



A Look at Those Who Give Black

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THE REAL DEAL PRESS

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This Week in Politics

Mason buzz, Fudge intrigue, First Energy bailout, Trump war dance

By R. T. Andrews
EDITOR

The buzz has continued around the announcement ten days ago that the former prosecutor Bill Mason is joining the administration of county executive Armond Budish as chief of staff, effective July 15. It's been a long time since Mason has played second fiddle to anyone. Given Budish's desperation, it is hard to imagine that Mason didn't seize the opportunity to extract significant concessions in terms of gaining a free hand to steer the ship. While a partnership is theoretically possible, it is hard to imagine an area — budget, management, appointments — where Mason won't be the driving force, and Budish merely the public face.

One of several unknowns in Mason's re-emergence is the role Congresswoman Marcia Fudge may have played, if any. She and Budish are friends and political allies, and it seems unlikely that Budish would have made such an out of the box move without consulting her.

Fudge has also been

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Quilting group weaves history, community, and family in Juneteenth celebration



Nearly 100 people turned out for the 2019 Juneteenth celebration at Shaker Heights Main Library on Van Aken Blvd. Photography by Lewis Burrell III.

BY LEWIS RICE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Nearly 100 people turned out to the Shaker Heights Main Library on June 19 for a simple yet sophisticated observance of the storied Juneteenth holiday.

Juneteenth, originally June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last enslaved people in America were freed. Although rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this,

actual emancipation did not come in Texas until June 19, almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. While its roots are in Texas, Juneteenth has come to symbolize the end of slavery and the beginning of freedom all over the United States.

The celebration in Shaker, presented by The African American Quilt and Doll Guild, was truly a family and community affair.

Program chair Dorothy Kellon, a retired Cleveland schoolteacher, invited Kenneth D. Hale, one of her former 3rd grade students from Iowa-Maple School, to deliver the keynote speaker. Hale's children, Kelton D. Hale and Kiera D. Hale, provided music for the occasion. And Amaya Dennis, granddaughter of Guild president Felicia Tinker, offered a recitation.

Hale's remarks gave a present-day context for Juneteenth.

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Former Clevelander returns home on a mission as new Cavs VP for Inclusion



Former Cleveland city councilman Zack Reed, new Cavs VP Kevin Clayton, Cavs broadcaster Campy Russell, and Al Mitchell, a vice president at Taylor Oswald, outside Blue, a new club in the Flats. Clayton was the featured guest at a meet-and-greet reception.

Former Clevelander Kevin Clayton has returned home after a series of world class professional experiences to join the Cleveland Cavaliers as vice president of diversity, inclusion and integrity. On Friday, he spoke to an array of public officials, business professionals and community leaders at True, a well-appointed new club in the Flats at the corner of Front and West Tenth.

Clayton told attendees that out of 150 professional sports teams, only four of them — all in the National Basketball Association — had positions similar to his. He said that he would be working to make his job one with real community impact.

Teresa Dews, M.D. to become new President of Euclid Hospital



Cleveland Clinic announced the promotion of Teresa E. Dews, M.D., as president of Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital, beginning July 15.

Dr. Dews is a graduate of the University of Toledo and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in anesthesiology and a pain management fellowship at Cleveland Clinic before joining the staff in 1993.

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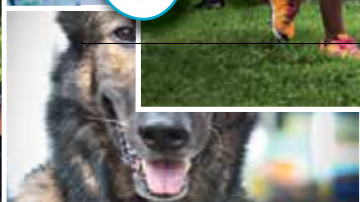
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instrumental in facilitating Mason's re-entry into the Democratic Party tent. Whatever negotiations have taken place between the two over the past several years has produced no tangible benefit to Cleveland's black community.

As we speak of the Congresswoman, we stumbled upon a clue to a riddle we had been pondering ever since she read a letter from a constituent on the House floor as she broke ranks with Speaker Pelosi and called for impeachment proceedings to begin. The letter came from Elder Ronald Williams of Mt. Zion Church in Highland Hills, a longtime Fudge friend and political ally. Both the letter's timing and tone seemed somewhat out of kilter, until we realized that its author is the father of the district director of Fudge's local office. Fudge's action drew national attention and widespread commentary. Had the relationship been disclosed between the letter writer and her office, the discussion could very well have taken a different tenor.

The performance of the 133rd session of the Ohio General Assembly has been quite fascinating to date. Party affiliation has not been its usual surefire predictor on a number of issues. Budget negotiations reflect some Democratic interests even though Republicans have super majorities in both chambers and the governorship. It seems the legislature will get to the finish line on the budget by the June 30 deadline with less contentiousness than in past years.

However, it is on HB 6, the so-called First Energy bailout bill, that party labels have been thrown out the window.

The Senate reportedly will vote on the measure this coming week. It passed the House by a vote of 53-43, with ten Democrats joining 43 Republicans. But 16 Republicans joined with 27 Democrats in voting against the bill.

Lobbyists have been spending money right and left to sway Senators, flooding the airwaves with ads that call out individual legislators by name. One of those targeted in the ads in Sandra Williams, D-21. She is reportedly considering a run for mayor of Cleveland in 2021. Her vote on this bill, which guts environmental protections and offers heavy subsidies for Ohio's troubled nuclear plants — and even an Indiana facility! — will have consequences for her career.

We expect Cuyahoga County's other state senators to be more predictable on this issue. The Republican Matt Dolan of Chagrin Falls could surprise with a no vote, but Kenny Yuko, the Minority Leader and Nickie Antonio we suspect are both likely to vote against the bill.

We don't talk much about the President. Trump intrudes on virtually every channel, which we find unhealthy. But he is acting especially dangerously these days, dancing on the precipice of warmongering on multiple fronts. The country has had no permanent secretary of defense for six months. Like everything else he does, the President makes even the possibility of war about him. His bluster is so clearly a sign of his neediness that even minor figures can jerk his chain, which unfortunately is too close to a nuclear button.

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QUOTE of the Week

"I always find it more difficult to say the things I mean than the things I don't."

— W. Somerset Maugham

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Karamu's Tony Sias saluted by National Council of Negro Women Cleveland



Clockwise from top left: Alice Bonner comes forward to receive Member Recognition award; Pasha Thomas, Kesha Owens, and Timeka Rashid; Cynthia Ausbrook and Dr. Tyffani Dent; Karamu CEO Tony Sias; and Delores McCollum and Lynne Bettis Colson.

The Cleveland Section National Council of Negro Women Inc. honored Karamu CEO and president Tony Sias at its annual Legacy Luncheon at the Cleveland Hilton Garden Inn in Mayfield Village on June 8. Michelle Felder emceed.

NCNW Cleveland recognized

Sias for his vision and commitment. Alice Bonner received the group's membership award for her generosity, enthusiasm and story-telling ability.

More than 200 guests enjoyed an early afternoon of fellowship which included a buffet and entertainment by Kevin Conwell

and Footprints. Portions of the day's proceeds will benefit the "Play It Forward Instrument Drive" in Cleveland, Ohio and the group's ongoing community outreach programs.

NCNW was founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune. She was succeeded by Dorothy

Height, who played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement and was the only woman considered on par with the established male leadership of the NAACP, National Urban League, Congress of Racial Equality, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, et al.

Health

New Dental Clinic Opens at Case Western Reserve University



The Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and Cleveland Clinic opened their new, larger dental clinic on campus here the first week in June. More easily accessed by patients, it will expand opportunities for education and

research, enhance the patient experience and support the health and wellbeing of Cleveland-area residents.

The three-story, 132,000-square-foot facility is the second building of the Health Education Campus, a joint effort

between Case Western Reserve and Cleveland Clinic designed to promote collaborative practice and lifelong learning among health care professionals. It is located directly across from the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion, which serves the more than 2,200 students in the university's nursing, dental and medical schools, with students from the social work school joining them for some classes as well.

Approximately 19,000 patients were treated at the clinic's previous facility each year. The new building, with its larger size and additional technology and equipment, will enable the clinic to serve more patients, perform more complex procedures and reduce the number of visits required to complete certain procedures.

The clinic includes procedure

spaces for general and specialty dentistry and dental surgery, support labs, clinical research environments, 3D computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) lab equipment, imaging equipment and central sterilization. Clinical spaces are designed to allow flexibility while maintaining patient confidentiality and privacy. Natural light is filtered throughout the building, further enhancing the patient experience.

The new building offers much easier access to patients. The previous facility was difficult to find, tucked among taller buildings and off the beaten path. The new facility, at 9601 Chester Ave. [44106], has a prominent presence with an adjacent parking lot and offers drop-off and pick-up at the front door.

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Community Calendar

Friday, June 28 at 7:30a-9:30a.



• The Christian Business League will recognize Melvin G. Pye Jr., president & CEO of Fairfax Place,

with its Trailblazer Tribute. The breakfast event will take place at Acacia Reservation, 26899 Cedar Rd. [44122].

Saturday, June 29 from 10a-6p.

• The 14th annual Ward 5 Community Family Festival, hosted by

Burten, Bell Carr Development Corp., takes place at 7320 Kinsman Rd. A parade will kick off at noon from East 79 Str. and Garden Valley Ave. and end near Anton Grdina School with a first prize award of \$750 at stake. Second and third place parade winners will receive \$500 and \$250, respectively.

Music will be provided by The Gospel Travelers, Ripp Flamez and Friends, Hubbs Groove and The Old Skool Players Band. The Distinguished Gentlemen of

Spoken Word will also perform. **Saturday, June 29 at 11a-1p** • Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity is offering a Health and Wellness Community Workshop at Fairhill Partners, 12200 Fairhill Rd. [44120]. Zumba, yoga, and Healthy Eating Demos will be among the offerings. RSVP to Jessica Morrison at jesscam@clevelandhabitat.org or 216.429.1299 ext. 239.

Saturday, June 29 from 1-3p.

• The Northeast Ohio Young

Black Democrats are hosting an awards program this Saturday at the Cle Urban Winery, 2180 Lee Rd., Cleveland Hts. [44118].

The organization will honor county chairwoman Shontel Brown, Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell, State Rep. Terrence Upchurch, The President's Award will be given to group member John D. Jackson, Jr. for his contributions to the club.

Community Bulletin Board

• **Karamu House is offering paid residencies for visual and performing artists this year.** Funded through a Cuyahoga Arts & Culture "Support for Artists" grant, the residencies are designed to empower artists by providing space and support at Karamu's theatre arts facility. Each resident will receive a stipend, workspace and support

from Karamu's technical staff. Application for the fellowship is open to Cleveland-based artists with demonstrated excellence in and commitment to their visual arts or performance-based work. Each selected Room in the House resident will receive a monetary stipend (\$5,000 – visual; \$3,000 – performing), and access for eight

weeks to space at Karamu House to create, work administratively, and show/perform. The next application deadline is August 16, 2019. Submissions received by that date will ONLY be considered for the September 30 residency start date. For more information, visit <https://karamuhouse.org/room-in-the-house-arts-residency>

For more information about Karamu House, visit www.karamuhouse.org. Learn more about Cuyahoga Arts & Culture at www.cacgrants.org.

• A new **Senior Chess Club** meets Fridays from noon-2p at Fairhill Partners, 12200 Fairhill Rd # D228 [44120]. All levels of play are welcome. 216.321.7000.

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Quilting group weaves history, community, and family

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Retired schoolteacher Mrs. Gloria Kellon connects with two of her former 3rd grade pupils, Kenneth D. Hale, rear left and architect Warren Richardson, and their children, along with Amaya Dennis, who offered a recitation at the Juneteenth celebration at Shaker Hts. Public Library. Kiera D. Hale is seated next to Mrs. Kellon. Standing, L-R: Kenneth D. Hale, an administrator at Cuyahoga Community College; Kelton D. Hale; Amaya Dennis; Warren Richardson; Akeisha Richardson; and Amariah Richardson. Lavita and Carl Ewing with Dr. Ruth Reese, at the Juneteenth celebration. Photography by Lewis Burrell III.

He discussed the price paid for freedom by the ancestors, who he described as *enslaved* African Americans, to emphasize that black people had a history that predated American slavery. And he said that emancipation could best be celebrated today by "honoring our ancestors, living our best lives, and demonstrating our excellence."

The entire program was a

conscious and explicit reference to the concept of Sankofa, a reaching back to understand the past, so as to reclaim that which is lost in order to move forward in wisdom.

The program also included a recitation of Maya Angelou's "And Still I Rise" by Judy Bateman of the Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, and a series of Freedom Quilt Stories from Guild members.

A Look at Those Who Give Black

BY **MONTRIE RUCKER**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Chantal Brown



Jowan Smith



Demetrius Williams



Logan Williams

The Soul of Philanthropy Cleveland (TSOP CLE) was established in conjunction with an exhibition, *Those Who Give Black*, opening this fall at the Cleveland History Center.

TSOP CLE tells the stories of giving, whether through time, talent or treasure.

Each month TSOP CLE highlights individuals or groups nominated by their peers for recognition in one of four categories: Hidden, Emerging, Young Adult or Youth Philanthropists. This article's featured nominees are Chantal Brown, Jowan Smith, Demetrius Williams and Logan Williams.

Category winners will be revealed on September 6 at the exhibition's opening reception.

Chantal Brown, nominated in the Youth Philanthropist category, is a Shaw HS senior and an integral member of the original Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice (EYEJ) Impact 25 Youth Council. The organization focuses on police/youth relationships, toxic stress and youth independence (life skills).

Chantal has spoken at many events including seminars for the Cleveland Police Foundation, written articles for *The Plain Dealer*, and spoken to Senator Sherrod Brown and his team about what youth are facing in Cleveland. Thoughtful and engaged, she knows how to tell a story that people can understand. She is not afraid to explain the issues and story of Cleveland youth to individuals at any level.

Jowan Smith, an Emerging Philanthropist nominee, noticed in raising her teenage son that there are many young men in the African American community who aren't learning male etiquette. She started 1000 Ties, an initiative that enlists male adult volunteers to teach young men etiquette and develops mentors in the process.

The first "1000 Ties" event aimed at reaching 125 young black males ages 7–20 was held February 23 at East HS. It featured Dr. Antoine Moss as keynote speaker, and included three workshops: How to Love Yourself, Male Etiquette and Why Wearing a Tie is Important and Cool. The young men learned how to tie a tie and were given three to take home. Over 3,000 ties were donated from various sites and individuals.

A licensed school psychologist facilitated a discussion on raising young men for the moms who accompanied their sons or volunteered for the event. The day ended with an open forum, with young men sharing their takeaways.

Young Philanthropist nominee **Demetrius Williams** was acknowledged for developing and imple-

menting a youth wrestling program for underprivileged youths in Cleveland's inner city, while in turn helping them learn how to take control of their lives. He teaches them how to break the downward cycle, teaching life skills, physical fitness, confidence, compassion, leadership and teamwork.

He planned, organized and assisted in funding a field trip to Earlham College in Indiana for youth students to participate in a week-long Iron Sharpens Iron wrestling camp. This opportunity exposed the children to the college environment, collegiate and semi-professional athletes as well as a diverse array of individuals with similar aspirations involved in wrestling.

Demetrius was inspired by his own personal growth in wrestling and his 5-year-old, (somewhat reclusive) nephew who is now one of the leaders of the wrestling program. Now in the fourth grade, his nephew is an active participant and has evolved in the sport. He is now confident, socially adept, physically fit and academically motivated.

Active in the community, Demetrius attends Cleveland City Council meetings to promote the program's success and goals; gives presentations at elementary schools;

meets with parents to share his aspirations and benefits; and attends Boys and Girls Clubs to speak with the children. He regularly distributes informative literature.

Eleven-year-old **Logan Williams**, a Youth Philanthropist nominee, addresses issues concerning homeless adults and children and children in foster care. She created a program called Blanket Blessings where she collected over 300 blankets to give to homeless adults, which she personally handed out. Her project is now a film that was shown at the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival. She keeps care bags in her Mom's car to give out at random to homeless people on the streets. Logan has chosen to celebrate her birthday by raising money and collecting items to give to homeless adults and children. She has collected over 60 gifts and \$200 in gift cards to give away to Laura's Home and the YMCA.

Children and adults look at Logan as an inspiration. She also performs in various plays by acting and dancing. She encourages the children in her school, her friends and family to do the right thing by helping others. Her actions reflect her kind heart.

For more information on the exhibition, visit www.tsopcle.com.

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