



Valentine's Day  
for Book Lovers!

ON PAGE 16

EDITORIAL

# Our Choice for County Prosecutor

The criminal justice system in America has always been used to reinforce a status quo that has kept black people and poor people where most of us historically have always been: outside or on the bottom. Racial disparities have been in the DNA of the United States since before the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. Too many white people

don't understand the depth of the problem and too many black people don't know how to talk about it or deal with it effectively. Progress is slow. Some days, some weeks, some years, we seem to advance towards racial justice. Other days, weeks, years, we seem to sink ever deeper.

When we look back at midcentury America, around the time a certain blowhard

probably has in mind when he says he wants to "make America great again," we recall a nation that everywhere in every field discriminated against people on the basis of their skin. And while we are all members of the amen chorus that says segregation and Jim Crow were wrong, we tend to forget how tenaciously almost half the country

**Continued on Page 8**

Euclyd

## School Supt. resigning at close of school year

By Derek Dixon  
RIP CORRESPONDENT

Keith Bell, who three-and-a-half years ago assumed leadership of a school district whose stakeholders had no measurable goals, announced he has submitted his resignation to the board to pursue other endeavors in central Ohio. The board unanimously approved his request at their February 22 meeting.

Bell, who has nearly four decades of educational background, took over as superintendent from

Joffrey Jones in August 2012.

Among the most notable of the many accomplishments achieved during his tenure are the opening of four new elementary schools, passage of a 5.4 mill levy to manage district resources, elimination of cost-based extracurricular activities, and a twenty-four percent reduction in the need for disciplinary measures last year. As recently as January, Bell witnessed and congratulated sixteen student-athlete scholarship recipients who had made or were due to make their higher education choices. Never had that many

Euclyd High School football players in one school year been granted tuition-free higher education.

"It's time," Bell said of his decision via email. "I want to finish my doctoral work at Ohio State University. I have several potential opportunities that have been presented to me in central Ohio, and my home is in central Ohio."

His tenure will come to an official end at the close of the 2015-2016 school year.

Bell said the decision to retire was made over the last month although he had been thinking about it throughout the year. He briefly considered a retire/rehire move in November 2013, but rescinded the request to the board after determining it was not in the district's best interest.

The Columbus area native

**McGinty is a blunt force, and his many efforts at reform have produced both scars and pushback. The Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association doesn't like him. He has made some county judges uncomfortable.**

said a successor has been chosen but will not be made public until after the next board meeting, a special meeting called for February 29.

In other school board news, Arbor Elementary School Principal Kristen Schutte presented statistical and graph-based information on improvements in student achievement and the success of a program that emphasizes good character traits in students.

Academic achievement was reflected in elevated test scores at all grade levels, according to data presented for reading and math using the iReady intervention program. Other factors contributing to the success were small-group interactivity sessions, teacher collaboration, and strategic tutoring sessions. The good character



Keith M. Bell  
Euclid Supt.

emphasis was the result of using the new "Oz" initiative, according to Schutte. Good character traits were promoted by way of posters that hung throughout the Arbor school building. They promoted "brains," "courage," "determination" and "heart." Various students were recognized for their achievements in the different categories.

Euclid

# Chamber Members Tour Industrial Surplus Giant

By Derek Kohn  
RIP CORRESPONDENT

More than a half-million square feet of warehousing — where sits everything from a 5-lb. trash receptacle to a 16-ton blow molding machine — provided the backdrop for last month's Euclid Chamber of Commerce "Coffee Connections";

"Our company's motto is 'We buy and sell everything, and that really is the case," explained HGR Industrial Surplus Chief Marketing Officer Matt Williams, who directed a tour of the massive building's inner

more than a hundred yards of corridors. "We've got brooms, vacuum cleaners, mop buckets, floor cleaners, and even a barbecue grill with a rotisserie..."

"We currently have a lease pending with a used car operation that is looking at taking about a 100,000 SF of our space, putting in thirty lifts and refurbishing cars," he said. "They then intend on selling them through their chain of used car dealerships. We're hoping to have them join us as a tenant here in short order."

The message is clear: An operation with unlimited procurement potential that handles millions of dollars in inventory is big enough to influence other industrial leaders to ward long-term partnerships.

HGR has twenty-seven main categories and 2,800 sub-categories of items. The company sells

to everyone from the largest manufacturers of household and commercial equipment to the random street pedestrian. Their inventory comes from any and every place. The turnaround time of some items has been as little as ten minutes, but nothing sits for very long, according to Williams.

HGR is also big on community engagement and empowerment. "HGR sponsors the Euclid, Ohio Robotics Team and is a strong supporter of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education," said HGR Marketing Communications Specialist Gina Tabasso. "We also offer an annual scholarship to a local high school student."

Coffee Connections is the Euclid Chamber's ongoing networking and business collaboration incubator, held each month at a

different member business location in the city. One doesn't have to be a Euclid resident nor own their enterprise in the city to be a chamber member. "We're trying to network but have some fun at the same time," remarked newly elected president Charlie Sims of Sims Buck GMC. "The chamber welcomes any size enterprise that has some aspect of personal or community uplift in its mission."

The next Coffee Connections will be held Tuesday, March 8 at 8:30 am at the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222 St. Said HELP Foundation's Chief Development and Communications Officer Doug Knoop, "These events are a great way to network while learning about other Euclid businesses and institutions." Information about the chamber may be found at euclidchamber.com.



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## Black Community at Case creates a space of rest & renewal

By R. I. Andrews  
Editor

More than fifty Case Western Reserve University students, faculty, staff and alumni convened as members of the African Diaspora from 4pm until late in the evening on Feb. 12 at the CWRU Mandel Center on Bellflower Rd. for a time of communal sharing, collective reflection, spiritual renewal, and community planning. The organizers wanted and appeared to achieve their goal of creating a “safe intergenerational and intersectional space” that could provide an opportunity to feel what community should feel like.

The hours-long event, which saw people come and go as their schedules required or permitted, contained ample measures of organized discussion, music, and brief presentations from group members that wove together to create a vibe that was a mélange of comfort, family, trusting, discovery, peace, joy, and solidarity.

The convening was no doubt informed at least in part by the #WeBelong. Here movement that may have reached its zenith last year when students of color coalesced in response to micro- and not so micro-aggressions directed against them that seemed to question their right to be a part of the University community.

The day’s experience seemed carefully calibrated to provide simultaneously both unstructured space and strategic focus towards some not quite fully articulated end. Undoubtedly, one of the collective takeaways from the gathering was a heightened awareness of just how incredibly diverse Case’s black community is, comprising Africans, Caribbeans, African Americans, etc. who were at school to study law, engineering, social studies, medicine, science, the arts, languages, etc., having assembled in University Circle from every Continent, from across the country and across town, as graduates, undergraduates, faculty and so forth, from 18 to 70+.

If all this seems impossibly vague, be assured by this scribble that the vibe was, if intangible, nonetheless palpable. Perhaps, as the elders say, you just had to have been there. One sensed that a tangible result to this gathering before semester’s end could reasonably be anticipated.

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JWT&A has experience constructing or recreating a range of different types of buildings. Former or current projects include health care facilities, commercial offices, and private dwellings. Where construction management is needed, the company serves as a consultant, providing advice for clarity of ideas as well as the design of a project. Where general contracting is needed, JWT&A assumes responsibility for the means and methods specified in the contract agreement. These include budgetary conditions and use of equipment while managing activities on the worksite.

Commercial retail clients include CVS Pharmacy, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Wal-Mart, Dairy Queen, CMHA Friendly Inn and others. Institutional clients include the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, CSU, and Hopkins Airport.

Principal owner John W. Todd, Jr. is the second generation in a family where the work ethic of his father, John W. Todd, Sr. is reflected in the company’s commitment to quality and precision. Todd Jr. joined the same Plasters Union Local #80 where the senior Todd served as a union master while Jr. was in high school.

“Our motto is ‘building each foundation block by block. We view our work as more than mixing matter to create functional spaces that better serve its tenants,” Todd says. “We have provided superior workmanship and timely deliverables over the years.” More information on JWT&A is found on the company website [www.jwta-construction.com](http://www.jwta-construction.com).

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The Word on Small Business

# Solid Traits of Successful Entrepreneurs can be learned

By Kirby Freeman  
RDP CORRESPONDENT



Just like great football teams in today's National Football League, the basic ingredients of all successful small businesses starts with a winning quarterback: the owner.

Increasingly sports team scouts — especially in the NFL and National Basketball Association — are relying on biometrics — the quantitative-based study and analysis of professional athletes — to make draft picks. Coaches and scouts use biometrics to closely analyze the capabilities of each rookie they are considering.

The unique characteristics of each player being considered are closely watched and factored into the final decision: the mechanics of their movements, the

acceleration of their running style, the height and range of their jumping abilities, etc. Today's successful professional sports teams have all mastered the science of biometrics as a key to success.

Business counselors and advisors have also devoted a great deal of time breaking down the personality characteristics of some of the world's most successful entrepreneurs. Business writers have detailed some of the most common traits of good business people.

Ask any banker, accountant, or advisor and they will tell you that the most important aspect of any business is the ability of the "pockey" — or owner — to pull any and all aspects of the business together. The ability of some entrepreneurs to orchestrate successful business ventures is oftentimes based on several personality traits that are

common among the most profitable business owners.

Most of these traits are obvious, others not so much. But observers have noted that many, if not most, entrepreneurs share these common personality characteristics:

- **Optimism** – Most entrepreneurs tend to have a very sunny, "glass half full" outlook on life. *Any business owner worth his or her salt has to be a bit of an optimist to risk a great deal of time and financial resources to build a business enterprise.*
- **Tenacity** – Most entrepreneurs have to be willing to keep pushing despite whatever odds are stacked against them. *Very often entrepreneurs must face the prospect of having sponsors, lenders, and perspective partners tell them "No". They have to be willing and able to bounce back from letdowns.*
- **Vision** – Most entrepreneurs have the ability to envision a

new product, service, process, and/or organization (usually their own business enterprise) that does not currently exist.

- **Passion** – Most business owners are driven by an overriding passion to build a successful business enterprise or to achieve financial independence. *That strong desire is the fuel that powers his or her ability to work long hours and make personal sacrifices in order to succeed.*
- **Decisiveness** – Most business owners usually have the ability to quickly make decisions that will reduce costs, change procedures, or pursue new growth opportunities. *Entrepreneurs need this trait to help the organization survive and thrive.*
- **Resilience** – Entrepreneurs must be able to adapt to any and all situations. *Businesses and business owners will face various boom and bust cycles*

that must be weathered to ensure continued growth.

- **Fiscally Prudent** – In the beginning, most entrepreneurs should build up their cash reserves while they are building the business. *Most business owners will tell anyone who listens that – after employee payroll and all business expenses are funded – they are the last to be paid.*

These are just a few of the traits generally common to business leaders and risk-takers. Other characteristics include a willingness to accept ambiguity, the ability to sell, fearlessness, and balance.

Most of these characteristics are not genetic; they can be learned. In order to take on the challenge of business ownership, individuals should strive to find ways to expand these traits as part of their personal growth and experience.

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Bedford

# Bedford admits some lead in pipes but insists water supply is safe

By Richard Donald Jones  
RDP CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing tragedy in Flint Michigan concerning dangerous levels of lead and contaminants in the water supply has many communities across the United States wondering if their drinking water is safe.

Bedford, which purchases its water from Cleveland and resells it to residents, admits that while they cannot be certain as to the overall level of lead present in the city's aging water lines, they want to assure the residents that its drinking water is safe.

"We have an older system that dates back to before the 1930s so the presence of some lead is to be expected," explained Bedford City Manager Michael Mallis. "I'm sure we have some lead joints and valves. The same I suspect you would find in any American city. But our water has been tested and is safe."

Bedford purchases all its water supply from Cleveland, which handles the cleaning and treatment of all water prior to its entering Bedford's system. Cleveland's water treatment plants treat and remove as many contaminants as possible, but even federal allows some "safe" levels of lead.

Bedford currently has about 50 miles of underground water mains servicing nearly 5000 homes and businesses.

"Bedford is a Master Meter community and we don't treat or add chemicals to our water

but we do sample and test periodically and that information is provided to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency," said Mallis. "We provide a regular report to our community regarding our water quality and we are well within safe federal guidelines."

According to Mallis, the city is responsible to provide drinking water to customers but has no control over the plumbing and waterlines inside resident's homes.

"We have a lot of older homes in this community so it is possible that some of the older properties have plumbing that might not be modern and lead free."

Lead in a city's drinking supply can have serious consequences, especially for expectant mothers and young children. In the United States drinking water supplies are protected by The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.

Under the Act, the Environmental Protection Agency sets and enforces water quality standards. The EPA maintains that a presence of lead or "action level" less than 15 ppb (parts per billion) in the water supply is safe.

In tests conducted in 2014, all thirty Bedford homes tested were found to be within the federal limit with only 4 parts per billion found in the samples. The same tests also found acceptable levels of cooper in the samples.

Mallis says the required testing was done in 2015 and the city will issue a 2016 Consumer Confidence Report soon.

As a precaution, Mallis says the city took advantage of Cuyahoga County-funded repairs to the Columbus Avenue bridge to inspect and initiate an upgrade to the water main lines buried under the bridge structure.

"There are some very old main lines under there, said Mallis. "We had some concerns that there might be some lead present so since the County already underwent the expense to dig we saved money by starting an upgrade now."

Mallis said that Bedford saved taxpayers fifty thousand dollars piggybacking on the County's dig and later determined that the old main lines were cast iron and free of lead.

## Letter to the Editor

Ohio has consistently been a critical state for selecting the President of the United States since 1960. Millions of dollars are spent organizing and advertising political campaigns here each year. In that same vein and with that same fervor, Ohio needs to lead on an energy plan for our future that puts our businesses and manufacturing industry on the frontlines of growth in a rapidly changing global economy.

Unfortunately, our state is running in place when it comes to developing - let alone keeping up with - the emerging clean energy sector of our economy. In 2014, the state legislature froze clean energy standards that had been proven to spur investment and innovation in the energy sector, creating some 3,000 jobs while saving consumers billions and making Ohio a healthier place to live, work and raise a family.

Studies show 89,000 Ohioans work for roughly 7,200 businesses in the clean energy industry. But with Ohio's freeze, we continue to jeopardize that innovation and growth for the cutting-edge businesses of tomorrow. Not only does this make it more difficult for start-ups and manufacturers to lead, but it puts us all behind by impeding clean energy progress that promotes the health and welfare of our most vulnerable populations: the elderly, children, those with heart and lung disease.

Though Ohio may not be keeping pace with the rest of the nation and the world when it comes to embracing an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the relative lack of national debate on a cleaner, more productive and more profitable clean energy industry also highlights a disconnect with planning for our future.

The United States is viewed as a world leader in many arenas and we must continue to push for progressive policies to ensure a brighter future for everyone. If we don't act quickly, we will miss out on being a leader in the clean energy industry, jeopardizing the creation of new jobs and an advanced and stable economy. With the presidential primaries quickly approaching, now is the time for Ohio to speak up on the importance of a clean energy plan. In the coming weeks, it is crucial that we hear real solutions to grow our advanced energy economy from politicians on both sides of the aisle before we fall even further behind.

State Rep. Stephanie Howse  
Ohio House District 11

Rep. Howse is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives.



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## Social Justice Watch

### March 4

**Bridging Worlds Together: Advancing Our Understanding of Social Justice through Cultural Awareness**

Case Western Reserve University's Social Justice Institute (SJI) and Plymouth Church's Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice [EY EJ] are inviting community members to participate in a wide-ranging panel discussion focusing on conversations about culture and advocacy in an intersectional framework, implicit bias and privilege, and the language of advocacy, activism and solidarity.

The program will take place Friday, March 4, 6:45-9:45 pm, at Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, 2860 Coventry Rd.

The panel includes Eugenia Cash (ADAMS and CMSD), Reverend Jwanza Colvin (Oliver Institutional Baptist Church), Phyllis Seven Harris (LGBT Community Center), Judge Kristin Sweeney, attorney Reggie Williams and our founder & director Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams; Rev. Dr. Shawntea Monroe (Plymouth Church UCC) will serve as the evening's moderator.

The evening will also include a string performance by the People, questions from the audience, and a light reception.

Tickets are \$10, with all proceeds will benefit the Social Justice Institute and EY EJ. Tickets will also be available at the door.

### March 20

#### Community Forum Discussion

The Cleveland Consent Decree, Community Safety, and Suburban Neighborhoods will be the focus of a community forum with attorney James Hardiman, chair of Citizens for Safe and Fair Communities and Dr. Yvonne Comer, a member of both the Cleveland Community Police Commission and the Greater Cleveland Congregation's Criminal Justice

Team. The discussion will take place Sunday, March 20 from 9:30-10:45 am at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland

21600 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights. Call 216-751-2320 for more information.

#### Social Justice Survey Participants sought

The Cleveland Community Police Commission (CCPC) is required to provide the Monitor Team and the Cleveland Division of Police feedback from the public regarding its current mission statement. The CCPC has created an online feedback tool to help gather this valuable information. CCPC wants to insure that it receives input that is representative of Greater Cleveland's diverse populations.

To complete the survey, which can be done using a smart phone, visit [www.clecp.org](http://www.clecp.org) and click on the community input tab and then the Cleveland Division of Police Mission Statement link.

...

Cleveland Consent Decree Community Forums - facilitated by the Cleveland Consent Decree Community Monitoring Team at CPL Branches around town:

**Thursday, April 14 4-6PM,** Rockport Branch, 4421 West 141 - 623.7053

**Thursday, June 9 4-6PM,** MLK Jr. Branch, 1962 Stokes Blvd. • 623.7018

Experts will be on hand to educate & inform citizens about the DOJ report, the Consent Decree and the ongoing process to reform policing in the City of Cleveland.

## City Reports

### Bedford Heights

Mayor Fletcher Berger will deliver the State of the City address at 12:30pm Thursday, March 3, at the Medterra-near Party Center, 23021 Hookside Rd., Bedford Hts. Doors open at 11:30am.

The Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce is providing a buffet lunch for \$10. Contact [director@southeastchamber.org](mailto:director@southeastchamber.org) or 440.232.0115 if interested.

There is no charge to attend the event; reservations are only required if you are purchasing lunch.

### South Euclid

The Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring SoEuBAM, the South Euclid Business Appreciation Mixer at University Suburban Health Center, on Thursday, March 3 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

The event is for business and business owners in South Euclid, and is free for them to attend.

Call 216-397-7322 to RSVP and for more info.

### Warrensville Heights

Zoning Appeals Board approves Life

Bank variances  
The Warrensville Board of Zoning Appeals met February 23 to hear an appeal from a representative of Geis Construction, Greg Seifert, on behalf of LifeBanc. Geis is responsible for the construction being done on the LifeBanc offices at 4775 Richmond Rd. Warrensville Heights.

Seifert presented three variances to the Appeals board for their consideration, two related to parking ordinances and the third one related to the setback line for an addition to LifeBanc's offices.

The Appeals board questioned the request to reduce parking lot spaces from the current 100 to 80. Seifert said LifeBanc is installing an Organ Procurement Operation that will reduce the need for parking to a maximum of 80 employees will need parking.

All three of the variances were approved and will be sent over to Warrensville City Council for approval.

Reported by *Timothy Cox*

*"Jill Miller Zimon has a keen understanding and unlimited passion for good government and what it can accomplish. She is smart and uses her talent for collaboration to build relationships and get things done. She would be a great State Representative for the People of House District 12."* Stanley Miller, Former Executive Director NAACP and businessman.

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## Prosecutor Continued From Page 1

resisted commonsense efforts to create a more just and equal society.

It took a civil rights *revolution* to bring about fundamental change in American society. The battles were fought community by community, in thousands of workplaces, and tens of thousands of communities, churches, schools, scout troops, bowling leagues, professional locker rooms and front offices, city halls, and unfathomable numbers of the types of communal associations that Alexis de Tocqueville so admired about this country.

But when those battles were largely won, and we paused to take our collective breath and celebrate a new dawn, we discovered that we now had a whole 'nother series of battles to fight, that even the victories that were hard fought and hard won were not permanent.

The struggle continues. Emmitt Till in 1955, Tamir Rice in 2014.

We asked in this space last month whether one incredibly, inexplicably botched case was enough to decide one way or another whether Tim McGinty should get another term as county prosecutor. Since we do not believe and have no evidence that he operated with malice aforethought, our answer is that we must look first at the totality of his record in office and second, compare his record with that of his opponent, Michael O'Malley, and then conclude which candidate is likely to be an ally in the struggle to bring fairness and justice to

Cuyahoga County for the first time. Ever.

Yes, we said ever, even though we of course remember that our dear friend Stephanie Tubbs Jones was once THE county prosecutor. But it was a criminal justice system then and it's still a system now. No one person of any race, gender or religion can wave a magic wand and eradicate centuries of a malfunctioning system. STJ initiated a number of changes in the operation of that office, but prosecuting a police officer for the use of deadly force against a civilian wasn't one of them. The tone of the office did mellow a bit after the departure of her arrogant, over-indicting predecessor, and a few more persons of color did join the office, along with more women. But over-indicting did not end, and the pipeline to prison did not narrow appreciably.

And of course, whatever gains were made during her tenure, which at that time seemed blissful compared to her predecessor's near-half-century reign, were subject to reversal under her hyper-political successor once she left for Congress in 1998.

### SYSTEM CHANGE

Changing the justice system in our county necessitates changing most of its parts. Who gets recruited to be a police officer, who gets hired, how they are trained, and how they perform all needs radical adjustment. The judiciary need changing. And on the back end, the prison system needs a major overhaul. The prosecutor is central to

making effective change in local policing and court systems.

While there was no conviction, McGinty is the first Cuyahoga prosecutor in memory to indict a police officer in a deadly force case. That was Cleveland police officer Brelo in the 137-bullet case. He has worked to undo the rampant politicization of the Mason administration that preceded him. He has kept — no, surpassed — his campaign promises with respect to the hiring and promotion of a staff that has finally begun to look like the makeup of the county that funds his office. Further, he has made great strides in ending the practice of over-indicting arrestees so as to bludgeon them into unfair plea deals. And he has learned on county judges to streamline arraignment and trial processes so that justice is not routinely delayed.

McGinty is a blunt force, and his many efforts at reform have produced both scars and pushback. The Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association doesn't like him. He has made some county judges uncomfortable with his zeal for reform. And his office personnel policies are not only busting up the old boys network; they have disrupted the easy path many of them took to a secure seat on the county judiciary.

For many Cuyahoga voters, these positive accomplishments in McGinty's first term may not override his gross mishandling of the Tamir Rice case. But a vote for McGinty is NOT a ratification of every decision he has made.

## The black community does not need to be pandered to.

Elections in our system are limiting. Up or down. This one or that one. However nuanced our analysis must be, our choices are stark. On March 15 it's either McGinty or O'Malley, about whom we have said little in this piece.

O'Malley has said little in this campaign other than he's not McGinty. It's one thing to say the Tamir case was botched; it's quite another to say as a candidate for the job that a murder indictment should have been sought.

The black community does not need to be pandered to. It would respect a candidate who said, "You know, it was a tough case, even in hindsight. I don't know what I would have done but I won't hesitate to indict a cop if I think it's warranted."

I haven't heard O'Malley speak with that kind of conviction. Nor does his long tenure as a top gun with the Mason regime that was too cozy with the cops and the courts and especially too cozy with the corrupt Dimora-Russo duo, suggest to me that he would in any way be an improvement upon the earnest guy we have now who is willing to stand up and take the heat.

**McGinty is the better candidate in this race.**

— R. T. Andrews, *Editor*

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OP-ED

# A White Perspective on Race

By Doug Huron and Amanda Huron

We think the nation's problems with race, as well as the progress, can be partly explained by looking at the humble institution of jury trial. First, we focus on a little-remarked feature of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Then we turn to a jury trial during Reconstruction in Washington, D.C., that shattered stereotypes.

One of us went to segregated schools, in the Maryland suburbs outside the nation's capital. President Kennedy was assassinated in his freshman year of college. Kennedy's killing was traumatic and tragic, yet may have spurred passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

When Title VII — the part of the 1964 Civil Rights Act dealing with job bias — was enacted, supporters went out of their way to make sure that juries would not decide civil rights cases. People remembered how all-white juries would not convict white men who killed African Americans, no matter how damning the evidence. So civil rights supporters wanted fair employment cases to be decided by judges, not juries.

In our system, a civil case must be decided by a jury only if damages are involved — that is, if the worker can get damages if he or she wins. (The defendant in a criminal case, in contrast, can almost always ask for a jury.) So the writers of the Civil Rights Act said those who won fair employment lawsuits — which are civil (not criminal) cases — could not get damages. This seemed a small price to pay to keep the

cases away from juries. And it was not a really big deal, because the Act allowed winners to get the back pay they would have earned but for discrimination. This was true even though back pay was ordinarily the type of thing that a jury could award as damages.

None of this was logical. It was just what was needed to keep job bias cases from being decided by a jury.

That was 1964. But a generation later — 1991 — everything changed. The Civil Rights Act of 1991 was a congressional attempt to strengthen job bias legislation, including overturning a slew of unfavorable Supreme Court decisions. But unlike in 1964, there was no concern about juries. Indeed, Congress openly declared that black workers who proved job discrimination were entitled to damages, even though that meant that juries would be involved. It was all matter-of-fact, especially compared to the rush to avoid juries in 1964.

In the 25 years between the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the '91 amendments, two momentous changes occurred. First, juries began to treat civil rights cases fairly, and this was aided by the second change: elimination of the all-white jury. Throughout the nation, north and south, African Americans regularly served on juries.

Juries define America. Every day, across the country, juries decide disputes. In 1964 — with good reason — African Americans did not trust juries to decide their cases. But a generation later, they did. This

signaled a fundamental and positive shift in the nation's attitude toward race.

## The Case of Minnie Gaines

In 1869, a jury decided the fate of Minnie Gaines, an African American woman accused of murdering her white lover (she was pregnant with their child, and they'd gotten into a fight over whether her lover would support the unborn child). Just two years earlier, African American men had been given the right to vote in local elections in the city of Washington; in 1869, they'd received the right to serve on juries.

Gaines' trial was the first time a murder case had been heard by a mixed-race jury in Washington, and was therefore of intense public interest. Spectators crowded into the courtroom each day to watch not only the salacious trial proceedings, but also the spectacle of the jury — six black men, six white — participating as civic equals.

The twelve men defied custom by forging social bonds outside the context of the jury box, too. While sequestered, they stayed together in a "third-class" hotel, ate meals together, took an afternoon drive to gether to the countryside, had a group picture taken in a photographer's studio. And they held at least one private prayer session together.

In the end, the jury decided Gaines was not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. She was given the mildest possible sentence of nine months in a hospital for the criminally insane, where she gave birth to her baby.

[T]he actions of the twelve

jurors stoked fear among white

conservatives in Washington,

and around the country, that

political equality — the vote, jury

service — would lead to fraternization

and friendship, and ultimately

to social equality.

Historian Kate Masur tells this story in her book, *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle Over Equality in Washington, D.C.* She argues that the actions of the twelve jurors stoked fear among white conservatives in Washington, and around the country, that political equality — the vote, jury service — would lead to fraternization and friendship, and ultimately to social equality. The Gaines jurors showed not only that blacks and whites could embrace the work of democracy together; they could enjoy each other's company while doing it.

## Unrealized Promise

The enormous promise of Reconstruction was never realized. Instead, we had a century of Jim Crow, followed by fitful progress. It is undeniable that race relations in this country have improved since passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The changing attitude toward

juries shows that, and white presidential candidates have close black friends. David Paton, a black Jamaican, served as best man when Ted Cruz married Heidi Nelson.

Yet if juries show how far we have come, they also show how far we have to go. A quarter of African American men will serve time in prison, and these men will not be available to build democracy through jury service. We had a chance during Reconstruction to forge social equality, and it slipped away. It should not evaporate again. African Americans may not be impressed if the best we can say about racial progress is that a right-wing Republican like Ted Cruz has a black friend.

*Doug Huron is a lawyer who served in the White House under President Carter. Amanda Huron, his daughter, teaches a course in D.C. history at the University of the District of Columbia, an HBCU.*

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## When the Ludicrous Becomes Mainstream

By Neal Howard

I have been a political junkie for almost three decades, pretty much since I was a teenager. I think the rhetorical and ideological flatulence emanating from leading Republican presidential candidates has descended to historic levels of inanity.

I have never ascribed to conservative ideology, which seems all too often to sympathize with and support an unjust status quo across numerous societal levels (economic, race, sex, religion, foreign policy, etc.). But I understand that a balanced and just society must be able to embrace diverse, even divergent, ideologies and paradigms and put them into just and balanced praxis.

But such praxis and spirit have been nakedly absent from the Republican core for the last seven years. The election of President Barack Hussein Obama seems to have inspired conservatives to direct record modern day levels of vitriolic and hatred towards Obama and what he represents (both in reality and their fantasized inventions).

There is no doubt that the conservatives and Republicans of whom I speak are vehemently opposed to President Obama's liberal policies (with significant leftist/progressive tendencies). While President Obama has some legitimate critics on his left flank, he has arguably implemented the most progressive policies — Obamacare, negotiation/deal making with Iran, opening relations with

Cuba, addressing climate change, reaching out to the Muslim world, addressing racial oppression and inequality in numerous contexts at a level that no other president is remotely close to, etc. — since the New Deal! While he certainly has not addressed or made progress on all essential reforms on the liberal/progressive agenda the policy successes he has had have been enough to disturb conservative ideologues to their core.

Let us be clear however, the conservative hatred of President Obama is not limited to his agenda and policies alone. His being the first African American president — with an African father and a non-western name — has exponentially exacerbated their fears and anger leading to a profound detachment from reality. The escalating fantasyland where many Republicans have lived over the past 7 years has become so widespread that it has infected national dialogue and become accepted as a legitimate perspective instead of the racism-driven status quo-defending lunacy it actually is.

Consider: the birther movement, begun during the 2008 presidential campaign, has had unfathomable shelf life considering its blatantly insipid premise. Since raising concern about President Obama being black was not feasible many conservatives asserted that he is Muslim, which, in their xenophobic worldview, is a problem. They have routinely heaped unfounded accusations that President Obama hates America and is trying to

**Continued on Page 11**

**Ludicrous** Continued From Page 10



**Marco Rubio**  
Florida Senator



**Donald Trump**  
Billionaire Businessman



**Ted Cruz**  
Texas Senator

destroy it. A more sanitized version of this lie is the assertions made by many on the right that President Obama “does not share our values” or “is not like you and me”. They have vowed to “take back” America. The tea party movement has pushed right wing presence and ideology to such crazed extremes that Donald Trump and Ted Cruz now lead in national and primary Republican polling. The Trump/Cruz phenomenon is clear evidence that the chickens have come home to roost. Common sense conservatives are now aghast that the fear, racist, anger driven vitriol they nurtured now threatens the very fabric of their party.

The current collective hope of so-called “establishment Republicans” many believe is now with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. But Rubio has in fact expressed thoughts and ideas as dumbfounding, unbalanced, and racist as Trump and Cruz. His recent declaration about President Obama’s visit to a mosque last month is representative of the collective lunacy that has

gripped Republicans. *“He gave a speech at a mosque, basically implying that America is discriminating against Muslims. Of course there’s discrimination in America, of every kind. But the bigger issue is radical Islam. This constant pitting people against each other. I can’t stand that. It’s hurting our country badly.”*

This Rubio statement epitomizes the GOP establishment? Hmmmm. If giving a speech at a mosque in and of itself implies that America discriminates against Muslims, why didn’t Rubio say America discriminates against Jews when President Obama gave a speech at a synagogue last May? Showing support for communities that have and continue to face discrimination in America (certainly not by all Americans) is an act of inclusion.

Speaking at the Baltimore mosque, President Obama said: *“We’re one American family. And when any part of our family starts to feel separate or second-class or targeted, it tears at the very fabric of our nation”* and *“Like people of all religions, Muslims*

*living their faith in a modern, pluralistic world are called upon to uphold human rights, to make sure that everyone has opportunity. That includes the aspirations of women and youth and all people. If we expect our own dignity to be respected, so must we respect the dignity of others.”*

Rubio’s criticism of Obama’s visit to the mosque seems to be that “Nothing wedges people apart more than advocating for pluralism.” This is nonsense, of course, but nonsense and fabricated reality have become the norm for a significant portion of our country’s dialogue, a result driven in part by a fear of change in a status quo that has unfairly privileged white upper-class elites’ perception of America’s global invincibility. If we are not careful this unhinged norm could seep its way into the norms of how our country operates. We have been there before (Jim Crow, Japanese internment, “no Irish need apply” are but a few examples). Let’s not go back there again.

*Neal Howard is a licensed social worker in Boston MA. This is his first column for The Real Deal Press.*

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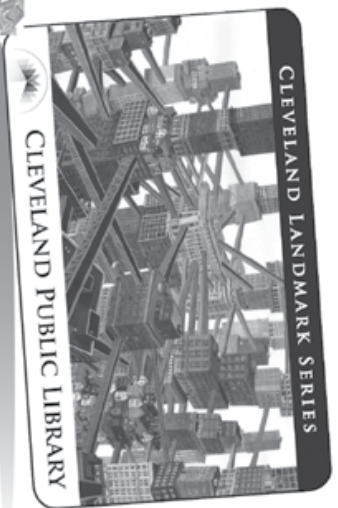
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## Cleveland Landmark Series Card #31!

This Cleveland Public Library card, featuring the painting *Dissemination* by Amy Casey, symbolizes information being transferred into and out of the library in a whimsical way.



*"In Dissemination I wanted to represent how the library acts as a conduit of information and services, connecting people and places and ideas."*



### Community Calendar

#### March 5

The Black Women's Political Action Committee presents a celebrity fashion show and luncheon, **Stephin-N-Stylyz** in recognition of Women's History Month on Saturday, March 5 from Noon-3pm at Embassy Suites, 3775 Park East Drive, Beachwood 44122. Tickets are \$45. For more information, call Deborah Black 216-403-0056, or Debra Preston 540-435-8239, email [womenhistory@bwpac.org](mailto:womenhistory@bwpac.org), or visit [www.bwpac.org](http://www.bwpac.org).

#### March 11

##### Conference takes place at Case Western Reserve University's Inklam Neale University Center, 11038 Bellflower Rd., on Friday, March 11 from 8am-5pm.

Registration costs, which include parking, refreshments and lunch, range from \$29-\$50 depending on your professional status (working, retired, student, etc.) For event details, email [ccosw@csuohio.edu](mailto:ccosw@csuohio.edu). For registration information, contact the National Association of Social Work, Ohio Chapter at 614-461-4484 or [info@naswoh.org](mailto:info@naswoh.org).

#### March 12

The Cleveland Foundation, The City Club of Cleveland, Cleveland Young Professional Senate, Crain's Cleveland Business, iDeastream, and Neighborhood Connections have partnered up to present the Greater Cleveland Caucus Series.

On Saturday, March 12 from 9am-12:30pm at Cleveland Public Auditorium, the **Greater Cleveland Caucus: A Town Hall Meeting on Community Solutions** will kick-off a year-long series of events by convening a broad group of Greater Clevelanders to discuss key issues impacting our region, brainstorm community priorities, and connect with organizations working to address these community challenges.

The kick-off event will feature local leaders delivering 5-minute talks on Cleveland's momentum in eight Caucus areas. Following the talks, each Caucus topic area will participate in facilitated conversations to identify key community priorities in that Caucus.

Caucus speakers and their areas include Eric Gordon - CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School

District [Education + Youth Development], Jenita McGowan - Chief of Sustainability, City of Cleveland [Environment], Dr. Sonja Harris-Haywood, Director - NEMED-SSU Partnership for Urban Health [Health], Erika Anthony - Senior Director of Advocacy, Policy & Research, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress [Housing + Neighborhoods], Joe Cimperman - Incoming Executive Director, Global Cleveland [Inclusion: Population + Demographics], Eric Diamond - Executive Vice President of Lending, Economic Community Development Institute [Jobs + Economy], Ron Soeder - President, Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland [Safety], and Grace Galucci - Director, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency [Transportation + Infrastructure]

This nonpartisan, nonpolitical event is free and open to the public. Citizens are invited to participate and follow upcoming events in this year-long series by visiting [www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Caucus](http://www.ClevelandFoundation.org/Caucus).

#### March 12

A program entitled **Untold Cleveland: The History of Glenville** will be presented from 2-4pm. Library Cleveland at the Glenville Branch Library, 11900 St. Clair Ave. FREE.

#### March 15 - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

#### March 31

The **Top Ladies of Distinction** will hold a 13 chapter regional conference in Cleveland beginning March 31. The public is invited to participate in several events, including a Community Awards Public Banquet on Friday, April 1, 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$65.

Other public events include an April 11 Prayer Breakfast/Memorial Service featuring Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins of South Euclid UCC as speaker [\$45] and the Top Teens of America (TTA) Blue and Silver Ball on Saturday evening, April 21[\$35].

Several local individuals and organizations will be recognized at the Friday/banquet for sustained positive community impact: Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Centers (NEOH), Fairfax Place Nursing Center, Habitat for Humanity - Cuyahoga County, American Heart Association - Cleveland, St. Martin de Porres High School and Ms. Anonique Ivey, Marsha Mockabee, President and CEO of Urban League of Greater Cleveland, will receive a special Humanitarian Award. Scholarships will also be presented to several Top Teens.

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Euclid

# Mayor envisions “first choice suburb” status

By Derek Dixon  
RIP CORRESPONDENT

Two months into her tenure as Euclid's fourteenth mayor, and casting a wary eye on budgetary challenges, Kristen Holzheimer Gail nonetheless painted a picture of expected sustainable growth in public safety efforts, housing and neighborhood development, big and small business opportunity, and youth engagement.

“While I'm pleased to report that we did add to our cash balance in 2015, 2016 will be a difficult year,” Gail said during her Feb. 24 State of the City address before a lunchtime mix of chamber of commerce members and guests at Tizzano's Party Center.

Last year's income tax revenue was the primary reason for a net \$1 million gain in the general fund, she said. However projected increases in city workers' pay, health care, and workers compensation justified seeking additional revenue sources and focus groups. Gail said she wants to create an ad hoc long-term finance committee to review the city's financial position, explore options, and offer recommendations for our long-term financial outlook, and invited audience members to serve on the committee.

The mayor emphasized that continuing recent collaboration initiatives between residents, city council and departmental employees would

eventually meet Euclid's needs. “In the police department there are new community policing initiatives, (such as) the continuation of the popular Citizens Police Academy and the hiring of six new police officers to strengthen our safety forces.” Also in 2015, an officers' community response team was introduced to focus on specific safety concerns. Crime reduction and prevention remain high priorities, she said.

Fire safety was also upgraded last year with enough outside revenue to employ six new firefighters, purchase new safety equipment, add new ambulances and trucks, and support a new partnership with the Chagrin Southeast Hazardous Materials Response Team.

“Business growth and development is one of my administrators' top priorities,” said Gail. MD&A, the Help Foundations (support for developmentally challenged citizens) new training facility, Lincoln Electric, the St. Clair Avenue industrial corridor, HGR Industrial Surplus, the Fogg Co., Guardian Technologies, and Euclid Hospital have all emerged with reinvestment efforts.

Small businesses also expanded with the opening of new private eateries and brand name outlets. The city also welcomed a new sporting goods store, grocery store, and a brewery, among other new businesses.

than fifteen local business and commercial brokers for properties in our city, and another ten to twelve community agencies. We will be working to update our marketing materials to help brokers sell our city, make sure they are well aware of our recent successes, plans in place, and vision for the future.”

Special attention was given to residential services and housing access opportunities. The city has secured funding and equipment for the demolition of structural eyewores while engaging prospective new homeowners with innovative housing payment options. “The housing department has reviewed many of its current procedures and has identified areas for improvement.”

Online registration and improved use of housing inspectors' field time were presented as examples.

Gail also reported several new investment and redevelopment plans currently underway that will connect residents to already existing services. Organizational development is underway at city hall to improve how city workers perform community outreach tasks. Diversity training took place in response to Euclid's changing cultural landscape. Under the new service director Daniel Knecht, Gail said she anticipates continued improvement in sanitation, water access, leaf and snow cleaning, and street repair.

Gail thanked department heads connected with youth engagement, credit- ing them with spearheading improvements to pools, ice rinks, grass fields, and a childhood obesity resistance initiative. “(Recreation Director) Mac Stephens is committed to insuring the successful development of our youth, not only as athletes, but for three years in a row, Mac has provided academic study tables, meals and motivational speaking sessions at the police mini station for all program participants.”

Gail also noted youth initiatives at the public library and the YMCA. She thanked volunteers, many of whom sponsor teams and events out-of-pocket, for their time with a variety of city-sponsored sports and outdoor activities.

Finally, Gail spoke on the many programs at the Senior Center, where manager Bob Payne has spearheaded enhancements in gaming, nutrition, health classes and guest speaker appearances.

“We are working with (council members) to establish a community relations commission that will bring citizens together to improve relationships between all people. We are also planning a series of listening tours to provide the opportunity to residents to share their ideas and concerns.

“I do believe that Euclid is a great community, and that we can again be a first choice suburb—a place that we all can be proud to live work and visit.”



Euclid Mayor  
Kristen Holzheimer Gail

**COMMUNITY FORUM DISCUSSION:  
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## Community Bulletin Board

### Cleveland Foundation Seeking Scholarship Applications for 2016-17 Academic Year

Application deadline is March 15

The Cleveland Foundation is an important local source of scholarship funds for college-bound students. Last Year Foundation scholarships supported 421 students with more than \$2.7 million in aid through more than 75 different scholarship funds. Students interested in accessing Foundation support for the upcoming academic year have until March 15 to apply.

Most awards require residence in Cuyahoga, Lake or Geauga counties, but in some instances, donors identified another geographic area of their choice.

On average, the scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and many are renewable for up to four years. Over the past three decades, donors of the Cleveland Foundation have provided more than \$50 million in scholarships, and the awards are always in the form of grants that do not have to be repaid.

Candidates should proceed as follows:

- First, explore the list of available scholarships via: <http://bit.ly/CLScholar>
- Start the process at our Scholarship Gateway and complete the common scholarship application to be considered for multiple awards. The deadline for the common scholarship application is March 15, 2016: <http://bit.ly/ScholarGateway>
- Applicants will need to submit letters of recommendation and school transcripts, and these steps alone can take two to three weeks.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applicants will need to upload the Student

Aid Report (SAR) showing their Expected Family

Contribution (EFC) to our gateway. The SAR and EFC are available after the student/family completes the FAFSA. By completing the FAFSA, the student may also qualify for state and federal grants and student loans. Check out <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> for details.

### Cleveland Museum of Art Centennial Celebration

The Cleveland Museum of Art is making its centennial year with a series of special loans from select collections around the world. **Bang** by Kerry James Marshall, acquired early in Marshall's career by the Cleveland-based Progressive Corporation, is one of the artist's most iconic works. The monumental painting, which depicts three African American children saluting the American flag in a suburban backyard on the Fourth of July, is on view now through March 27 in Gallery 229.

Marshall became known in the 1990s for his art works that invoke the grand traditions of history painting of 18th-century Europe. However, Marshall's work pointedly defies the genre's hallmark traits. Throughout his already forty-year career, Marshall has often depicted African American subjects—long absent from the traditional narratives of art history—in everyday settings that exude an otherworldly aura.

Also among other exhibits on view is "Pyramids and Sphinxes," which includes the Cleveland debut of what the museum calls "a stunning watercolor of the portal of the Temple of Edfu by John Frederick Lewis, a great master of Victorian English watercolor." Visitors can learn how pyramids and sphinxes became the Western world's vision of 19th century Egypt. (Now through Tuesday, May 24)

## Black Design Workers take 400 at Take 5

By R. I. Andrews  
EDITOR

Pechakucha Night was developed in Tokyo in 2003 as a social event for young designers to meet, network and display their work in public. It has now spread to nearly 900 cities around the world, and last month it featured several local African American designers, spanning a range of disciplines.

Hosted at Take 5 Rhythm and Jazz nightspot, the event drew a demographically mixed crowd of more than fifty people. In emergent fashion, the lineup featured a radically different group of presenters from those originally announced. Adlene Watson, the creative director at Mobius Grey LLC who doubles as the director of institutional advancement at the Museum of Contemporary Art, served as event emcee.

Presenters for the evening were Jamal Collins, an East Cleveland native and University of Akron grad who works as a visual communications

instructor for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland; Jason Miner of Burton Bell Carr, a real estate specialist whose design work went viral a few years ago; Jachinda Walker, a graphic artist, entrepreneur, and design activist now in grad school at Ohio State; Jordan Charles, self-described as an "architectural graphic novelist" who uses comics as a means to tell a narrative; and Tyjuan Swanson, an undergraduate architectural student at Kent State, and protégé of ACE mentioning program of the Construction Employers Association.

Perhaps the best-known presenter was independent filmmaker Robert Banks who teaches digital photography at NewBridge Arts and Technology Center. Banks, a graduate of the first class to finish Cleveland School of the Arts HS, has just completed his first feature film, "Paper Shadows", which he described as "transgressive".

The presenters followed the Pechakucha format where each had 20 slides displayed for 20 seconds apiece, giving them just a brisk six or seven minutes to convey their ideas. Pechakucha is a Japanese phrase for chitchat but the takeaways from the evening were quite substantive.



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# Valentine's Day for Book Lovers an Affair to Remember

Couples, families, singles, friends and readers of all sorts braved near frigid temperatures to meet and hear Cleveland authors Everett Prewitt, Lauren Cecile Iaka Judge Lauren Moore Siggers, Judge Michael John Ryan, and Alan Osi read from new or recently published works at the Martin Luther King Jr. branch of the Cleveland Public Library, on February 14.

The occasion was dubbed Valentine's Day for Book Lovers, the first event in what is envisioned as a series of movable gatherings sponsored by *The Real Deal Press*.

The Martin Luther King Jr. branch of co-sponsor Cleveland Public Library provided a perfect setting, with its gallery display of artwork by an array of local African American artists. The show is a staple of the Library's annual Black History Month observance.

Each author read from his or her work and responded to questions from the facilitators, Margaret Bernstein of WKYC-TV3, and her sidekick, voracious reader Madison Reid, of Summit County. Ryans book, *The Least*

*Likely: From the Housing Projects to the Courthouse* is a biographical account of his upbringing amidst a myriad of obstacles, and his triumphant

path to a productive life.

Judge Siggers' *Eyes Like Mine* is a fascinating historical romance novel set in the first half of the 20th century. She writes with Lauren Cecile as her *nom de plume*.

Everett Prewitt's *A Long Way Back* is his second novel, and is rooted in his personal experience as an Army officer in Vietnam. Prewitt, a real estate appraiser by trade, spoke earnestly about his path to becoming a writer later in life. His first novel, *Snake Walkers*, was set in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood, and achieved substantial literary acclaim.

Alan Osi's debut novel, *The Moonchild Sonatas*, is a riveting literary thriller. Ironically, it is the first publication of Smoke and Shadow Books, a creation of The Cleveland Writers Press, [clevelandwriterspress.com], an organization he profiled for *The Real Deal Press* in December 2014.

Both before and after the panel discussion, an appreciative crowd mingled with the authors, and enjoyed wine, Italian water, and a variety of edibles.

The next movable gathering is tentatively scheduled for May, and most likely will carry a political theme. Twitter followers of @realdealpress will be the first to know the details.



1. Everett Prewitt, author *A Long Way Back*.  
 2. Judge Lauren Moore Siggers. 3. L-R: *Real Deal Press* publisher R. T. Andrews, Madison Reid, Margaret Bernstein, with authors Judge Michael John Ryan, Alan Osi, Judge Lauren Moore Siggers, and Everett Prewitt.  
 4. Madison Reid, 9, of Summit County, co-facilitated the event with Margaret Bernstein of WKYC-TV3. 5. Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge Michael John Ryan. 6. Darian Heard, Gennomis Williams-Heard, and Margaret Bernstein. 7. Alan Osi, author, *The Moonchild Sonatas*, Movement No. 1. A Hunter's Moon. Photos by Handy O. Norris