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**Social Justice Teach-In expected  
to draw more than 600 at Case  
on Saturday**

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# THE REAL DEAL PRESS

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## Nominations Sought for Those Who Give Black



By R. T. Andrews  
EDITOR

You've heard of giving back. But what do you know about giving black?

Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy is an exhibition celebrating African American philanthropy that will open in Cleveland this fall. Its advent has spawned a collaborative effort by sponsors to identify and honor individuals and organizations throughout the Cleveland region who demonstrate the power and soul of philanthropy in all its dimensions.

Nominations are being sought in the following categories:

**Emerging Philanthropists**

Continued on Page 4

## EDITORIAL

# Missing the forest for the trees

We defer to the wisdom of Virginia voters, who justifiably have lost faith in their governor, Ralph Northam. He must resign, and likely will, sometime in the next 48 hours.

Northam is a pediatrician who graduated from medical school in 1984, soon thereafter became an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Northam entered electoral politics in 2007 when he won election to the Virginia Senate.

At the time Northam reportedly described himself as a fiscal conservative and a social liberal. He was conservative enough that [the Republicans tried to get him to switch parties](#). And he seemed liberal enough on social issues that black voters in Virginia gave him nearly 87% of their votes in the 2017 gubernatorial campaign, enabling him to withstand the racist campaign of his opponent, Ed Gillespie, a Republican.

But a couple of days ago, a photo of two figures surfaced from his medical school graduation yearbook page. One is dressed in a Ku Klux Klan outfit, the other in blackface. Northam first admitted he was in the photo before changing his story to say he wasn't. Then he said that while that he wasn't was in the photo, he had donned blackface that same year to imitate Michael Jackson.

The more Northam tries to talk his way out of the political bind his conduct has put him in, the tighter the vise seems to get. Northam was 25 in 1984; whether judged by the standards of that era, or this one, his conduct is indefensible.

Northam's weak defenses, equivocations, about-faces and admissions have earned him the loss of trust that renders him incapable of leading his state forward, especially that cohort that gave him almost all their votes.

### What can we learn?

As this story was breaking, we had a sense of discomfort: kneejerk calls for Northam's resignation were treating a symptom, not the disease. Pouncing on folks

here and there for egregious past behavior seems to insulate others in the confederacy either more discreet or perhaps just luckier. Look deep enough and more public officials, bosses, NFL owners, etc. than we care to admit could similarly be outed. Ralph Northam is a product of a culture that nurtured and condoned such behavior, and in too many cases, continues to do so.

That culture is not restricted to areas of the Confederacy, or to those on society's margins. Only a few weeks ago, the Shaker Heights school district [announced](#) it was returning to its former athletic conference, because of concerns about the racial slurs hurled at its black student athletes by supporters of teams in the larger, shinier, wealthier Greater Cleveland Conference spread throughout exurban areas of Lake, Medina, and Lorain counties.

The last few years have made clear that America's journey towards a racially tolerant, equitable, and inclusive society is far from over. The country's history of slavery and Jim Crow remains an open wound on the body politic, more or less bandaged, but never receiving the comprehensive approach that would permit a real healing.

What lessons might we draw from the Northam case? How deeply buried are the wounds in this community from redlining, employment discrimination school desegregation, white flight, black flight, and then more white flight?

Penalizing Ralph Northam is akin to snipping the top off a broadleaf weed. Almost before you can turn around, the weed is back, its root intact.

Black history is American history.

Perhaps, starting Black History Month, we can spend some time learning about the ways in which that history still infects our institutions and our hearts and minds, and begin to consider how we might deracinate its most painful legacies, of which the Ralph Northams are mere reminders.

*The Word on Small Business***Trends to Watch in 2019**

By Kirby Freeman  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Over the last few weeks, I have been watching the uncertain ups and downs of the stock and bond markets to get a sense of interest rate trends for small business owners. There has been a lot of media attention regarding fears of a possible business slowdown, potentially touched off by the recent partial federal government shutdown or economic weakness in China, Japan, and Western Europe.

In recent weeks, the Federal Reserve Bank has signaled it plans to hold off on planned hikes to short-term interest rates, citing fears of a possible recession. The Federal Reserve's expressed concern that it not touch off massive hikes in interest rates has recently helped to buoy the stock market.

Economic prognosticators have also cited the potential for a trade war with China, and how potential increases in costs from trade tariffs on a host of imported manufactured goods will have on the supply costs.

Despite the focus on the prospects for the current economic expansion, which has been going for nearly 10 years following the Great Recession of 2007-09, there are a few other trends that small business owners need to watch in 2019.

Some of these trends include:

- Tightening of credit for small businesses. Even though the Fed has been stating concerns about recession, small business owners have continued to experience a tightening of credit terms from lenders, who have voiced worries about high business and consumer debt levels.
- Because of tightening credit terms and processes by traditional commercial banks, small businesses will continue to increase their efforts to seek capital from alternative financing structures — like online banking, crowd funding, or peer-to-peer lending. A significant number of start-up businesses are also using roll-ups for business start-ups (ROBS), a way for entrepreneurs to fund new businesses using retirement

**The growth trend in MBEs is expected to continue, reflecting both growing national diversity and the number of minority business professionals using their career and corporate training to pursue entrepreneurial aspirations.**

funds, without incurring tax penalties.

- Telecommuting will continue to grow, reflecting the proliferation of smart phones, laptops and tablets, as well as the needs of businesses to use flexible workforces.
- Tight supply of trained labor in certain markets and highly-technical industries, as unemployment nationally continues to stay near historic low levels, at least for the next few months.
- Business management's use of fringe benefits, like health and wellness and education, to increasingly incentivize staff. These factors become much more important as the costs of health-care, education, and training seem to be rising faster than the general inflation rate.

The growth trend in the number of minority business ventures is expected to continue, reflecting growing diversity in the general population, as well as in the number of minority business professionals who have the ability to use their career and corporate training to pursue entrepreneurial aspirations.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics was cited as estimating that 40% of new entrepreneurs in 2016 were identified as African American, Latino, Asian, or other non-white individual. Similar proportions of new entrepreneurs should be expected to be derived from ethnic minority groups over the near future.

Despite the challenges, with the various trends and opportunities available for small businesses, 2019 could prove to be an exciting time for entrepreneurs.

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PRESS

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## Community Bulletin Board

### Social Justice Teach-In expected to draw more than 600 at Case on Saturday.

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual IRTF Social Justice Teach-In takes place this coming Saturday, Feb. 9 from 11a-3:15p at Tinkham Veale University Center, 11038 Bellflower Rd. on the campus of host Case Western Reserve University.

The event is co-sponsored by the CWRU Social Justice Institute, the Inter Religious Task Force on Central America, and CWRU's Center for Civic Engagement and Learning.

Registration, which includes a 10:30am brunch, is free for students of all ages and \$10 for others (\$15 at the door).



The keynote address will be given by Anthony Grimes an internationally recognized organizer, thought-leader, and storyteller who, working at the intersection of jazz and hip-hop, roots himself in the black-led tradition of truth-telling. At the beginning of the Ferguson uprisings, Grimes led freedom rides to Ferguson that resulted in growing a grassroots-organizing network of over 14,000 people through his founding of the Denver Freedom Riders. As a filmmaker, [Grimes](#) has directed and produced several short films and documentaries based everywhere from Watts to Cuba. He is expected to discuss the importance of speaking truth to power authentically, while also engaging with and collaborat-

ing positively with individuals and groups who hold different political or social views.

Following the keynote, the expected 600 attendees will participate in more than two dozen of workshops on domestic and global justice issues, including environmentalism, food justice, peacemaking, racial justice, refugees, state-sponsored violence, creative nonviolence, and worker justice. (*RDP* correspondent Taru Taylor will lead a workshop on Black Power and Popular Sovereignty from 12:30 - 1:25.)

To register and/or see the full list of workshops and presenters, [click here](#).

Parking is free along the street, and there is paid parking in the Severance Hall parking garage.

### Independent film to have community showing Feb. 17

The Cuyahoga Black Caucus is sponsoring a showing of the independent film [Sincerely, Brenda](#) by



Detroit filmmaker Kenneth Nelson, Jr. at 2p Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Lakeshore Atlas Cinema, 22624 Lakeshore Blvd. [44123]. The screening will be followed by a community discussion featuring a panel that will include the director, along with Peter Lawson Jones, Dr. Tyffani Dent, Peter Lawson Jones, and others. Chanelle McCloud will moderate. Admission is free for those with a student ID; otherwise the cost is \$5. The film deals with the challenges and choices of family life.

## This Week in Politics

### LOCAL:

Henry Pettigrew, assistant superintendent of the Maple Heights schools, was named CEO of the East Cleveland schools on Friday by the latter's Academic Distress Com-

mission. He becomes essentially the czar of the school system under the infamous provisions of

H.B. 70, whereby his authority exceeds that of either the school board or Superintendent Myrna L. Corley.

### STATE:



On **Wednesday**, Governor DeWine signed an executive order that [extends state-employee domestic violence protections to persons in dating relationships](#). The change follows recent legislation regarding protection orders sponsored by House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron), *right*, and State Senator Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville), who were also in

attendance along with State Representative Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights). **PIC**

### NATIONAL:

**2020 Presidential Campaign:** Two more U.S. Senators, Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey, entered the race for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination this week. Harris made the more impressive showing, as 20,000 supporters showed up in her hometown of Oakland. Booker's announcement was low-key, delivered outside his apartment building in Newark.

The day Harris announced saw former San Francisco mayor and legendary legislator Willie Brown write a column discussing his long ago romantic relationship with her. Brown, 84, denied he was throwing shade on Harris, saying he merely wanted to clarify the record. As the dust settled, it seems likely the record Brown wanted to sharpen was his own, as he took pains to point out how he had aided Harris's career when she was a young lawyer. He appears to have [sanitized the column by updating it here](#) before going on to [critique her subsequent campaign appearance](#) in Iowa.

### SOTU:

The President will deliver the State of the Union speech to Congress on Tuesday evening, after a one-week delay caused by his partial government shutdown. While he can be expected to offer a few dozen whoppers as he has done on virtually every day of his presidency, there are a few things we'll be looking for on Tuesday night:

Will he declare a state of emergency on the southern border, thereby provoking a constitutional crisis? Or try and set the stage for such an edict for Feb 16?

Will he have an effective rejoinder to the bipartisan rebuke the Senate gave him this past week on his Syria policy?

What will he say about Russia, where we suspect his withdrawal from the treaty is not only what Russia wants, but also what he may be in cahoots with them to do? Of course the Russians are protesting publicly.

How will he treat Speaker Nancy Pelosi? We're betting with kid gloves. She has clobbered the President politically on the regular since regaining the gavel, and Mr. Trump's survival instincts are likely to kick in.

## Equity, Inclusion, Diversity

### Increasing Racial Equity in Higher Ed Outcomes for Students of Color

Estela Mara Bensimon, founding director of Center for Urban Education

[CUE] at the University of South Carolina, developed the



Equity Scorecard as a means of driving changes in institutional practice and culture. CUE works with college professionals —from presidents to faculty to academic counselors, to help them take steps in their daily work to reverse the impact of the historical and structural disadvantages that prevent many students of color from excelling in higher education.

Bensimon will speak on "Reclaiming Racial Justice in Equity" as part of the 2018-19 Power of Diversity lecture series at Case Western Reserve University. Her talk, which is free and open to the public, is this Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 4:30p at Tinkham Veale University Center, 11438 Bellflower Rd. [44106].

## Nominations Sought for Those Who Give Black

Continued from Page 1

— Individuals, institutions, or community-based groups active for five years or less with a proven record of exceptional generosity (time, talent and/or treasure). **Hidden Philanthropists** — Their individual contribution of time, talent and treasure is the engine behind many grassroots organizations, churches or communities. **Youth Philanthropists** — For

ages 18 and under and 19-40 are eligible. Nominees may be individuals or a group performing acts of service affiliated with a school, university, or existing organization, but must be youth-led and initiated.

Nominations from the community are open now through February 21. Visit [tsopcle.com/community](http://tsopcle.com/community) to make your nominations.

The exhibition itself, *Those Who*

*Give Black*, opens September 6 and runs until December 6, 2019 at the Cleveland History Center, 10825 East Blvd. [44106].

Inspiration for the exhibition comes from *Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists* by Valaida Fullwood with photography by Charles W. Thomas, Jr. The book explores the African-American philanthropy experience

and the roots of giving traditions grounded in faith, culture, responsibility and social justice.

The United Black Fund, Cleveland History Center, The Foundation Center, Cleveland Foundation and Black Equity & Humanity Fund, Visiting Angels and Nex-Gen Interactive are exhibit sponsors.

For more information on the exhibition, visit [tsopcle.com](http://tsopcle.com).

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