm that was in a building that she had passed each day when she took buses to high school.

These parts of her journey were her entire focus and goals into her early twenties. However, through the years she questioned her ability to succeed. Yet, she intensely studied and worked to fulfill her personal mission. Professionally, she honed her legal skills. She had the grit to overcome difficult

situations in school and at work. She made it. While in college, she had performed several jobs that she liked. The law job was not as fulfilling. She decided to explore other options. She also met Barack Obama.

As a former career coach, this is where the book really grabbed my interest. Realizing that she her life was not all it could be, Michelle Robinson started networking. She reached out to new people and learned about jobs she had never considered before.

Michelle Robinson was any working woman making the decisions to change jobs, marry, become a parent and perform the juggling act. In the midst of the chaotic scene of marriage, two young girls and two careers, Barack Obama decided to run for political office. Mrs. Obama describes the hurdles and obstacles as well as the joys and triumphs of making their life together work.

*Becoming* tells the story of Mrs. Obama "swerving" to make the necessary changes and keep her family and career intact through the changes. As she describes her journey, she reveals her trials, her doubts and her adjustments.

In many ways, Mrs. Obama's story is a handbook for how to navigate life's ever-changing terrain. In other ways, it reinforces decisions that some women have made to live life to the fullest. In all cases, the book validates our



## Michelle shows us how any woman can make a difference in her world.

efforts and gives us a path into the future. Mrs. Obama shows us how any woman can make a difference in her world.

*Marilyn Dyson is a career coach. Born and raised in Washington DC, she now lives and works in Philadelphia, PA.*

**CarTeCor**  
KITCHENS & BATHS

Whether the project is large or small, you can rely upon us throughout the process to perform with honesty, integrity, openness, and professionalism.

We use top trades people - carpenters, plumbers, electricians, installers, etc. - to ensure a smooth construction process that yields high quality results.

**WE BRING DREAMS TO LIFE!**

Proud recipient of 2018 Impact Award from Cleveland Restoration Society & American Institute of Architects/Cleveland chapter

3649 Lee Road - Shaker Heights OH 44120 | 216.291.2419  
Dreams@cartecor.com | CarTeCor.com

3 Systems Alliance | IBA | High Quality Regional Chamber of Commerce | NARI



**Reuben Harris Jr.**

Agent

23360 Chagrin Blvd, Suite 10, Beachwood, OH 44122

Bus 216 731 611 Fax 216 731 6836

Email reuben@reubenharris.com



**We have the BEST RATES for Natural Gas & Electricity!**

Let us give you a NO OBLIGATION quote. NEVER a fee to you, AND we may find you additional areas of savings.

**Call Us 216.282.5111**



**KIRBY V. FREEMAN**

BANKING/FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTANT

KIRBYVFREEMAN@GMAIL.COM

216.973.1086

**BARNEY & CLYDE**

**BY WEINGARTENS & CLARK**



**CLASSIFIED**

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

The Rosedale Apartments, 1458 East 115th St. Gorgeous 1-2 BR Units within walking distance of University Circle. \$950-\$1750. Must See! Newly renovated. Includes All Utilities, Wi-Fi, Appliances & Washer/Dryer. Inquire: <http://www.phoenixdevelopmentgrp.com> Call for details: 216-910-7469.

**CANDORVILLE**

**BY DARRIN BELL**

EVER SINCE THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HE'D BE PULLING TROOPS OUT OF SYRIA, I'VE FELT LIKE SOME NEFARIOUS ENTITY HAS PUT BLINDERS ON ME, AND I ONLY SEE WHAT THEY WANT ME TO SEE.

I SPENT ALL DAY CHANNEL-FLIPPING BETWEEN MSNBC, FOX AND CNN... AND READING ALL THE USUAL NEWSPAPERS... AND THEN IT HIT ME...

...I DIDN'T READ OR HEAR A SINGLE VOICE SAYING WE SHOULD NOT BE MILITARILY OCCUPYING OTHER PEOPLE'S COUNTRIES.



IT'S AS IF THE MEDIA'S ENTIRE PURPOSE IS TO PRETEND THERE IS NO DISSIDENTING OPINION ABOUT OUR ENDLESS WARS.

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO PHIL DONAHUE. HE HAD THE HIGHEST RATED SHOW ON MSNBC. BUT AS SOON AS HE CAME OUT AGAINST INVADING IRAQ, HE DISAPPEARED! ANTI-WAR VOICES IN THE MEDIA ALWAYS DISAPPEAR.

THAT'S A BIT PARAN... ...HEY... ...WHERE'D YOU...?

