

# THE CAPITAL NEWS

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The Untold Stories

## Service Will be Rasheed's Focus as the Ward 7 Councilmember

## A Day of Peace in SE Art All Night DC 2019



By James Wright  
Special to the Capitol News

The well-being of Ward 7 is in the blood of Veda Rasheed and that is why she wants to represent it on the D.C. Council starting Jan. 1, 2021.

Rasheed, a lifelong Ward 7 resident, recently elevated her exploratory committee to a campaign and seeks to unseat D.C. Councilmember Vincent Gray (D-Ward 7). Rasheed said Gray may have an impressive resume as a for-

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By: Shelley Rice

Is art the cure for peace in the streets? Sitting in the Congress Heights Arts & Culture Center (CHACC), the spot marked on the Art of Chocolate City event day map as the Mixing Pot "Yes." "Not the only but definitely one," answered Mrs. Keyonna Jones, the Executive Director and branded Soufside Creative. As a native Washingtonian, Ms. Jones says art and the Art All Night (AAN) Street Festival is exactly what we need more of in our community. "It's a tool for expression, communication, creates a different perspective that allows people to see the same thing in different ways and opens up communication that may not be there. Even things like violence and the impact of violence, it's a way we can heal ourselves."

Take a look with me at a day of peace, the present, past, back to the present and future from continued on P2

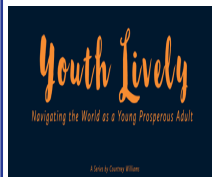
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# THE CAPITAL NEWS

## THE UNTOLD STORIES

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### A Day of Peace AAN continued from pg. 1

a Congress Heights perspective.

Art All Night 2019 Street DC Festival presented by Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) in partnership with Destination Congress Heights was held, Saturday September 14, 2019. For the 3rd year, Destination Congress Heights was adopted as one of eight main streets across the city to host this cultural showcase. Each neighborhood planned to present eight hours of family-friendly opportunities to engage with visual art by also supporting community through local businesses and vendors from 7p.m. to 3a.m. Registration was free. One of the lead event organizers of Destination Congress Heights, Ms. Monica Ray, says, this year's event was strategically planned to celebrate the diverse culture of Ward 8's Chocolate City, appropriately themed The Art of Chocolate City – Homecoming.

The 2019 city sponsored neighborhood Main Streets programs included:

- Congress Heights – 3rd year, 10 venues, Art of Chocolate City, Ward 8
- Dupont Circle – 6th year, 22 venues, Art All Night Dupont, Ward 2
- Minnesota Avenue – 1st year, 4 venues, Swinging in the Streets, Ward 7
- Shaw – 8th year, 23 venues, Shawtastic-Voyage, Wards 1, 2, and 6
- Deanwood Heights – 1st year - Art All Night Deanwood, Ward 7
- H Street NE – 12 venues, Art All Night on H, Ward 6
- North Capitol - 5 venues, Visual Candy Good and Plenty, Ward 5
- Tenleytown, 19 activated venues

Visual Candy and a taste for the senses were used to describe the live music, fire-breathers, silent discos, sculptors, muralists, fashion bazaar, street performers, circus spinners, lions and dinosaurs planned for participants attending across the DC streets. North Capital Main Street presented with an all-new lineup in the spirit of “Piccadilly Circus.” Deanwood Heights and Minnesota Avenue Main Street both celebrated Ward 7's rich historic and artistic traditions in its first Art All Night, of-

fering free shuttles, 7pm – 12am with stops at various locations including, the Streetcar Stop at 15th and Benning Rd, Dorothy Heights Library, Minnesota Ave Subway Station and the Marvin Greening Center.

The Art All Night DC Festival origins stem from Paris and is said to have been a rendition of the overnight festival of arts and culture, the Nuit Blanche, created in 2002. Because of the events' resounding success, it quickly expanded across the globe to Singapore, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, to the US in Minneapolis, Pittsburgh and our very own, District of Columbia.

As reported through the Art All Night Dupont website, Art All Night: Nuit Blanche DC, was first curated in 2011 by Ariana Austin and Alexander Padro with a team of volunteers of the Shaw Main Streets. Funded with a grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities it exceeded all expectations and attracted 15,000 attendees. A Taste of Art All Night followed in 2012 in the Penn Quarter and in 2013, Shaw Main Streets brought back the full festival, with the DSLBD joining its sponsors. Unprecedented attention and reported all-time record sales rewarded DC metropolitan area's art scene. Live indoor and outdoor musical performances and art installations presented itself in vacant commercial spaces and warehouses, libraries, recreation centers, parks and in theaters and art galleries. In 2014 and in 2015, the festival expanded to include four other DC Main Streets organizations: Congress Heights, Dupont Circle, H Street, and North Capitol, in addition to Shaw. In 2016, the event grew to seven participating Main Streets organizations and was rebranded as Art All Night: Made in DC. The expanded showcase attracted attention from both new and traditional media and it drew an estimated 50,000 participants from throughout the metropolitan area and beyond.

With attendance growing to reported 16,000 in southeast in 2019, I wonder if they also imagined the opportunity to include a pilot to cultivating peace, for at least one night, free of gun-shot alerts?

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**A Day of Peace AAN continued from pg. 2**

Sadly, in Ward 8, violence and gun shots have residents on a constant state of caution because of the now over 100 murders, but on this night, current and former residents flooded, the familiar yet slowly developing MLK Jr Ave SE, with no reported calls to the Metropolitan Police Department. Many diverse newcomers helped to create a vibration where all were welcomed to explore and take in the cultures art in music, food, fashion and family. The need for diversity drives planners to take advantage of opportunities to recruit new people into the AAN recipe.

Washington Gas joined corporate sponsors in providing for a one of kind experience. Ray says, in emerging neighborhoods like CH that don't have the benefit of big-name sponsors, planning this event that cost about \$100K is a grass roots effort. Thankful to new and sustaining sponsors that step up each year, Monumental Sports, Events DC, CHACC who see need for additional avenues to businesses who want to pitch their product to 16,000 people and to help us continue to build community.

Highlighting over one hundred participating creators, 50 artists, no murders, no over-policing, there is certainly proof of a co-relation to positive activity and reduction in crime. AAN DC the Art of Chocolate City impact is multifold and its metrics speak for itself. The first layer, builds community. Then, the attraction abolishes the perception from people who don't know what we look, sound or act like in SE. Visitors transition from "Am I going to be safe? to by the end of the night "I'm coming back next weekend!" Another layer is the opportunity to highlight the many creatives that exists in the neighborhood. In this corridor, Go-Go music is celebrated in a way that hasn't happened in a long time because it's where go-go started, many of the most popular bands and members started and grew up in Ward 8. Celebrating the importance of where the city's go-go culture come from was powerful!

When asked on her perspective of best moments Ray noted so many highlights! Top moments between the 10 venues activated the night included the Fashion Show, her favorite DJ, and the midnight brunch. "I'm proud

of the young people!" To see young girls and boys strutting with confidence, engaged, actively contributing and having fun. We recognize and we pour into this generation who are literally the future. And the Midnight brunch "where we came together to share food, music and art."

The Congress Heights Community Association hosted the 38th Annual Congress Heights Day Parade culminating with Art All Night – Soul of the City and kicked off the day at 4pm. The resounding mighty Ballou Marching Band led the procession from Ballou High school with many other local groups, ANC commissioners, council members, faith-based organizations, Mr. & Mrs. Congress Heights. Participants proudly marched up Martin Luther King Jr's busy avenue to the end of the 2700 block. And just as the parade began with a bang (not from gun shots) the street festival continued with Art All Night at 6:30pm through 3am Sunday morning.

The event street space extended from Milwaukee Place at the gateway of the pavilion down to 4th street, so that it covered the entire Main Street. Planners heard from visitors last year that it was a little too spread out having to walk from UPO Petey Greene to CHACC. Taking feedback into consideration, space was compressed but organizers say they still have the ability to grow within the compressed space. Improvements can be made by becoming more diverse with recruiting from the artists base, to performing arts as well as sponsors.

From the Art of Women to Women in the Arts, there was a common theme assuring guests women would be represented among artists and vendors cross the city not only in Congress Heights. Keyonna Jones agrees this was an epic year! BOOMscat was on the rooftop with the sunset behind them, a two-woman group in the city who've gotten a lot of recognition for their artistry and how vocal they are on social issues. In the Art Garden venue, the Chocolate City Experience Pop Up, brought back from the Last Bite of Chocolate City? Photography exhibition by Dee Dwyer that paired with the weekend of bringing back the black neighborhood experience in July "was lit." There were horse rides (which

was Ms. Jones mode of transportation in the parade), beat your feet live dancers quintessential of the DC culture, double-dutch and a bunch of resources.

CHACC became involved when CH was activated into AAN. The first year, the desire was a vomit of art in any fashion, whether music, visual, sculpture, dance with a matched vision to put everything in one space and spread it out. In the 2nd year, concentrating on perfecting and activating more art in double the space. This year, junior year, was perfecting the flow, communications and logistics behind the scenes. Project Create now a part of ward 8 and the Phillips Collection, originally a private institution in Dupont that's now in space at the Arc, activated workshops. The silent disco is always a big hit!

Keyonna revealed her passion and bid for next year's theme since this year was Homecoming to be Graduation, 3rd times the charm but the 4th year should be mind-blowing! Jones ended in gratitude and a note "Thanks to everyone that came out, we had a good time, it's always beautiful to have an event that is incident free. Big Kudos to all the artists, participating is no easy undertaking with the number of hours, preparing inventory, showing your products and services and sharing energy with the public.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) provided safety perspective data on number of attendees. For the most part MPD Officers working shared in the celebration and allowed people to have fun, didn't harass, even people doing things that could have been harassed for. MPD has been notably consistent each year, allowing people to enjoy themselves and not feel over policed.

Rumors of violence were heard, and said to not have been reported because of the "code of SE streets" but these are simply that, rumors. Ray responded with the fact, Friday evening at 3:45 pm there was an MPD alert that 3 teenagers were shot on Parkland Place, right in the heart of CH main street. There was not another MPD alert ward wide until Sunday at 5:30pm for a shooting in Bellevue. This could

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Ghana Homecoming continued from pg. 1

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Ghana Homecoming continued from pg. 4

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# Where Do We Go from Here?

**Author: Howard Brand**  
**Special to the Capital News**

Thank you Mr. Johnson for your article “The Knowledge Garden” in the July issue of Capital News. As you say, things look quite dismal in regard to wealth, opportunity, and quality of life of Black workers—but this is also the case, when we look closely, for a large segment of the overall population of our country. The question I see is where do we want to go and how can we change the situation? It is quite clear to me that the current ruling class has no intention of giving up their ruling position without a concerted fight. The ruling elite (the capitalist class or rich people as a class, not individually) have fought throughout the history of its existence—about 350 years, for its ruling position. I think the choice for us is this:

## Parity or Emancipation?

Parity is the acceptance of the current system as long as the distribution of wealth is approximately the same for all races and ethnic groups. What would this mean? Using the analysis “Income Percentile by Race Calculator for 2018”<sup>1</sup>the following is presented.

Total number workers:  
 White (not Hispanic or Latino)- 109,140,758  
 Black - 20,396,139  
 Hispanic or Latino any race -29,900,624

From this study we can find the number of workers in various income brackets:

Number of Workers		White		Black		Hispanic or Latino
Income bracket	%	White	%	Black	%	Hispanic or Latino
\$						
0-10,000	11	12,005,488	16	3,263,382	16	4,784,100
10,000-20,000	10	10,914,075	15	3,059,420	18	5,382,112
20,000-30,000	12	13,096,891	17	3,467,343	20	5,980,125
30,000-40,000	12	13,096,891	14	2,855,459	14	4,186,087

Twenty thousand dollars income per year is usually considered a poverty existence, with an extremely restricted quality of life. There were approximately 40 million workers living on an income between zero and 20 thousand dollars per year in 2017. If we accept parity for the races this figure would change and assuming the same percentage for all races as the White percentage there would be still approximately 34 million workers, in the groups considered here, living on 20 thousand dollars or less per year. Of course I assume that the workers who moved out of this group have moved to a higher group and not gone into negativity. Also we should note that 16% of the white workers in 2017 earned more than \$100,000/year, versus 7% for Black, and 5% for Hispanic or Latino. This turns out to be 20,385,283 workers from the above groups earning over \$100,000. per year.

## Achieving Parity

Proposals for achieving parity usually involve revising regressive tax codes to more progressive codes—favoring people on the lower end of the income brackets and taxing the upper end of the income brackets to pay for social benefits. This is what is being done in many European countries that are commonly characterized as social welfare states. Bernie Sanders and other Democratic Socialists espouse this view. Sanders has proposed a tax on securities trading of 0.5% to cover various social benefits such as health care for all and educational spending. This concept is not bad but it neglects the fact that the capitalist class controls the political, financial, and industrial production systems, and possesses the overall wealth of the country. This means that the tax laws even if initiated could be changed at any time as has been done in the past and is currently being done with international treaties.

So the question is can we trust the capitalist class to maintain support for social benefits that attempt to achieve economic parity? I think not! The capitalist class through its control of property and wealth is able, without democratic controls, to determine the details of industrial production. Detroit 40 years ago was one of the richest industrial cities in the world and its working class had achieved a relatively high standard of living. The owners of the production enterprises in Detroit decided to move their production facilities to other locations and abandon Detroit and now Detroit is one of the poorest major cities in the US. The wealth lost by the working class of Detroit is probably greater than the wealth gained by upper class in making the move, but the capitalist class has significantly increased its wealth!

Has the working class increased its wealth? There was and is no democratic process in the US to control the capitalists’ investment and production process to benefit all of society. When capitalists speak of democracy they mean the unfettered freedom of capitalists to do whatever they want with their capital. A more egalitarian system would have a democratic system that represented a broad spectrum of the people living in the region, county, and country and have some control over the economy including industrial production. Currently the capitalist class controls the financial, industrial and military systems. Because of the enormous wealth of the US this financial control extends to the world at large and allows the US to use mafia tactics in an attempt to control foreign economies. This necessitates democratic control of the banking and financial systems to the benefit of all people in the world.

## Emancipation

Emancipation is any effort to procure economic and social rights, political rights or equality for all people. What does this mean for people? It means the ability to live a life free of want and deprivation, with adequate housing, nutrition, health care,





Rasheed Ward 7 continued from pg. 1

mer District mayor and chairman of the D.C. Council, but when it comes to serving Ward 7 residents, he comes up short.

“It is time for leadership that views the job of Ward 7 councilmember as a public service, an honored duty, a sacred trust,” Rasheed said. “It is time for leadership that believes again. It’s time for leadership that we can believe in again.”

“For example, we have known for decades that we have needed a new hospital east of the Anacostia River. And now it is going to take 2-3 years to get another hospital.

That doesn’t seem reasonable to me and it isn’t fair to the residents of Ward 7.”

Rasheed said Gray’s action on the Skyland Town Center development is encouraging “but that was supposed to happen 10 years

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Rasheed Ward 7 continued from pg. 8

ago". She said economic development needs to take place around the Capitol Gateway project as well as the ward itself "and that hasn't taken place".

While Rasheed has personal respect for Gray, she makes it clear that it is time for change.

"The old ways aren't working," she said. "There is a saying that if you keep doing the same thing over and over and expect a different result, that is the definition of insanity and that is what we have now."

Rasheed is a graduate of Eastern High School and holds a bachelor's degree from Bowie State University and a juris doctorate from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University. She has worked as a clerk to the chief judge of the D.C. Superior Court and most recently advanced the community engagement efforts of D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine (D).

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) appointed Rasheed to the Mayor's Commission on African American Affairs.

In the ward, she has been chairman of the Ward 7 Young Democrats, Ward 7 Parent Leader for My School D.C. Advisory Council, and as a Ward 7 Pave Parent Representative. In Nov. 2018, the voters of single-member district 7E01 advisory neighborhood commission elected her as its representative.

As an attorney, she decided not to work for a large law firm "making lots of money working 80-hour weeks".

"I have helped set up expungement fair for returning citizens and successfully got the cooperation of D.C. Public Defender Service attorneys and Criminal Justice Act attorneys who worked pro bono," Rasheed said. "I have also helped others dealing with family law issues, too."

On the council, Rasheed wants to improve Ward 7 schools "so our students don't have to travel across the river to get a good education" and help more residents become homeowners.

She wants to represent all of the ward's 23 neighborhoods, whether they be upper middle-class Hillcrest, working-class Marshall Heights or gentrifying Deanwood.

"It doesn't matter what neighborhood we live in, we are all one ward," Rasheed said. ■

## A Call for Action: Unity and Development



By: Phinis Jones

With change, comes reflection. Take a look back in time, a throwback, what millennials coin the notion, at a piece written and published in the Ward 8 Wrap Up, 1975. As I read the article titled "Unity", I asked myself what has changed? Violence plagued our neighborhoods then and still today. Here's a reiteration and a call of action for unity and development in African American communities.

### PHINIS JONES Speaks

#### 'UNITY'

Since the beginning of American history, Americans have been known for being a conscious revolutionary group of people who will take a stand on a given issue and fight for a cause. The mid and late sixties brought about a drastic long awaited change in race relations while young and old men and women spoke out against a war which, to them, had no cause. Americans can break the threads of tradition and people can and must unite for various reasons.

Change can come to a united group of people. Unity is the tool by which change can be affected. Blacks have used it for centuries to gain the amount of equality that many of us maintain today. (It is important to note, however, that the point can definitely be made that the level of equality does not equal what white America enjoys). We must continue to unite so that we can secure the equality and justice that we deserve as the working back bone that built this country into the empire it is today.

We Blacks must continue to unite and pledge ourselves to creating within ourselves the political machine which can tear down the old racist iniquities that have surrounded us all and force the construction of fair non-partisan treatment for every American regardless of his race, creed or color. When I think of Black machinery, my mind automatically reflects on

the deadly political machine that grew out of the pinned up emotions which burst into the streets of practically every major city in this country seven years ago. I'm not saying that I condoned all of the events that took place during those turbulent weeks, but I can applaud the Black unity which was so profound.

It is moreover, most unfortunate that a hand full of Blacks have fallen along the muddy, tainted road and fail to see the handicap that their actions place all of us in. They choose to allow themselves to become a part of our struggle and they have resorted to Black on Black crime. Nothing could be, in the face of light, more detrimental to the cause--the cause of uniting to free ourselves up from oppression. As a people, we must not be failures.

My definition for failure is: One who never puts things over because he is always putting things off. ■

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## Kingdom Care Senior Village Members' Thank You Testimonies

Kingdom Care Senior Village (KCSV) is a member-based organization of adults (60 years and older) residing in the Washington, DC area. KCSV is unique in that we are a community that's a family. KCSV is diligent in seeking ways to develop new ideas, resources, workshops and unique events to enhance the life of Village members.

KCSV is pleased to have the continued support of the Department of Aging and Community Living (DAACL, formerly DCOA). Director Laura Newland and DAACL have been instrumental in helping KCSV to continue to provide services to our members. Thank you, DAACL!

KCSV strives diligently to meet the need(s) of our members with love, phone check-ins, visits, activities, and limited transportation. The members receive transportation to and from events and activities by volunteer drivers. Also, each month, members can shop in the KCSV pantry, receiving frozen meats and other staples donated by Giant and the Capital Area Food Bank.

Listed below are a few of many thank-you testimonies members have sent to KCSV by cards, notes, or emails:

*"Making a donation. Thanks for appreciation for some of the things the village has done for me. Thanks again!" ~ Barbara H.*

*"Thank you for attending my husband's wake/ funeral. It meant a lot to me. I really need the support. Thank you!" ~ Florence M.*

*"Thank you for your wonderful support and assistance." ~ Phyllis J.*

*"I am honored and very proud to be a member of Kingdom Care Senior Village. I was welcome with all of my faults, with a smile and a warm hug. These words are flowers to you. Please know that you have made a positive difference in my life. Much Love Always" ~ Marion H.*

*"I just wanted to say thank you to Kingdom Care Senior Village for providing opportunities to meet other seniors of the group. I always enjoy myself and have a great time sharing experiences and fellowship. Thanks so much I Love my Village!" ~ Debora R.*

Kingdom Care Senior Village is located at 814 Alabama Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20032. You can find additional information about KCSV, complete a membership application or make a donation on our website: [www.KingdomCareVillage.org](http://www.KingdomCareVillage.org).

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## What is really behind the crisis in Haiti?

Decades of neoliberalism, neocolonialism and now climate injustice have pushed Haiti to the brink



People march in Cite Soleil area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti during a protest to demand the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse [Chandan Khanna/AFP]

By:Keyston K. Perry

For months now, Haiti has been shaken by intensifying protests. A deepening economic crisis and growing fuel and food shortages have sent people to the streets demanding the resignation of US-backed President Jovenel Moïse, who has so far resisted stepping down.

The crisis started last year and was compounded by natural disasters that have repeatedly devastated the island nation. Hurricanes destroyed housing, food production, livelihoods and infrastructure and a severe drought dried up the island's water resources.

While international media has focused on a familiar story of corruption and mismanagement, what lies beneath this debilitating crisis is much more serious - a deadly combination of neocolonialism, neoliberalism and climate injustice. Indeed, what is happening now in Haiti is extreme and should scare us all, as it foreshadows what could happen to the rest of the planet if we do not take immediate action.

### Petrocaribe and the fuel crisis

In January 2006, Haiti joined the Venezuelan solidarity program Petrocaribe, which supplied it with oil under favorable terms. The country was able to buy 60,000 barrels a day at a discounted price, with half the costs repayable over 25 years at a one-percent interest rate in cash, or in exchange for goods Haiti exported.

This was supposed to free up resources for economic development initiatives in infrastructure and boost agricultural production. However, large-scale corruption swallowed billions of dollars of profit the program earned the government, while at the same time amassing a growing debt to Venezuela.

With the Venezuelan economy in tatters, Caracas had to stop oil shipments in March 2018, which triggered fuel shortages in Haiti. The crisis was compounded by the government's move in July that year to remove energy sub-

sidies, which increased fuel prices by more than 50 percent.

The decision was taken under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, which promised a \$96m financial loan package to help the country repay its debt, and the G20 and international agencies, which have been calling for an end to fuel subsidies. The move also reflected Haiti's policy commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 31 percent by 2030.

The cut off of oil supplies through the Petrocaribe program also forced the Haitian government to turn to the global market - in particular, US-based energy supplier Novum Energy Corp - to supply fuel. As the government has fallen further into debt - now owing some \$130m to fuel suppliers - shortages worsened.

### Much-needed fuel subsidies

By succumbing to international pressure to cut subsidies, the Haitian government accommodated foreign agendas but endangered the survival of its own population. The country produces just 0.02 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and yet its people are paying a disproportionate price for abiding by international financial standards and emission controls.

Fuel subsidies amounted to just 2.2 percent of Haiti's GDP and were one way in which the government was able to support impoverished citizens, still struggling after the massive 2010 earthquake and the consequences of yearly natural disasters.

After the recent hurricanes, many communities were left off the grid and fuel has been badly needed to run electricity generators. The economy of the country has also been devastated, with most people employed in the informal sector and highly dependent on having access to cheaper fuel.

Indeed, these energy subsidies were providing much-needed support to over 6 million impoverished Haitians who lived on \$2.41 a day



# Youth Lively

*Navigating the World as a Young Prosperous Adult*

## My Best Friend, the White Girl: My Unexpected Friendship at my HBCU

**Author: series by Courtney Williams**

For as long as I can remember I have been surrounded by white people. I grew up in a part of Northern Virginia where the population of African Americans like myself only made up about ten percent of my high school. This was actually an improvement from my childhood where the number was only three percent; same area, just a change in demographics. Yet, despite this change, I still found myself in many instances where I was the only one. If I wasn't the only black person, I was usually the only black girl. My friend groups, though mostly Asian, were still not black. Even my first boyfriend; my 'lil friend' as many black moms would say (including my own), was a white boy. He was mixed with Irish and German and was pretty much the definition of a white boy. So where did that leave my young black self?

By the time I graduated high school, I swore that I was not going to be the only one at least for a little while. I started setting my sights on HBCUs: historically black colleges and universities. This wasn't something I realized at first; however, in my time of growing hate crimes and white supremacist demonstrations, I quickly adopted the idea of going to a predominantly black school. Attending white schools all my life apparently gave people the impression that I would somehow be 'eaten alive' at an HBCU. I can't describe how many people were afraid for me. I will admit I was nervous too but I had never really had black friends and I was actually looking forward to the idea of seeing people who looked like me.

Fast forward a few months later, I received my acceptance to Howard University in DC; one of the best HBCUs. I was ready for col-

lege. I had done all of my research, had packed all of my bags and was ready to embrace all of the beautiful black faces I had seen on 'Accepted Students Day'. About a month before I was set to move in, I remember seeing a girl recommended on my social media. By her profile picture and bio, I could tell three things. One: her name was Brittney and she was also an incoming freshman. Two: we had the same major. Three: to my surprise she was a white girl. I did think it was a little odd at first for a white girl to just come to an HBCU without any sort of financial or athletic incentive but I brushed that off. I didn't know it then but Brittney would end up becoming one of my closest friends.

Brittney is someone that I would describe as a right-hand man. As a right-handed person this means to me that without someone like her I would not have been able to operate efficiently on our campus. I had a group of black friends and I still have black friends but the person I spend the most time with is Brittney. When I look at it, it's ironic how I came to an HBCU specifically to have black friends yet one of my closest of friends ended up being a white girl. The situation was so ironic that I used to ask myself why we were friends. Was I just drawn to white people after all this time? Was it inner self-hatred? Was it a lack of confidence to branch out? I was searching for a complex answer to a very simple question. It had nothing to do with me being black or her being white. The simple answer was that I was friends with Brittney because she was friends with me.

You see, growing up I had a lot of friends but I was not very close with many people. After going through my own friendship drama, she

was always the person that I leaned on for emotional support. She was there even when I truly believed that no one would want to be around me because I had nothing to offer. Brittney helped me overcome a lot of self-doubt and anxiety. She also taught me something very important about interpersonal relationships: The people that you are 'supposed' to be friends with are the ones that accept you for who you are.

Do I sometimes wish we could relate on struggles like hair and skin tone and other black issues? Absolutely. But like all relationships, our friendship was built off of respect and an agreement to try and understand the things that we couldn't. The truth is that any relationship is a give and take. In theory you should get out of it what you put in, but of course the world doesn't work like that. Most people inevitably find themselves in a relationship where they give too much to someone that lacks consideration for them. I too am guilty of this; giving my all for someone who didn't need me until they needed something from me. It's the worst. It makes you feel used, stupid, unworthy. Overtime, you feel like maybe there's just something wrong with you and that people just don't like you. I get it, I've been there. Many times.

When you have someone who accepts your past, appreciates your present, and is routing for your future; hold on to them. I've seen a lot of friendships end over silly external things such as race. Brittney and I's friendship might end but if there's one thing I do know, it will never be for that reason. If you're lucky enough to find someone who takes the time to understand you, the real you, nothing on

**continued on pg. 15**



**Youth Living continued from pg. 14**

the outside should ever change that. I repeat; nothing.

I've seen so many people develop friendships on the shallowest of bases. Whether it be looks or popularity or money or whatever it is. There can be so much emphasis on what we think we should have versus what we need. We need people who give the best of them so they can see the best in us. That's what's important at the end of the day, right? So I try to ask people; if you judged someone for what's on the inside rather than what's on the outside, would they look the same to you?

**Where do we go? continued from pg. 7**

and education. That would provide people the opportunity to achieve their full potential in society along with the time to actively engage in cultural activities that give them pleasure. I have been in only one country (China) where several people told me on different occasions "Do you know what we think—we think that all people should have a good life—and we don't mean just Chinese people, but all people in the world." This is the objective of emancipation—a formidable task that can only be approached through a process of continuous trials and extensive scientific experimentation, since there is no known path.

With this objective in mind, what is necessary in our country in order to initiate a process that will achieve this goal some time in the distant future? Is it possible that the current leadership will open a path to achieve this goal? That's highly unlikely. In order to proceed in some way toward emancipation the leadership must have it as its goal, and the current elite clearly does not. A leadership that does have this as a goal must attempt to control the financial system, large industry, and the military in some democratic way. This calls for a change in the paradigm of our political and economic systems. Xi Jinping in discussing the difference in the origin of the Chinese government and the Western governments said that the Western capitalist governments originated with the overthrow of feudalism

by the business people (bourgeois) and are still primarily responsible to the business people whereas the Chinese Marxist government came into existence with the overthrow of feudalists, colonialists, and capitalists by the workers and peasants and so is responsible to the workers and peasants.

We also must have a change in leadership whose objective is a good life for all people. The first step is to develop a leadership with that objective and for that we need a revolutionary party that is committed to scientific methods to change reality. In addition, a massive popular demand must arise in the general population. The revolutionary leadership must have the ability to secure the support of the majority of the population. With this democratic leadership, and with the oversight of the people, decisions would hopefully be made that benefited the broad population of people and not a select few. We need a revolutionary party!

1. "Income Percentile by Race Calculator for 2018," DQYDJ(<https://dqydj.com/income-percentile-by-race-calculator>)

You may contact me@  
hbrand566@aol.com

**A Day of Peace AAN rom pg. 14**

be purely incidental but AAN created positive opportunities and reduced crime without the fake sense of safety and not treating people well getting patted down, having to walk through metal detectors and have your bags checked for entry. Some people don't attend events for these reasons.

Like most attending, I walked the streets that night with some but little concern for safety in what natives call old "stomping grounds." Rather than petty arguments, greetings from family, friends, former neighbors and classmates filled the night. Residents brought folding chairs with hopes of a central spot and a view of the Main or Street Artists Stage. Seniors sprawled across Brighter Day Ministries front steps while in the Food Garden, food vendors from vegan to fish to barbecue, lines were long and the only screams heard were

of excitement and fun from the Art of Fashion Stage audience. Near the Homecoming main stage Go-Go tribute "Southeast" ignited the electric screams in response to the call "Where ya'll from?"

Ray disputed any claims and rumors and stated "By all accounts, there were 16, 000 people in a 3-block radius with no pat downs, no metal detectors, drinking, probably smoking and maybe other illicit drugs, the same amount of poverty from the night before, but no one got killed. That's the facts" We didn't check any backpacks, you could have had the biggest bag you wanted. You would think that putting that many people in a compressed neighborhood would be a recipe for disaster, and yet it wasn't. Art is community development and community development is art!

For those that think the festival has now outgrown MLK Ave, both Ray and Jones remarked "Absolutely not, this IS a street festival". Complaints about activity and street closures, people may not understand that the art and celebration and party are accessories to what the event is about. The event is really about bringing visitors to the commercial corridor. Some retailers who sold out of product for the very first time ever compare "like H Street, Adams Morgan Day and other festivals police close roads and have the stretch of the neighborhood to do that".

Looking into the future, Ray asks "How do we work more collaboratively with MPD and SOD and local security partners to reduce some of the risks?" Some logistical, marketing and public relations protocols in place are out of local control. With better support, the CH corridor can continue to showcase a safe and enjoyable event that builds the neighborhood. One action, in improved public relations is having radio stations announce closures so people planning to attend and neighborhood residents know what to expect.

If nothing else, the thought or better yet the expectation of a day of peace, should have creators, sponsors and residents excited. Mark your calendars and get involved for an ever-evolving showcase of art, development and peace, next year 2020!



**Haiti continued from pg. 13**

Since mid-2018, the crisis has progressively gotten worse and, recently, protests against the government have intensified.

It is clear to anyone who visits Haiti today that austerity measures and “free market” forces cannot resolve the problems of a country facing the worst effects of climate change, government dysfunction, donor corruption, and a never-ending debt crisis.

At the same time, despite making efforts to divest from fossil fuels and despite being ranked among the top three countries most vulnerable to climate change, Haiti has struggled with climate action; its efforts lack focus and are mostly driven by international donors.

For example, according to research I did last year, the country is struggling to access finance allocated through global initiatives like the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Bureaucratic barriers and onerous criteria are making it almost impossible for the government to tap into these resources.

This has prevented the country from building its climate resilience and, now, with every natural disaster that strikes, it has to rely on short-term handouts by international aid agencies to manage its consequences.

**Neocolonialism in a time of climate change**

The Haitian crisis is very much the product of the toxic combination of colonialism, neoliberalism and an unjust approach to tackling climate change.

The environmental degradation, which is exacerbated with each drought and hurricane season, goes back to French colonial rule over Haiti when land and forests were abused, rendering large swathes of the country barren and infertile.

After Haiti managed to liberate itself from French colonial rule in the early 19th century, it fell within the growing US sphere of influence and has been unable to set itself free ever since. The US not only occupied the country

for nearly two decades and repeatedly interfered in its affairs, but today it is also supporting a highly unpopular president whose resignation protesters continue to demand.

While preventing the Haitian people from holding their politicians accountable and fighting corruption, Washington has also been imposing neoliberal policies on the country, which have fed into its economic crisis.

The US approach to the Haitian economy has been predominantly extractive. The country has an estimated \$2bn of mineral deposits exploited mostly by US and Canadian corporations.

**It is time for climate justice**

It is time the world starts paying attention to what is going on in Haiti because its crisis illustrates what would happen to the rest of the world if neoliberal and neocolonial policies continue to dominate the global economy.

Haitians have now woken up to the idea that US-styled free-market economics will only worsen its mounting crisis in the face of climate change and underdevelopment.

They have been fighting back on their own, fully aware that their domestic elites will not address their concerns and are only able to remain in power because of US intervention.

Up to this point, the international climate action movement has completely ignored what has been going on in Haiti. While calls for a global green new deal are commendable, they cannot disregard the continuous climate injustice befalling places like Haiti.

If it is indeed going to be a “new” deal, then it cannot follow the paternalistic “we know what is best for you” approach. It needs to account for realities on the ground in the Global South, so it does not cause more harm than good.

A transition to a new energy system can only be successful if it acknowledges the power the Global North still has over the South and the need for climate justice.

Climate action can only bring about a new, sustainable status quo if it recognizes the agency and experience of developing countries and indigenous, working-class and peasant movements, and builds upon this knowledge.

In Haiti, support has to be extended to black working-class Haitians, who constitute the majority of the population, and their basic needs met. Popular protests and their demands have to be backed and an accountability process facilitated.

The country also needs significant no-strings-attached investment carried out under anti-corruption scrutiny to help pull its economy away from extractivism and resource-export dependence and put it on a course towards green development. Only then can the process of building climate resilience start under the leadership of Haitians themselves.

Indeed, Haiti will be the first big test for the transnational climate justice movement. If it fails to deliver climate justice to the Haitians, then its global green new deal is doomed to failure

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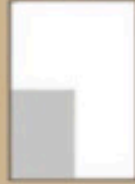



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# Religious Corner

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Allen Chapel A.M.E.Church  
Rev. Dr. Michael E. Bell, Sr., Pastor  
2498 Alabama Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 889-3296

“The Cathedral of Southeast DC”  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:15am  
[www.acamec.org](http://www.acamec.org)

“Teaching God’s Word and Serving God’s Word”  
Brighter Day Ministries  
Rev. Ernest D. Lyles Sr., Senior Pastor  
One Church in Multiple Locations”  
Visit our website: @  
[www.brighterdayministriesdc.org](http://www.brighterdayministriesdc.org)

A.P. Shaw Campus  
2525 12th Place, SE,  
Washington, DC 20020  
11am Sunday Worship

Congress Heights Campus  
421 Alabama Avenue, SE,  
Washington, DC 20032  
8:30am Sunday Worship

Office: 202/889-3660 • Fax: 202/678-5213  
Email: [churchoffice@bmdmdc.org](mailto:churchoffice@bmdmdc.org)

Campbell A.M.E. Church  
2568 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE, WDC 20032  
(202) 678-2263

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Prayer Service Wednesdays 6:30pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 12noon  
Bible Study Thursday 7:00pm

Christ Ministries  
30 Atlantic Street, SE WDC 20032  
Services: 11 am and 3pm

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ  
Dr. Dennis and Christine Wiley, Co-Pastors  
3845 South Capitol St. SW WDC 20032  
(202) 562-5576

“Ministries for the Mind, Body and Spirit”  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study 12noon & 6:30pm  
[www.covenantbaptistucc.org](http://www.covenantbaptistucc.org)

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
Rev. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr., Pastor  
2220 Branch Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 582-4811– Office  
(202) 58202400– Fax  
Sunday Worship 11:10am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Devotional Service 10:45 am  
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm  
Children’s Church 2nd & 4th Sunday 11:00am  
[www.ewhbc.org](http://www.ewhbc.org) [ewhbc@aol.com](mailto:ewhbc@aol.com)

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Clinton W. Austin, Pastor  
2409 Ainger Pl., SE WDC 20020  
(202) 678-0884-Office • (202) 678-0885– Fax  
“Come Grow With Us and Establish a Blessed Family”  
Sunday Worship 7:30am & 10:45am  
Family Bible Study Tuesdays 6:30pm  
Prayer Service Tuesday 8:00pm  
[www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org](http://www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org)

Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church  
Archbishop Alfred D. Owens, Pastor  
Evangelist Susie Owens, Co-Pastor  
610 Rhode Island Ave. NE WDC 20002  
(202) 529-4547  
“It doesn’t matter how you feel,  
God is still worthy to be praised”  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am  
Super Sunday Service 3rd Sundays of month 6:00pm  
Wednesday Night Prayer 6:30pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm  
[www.gmchc.org/](http://www.gmchc.org/)

Israel Baptist

Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Pastor  
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE WDC 20018  
(202) 269-0288  
“We Enter to Worship, We Depart to Serve”  
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:15am  
Senior Bible Class Tuesday 10:30am  
Wednesday Prayer Noon & 6:30pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm  
Holy Communion First Sunday 10:45am  
<http://www.israelbaptistchurch.org/>

Johnson Memorial Baptist Church

Rev. Henry A. Gaston, Pastor  
800 Ridge Rd. SE WDC 20019  
(202) 581-1873  
Sunday Worship 7:45a. & 11:15am  
Church School 9:30am  
Bible Study Wednesday 8:00pm  
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:00pm

Macedonia Baptist Church

Rev. Garfield Burton, Pastor  
2625 Stanton Rd. SE WDC 20032 • (202) 678-8486  
“A Church With a Living Hope in the Midst of Dying World”  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
Sunday School 9:00am  
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm & 7:30pm  
Saturday Sacrificial Prayer 7:00am  
[www.macedoniadc.org/](http://www.macedoniadc.org/)

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church

Dr. C. Matthew Hudson Jr., Pastor  
2616 MLK Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 889-3709 Office  
(202) 678-3304 Fax  
“Empowered to love and Challenged to Lead a  
Multitude of Souls to Christ”  
Sunday Worship 7:30am & 10:45am  
Church School 9:30am

Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry  
3000 Pennsylvania Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 581-1500  
“Committed to the Cause of Christ”  
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:30am  
Adult Bible Study Mondays 7:00pm  
Young Adult Bible Study Tuesdays 7:00pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm  
<http://www.pabc-dc.org/>

St. John C.M.E. Church

Reverend John A. Dillard III  
2801 Stanton Rd. SE, Washington DC 20020  
(202) 678-7788

Sunday Worship 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:00am

<http://www.stjohncmecdc.org/>

St. Matthews Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington, Pastor  
1105 New Jersey Ave. SE WDC 20003  
(202) 488-7298

“Striving to be more like Jesus with  
an emphasis on ‘Prayer’”

Sunday Worship 9:05am • Sunday School 8:00am  
Bible Study Tuesday 7:30pm  
Prayer Meeting Tuesday 7:00pm  
Hold Communion 3rd Sunday Morning  
[www.stmatthewsbaptist.com](http://www.stmatthewsbaptist.com)  
[stmatthewbaptist@msn.com](mailto:stmatthewbaptist@msn.com)

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BP Gas Station  
7000 Blair Rd. NW

Hattie Holmes Senior Center  
324 Kennedy St. NW

Kwik Stop  
4801 Georgia Ave NW

Midnight Deli  
4701 Georgia Ave NW

Petworth Action Committee @  
Raymond Recreation Center  
3725 10th Street NW

Petworth Library  
4200 Kansas Ave, NW

Starlight Foods  
5425 5th Street NW

Senbeb Natural Foods  
6234 3rd Street NW

Shell Gas Station/ 7 Eleven  
4000 Georgia Ave, NW

Takoma Park DC Library  
416 Cedar Street NW

Yes! Organic Market  
4100 Georgia Ave, NW

## WARD 5

5th St. Laundromat  
415A Rhode Island Ave. NE

A Cut Above the Top Barbershop  
2377 Rhode Island Ave. NE

American Quality Home Care Services Inc  
2312 Rhode Island Ave, NE

Barbershop  
3506 12th St NE

Department of Human Services  
920-A Rhode Island Ave. NE

Department of Veteran Affairs  
1500 Franklin St. NE

Fish King  
403 Rhode Island Ave NE

Good Old Reliable Liquor Store  
1513 Rhode Island Ave NE

Israel Baptist Church  
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE

Jet Set Hair  
3530 12th St. NE

Lucky 7 Liquor  
2317 Rhode Island Ave. NE

M&S Barber Services  
2900 12th NE

Murry's & Paul's  
3515 12th St NE

Neighborhood Market  
1611 Rhode Island Ave. NE

Newton Food Mart  
3600 12th St. NE

Salon Shear Madness  
2014 Rhode Island Ave NE

Sammy Carryout  
2801 Franklin St NE

Woodbridge Public Library  
1800 Rhode Island NE

## WARD 7

Anacostia Library  
1800 Good Hope Rd. SE

Benning Road Library  
3935 Benning Rd. SE

Capitol View Neighborhood Library  
5001 Central Ave SE

Deanwood Recreation Center  
1350 49th St. NE

Ft. Davis Community Center  
1400 41st St. SE

Francis A. Gregory Public Library  
3660 Alabama Ave SE

Hillcrest Community Center  
3100 Denver St. SE

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
3200 Camden St SE

New 7 Market  
1406 Good Hope Rd. SE

## Safeway

2845 Alabama Ave. SE

Washington Seniors Wellness  
3001 Alabama Ave SE

## WARD 8

Allen Chapel AME Church  
2498 Alabama Ave. SE

Andrews Federal Credit Union  
1556 Alabama Ave. SE

The Arc/ Parkland Community Center  
1901 Mississippi Ave. SE

The Big Chair Coffee Shop  
2102 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Brighter Day Ministries Congress Heights  
421 Alabama Ave. SE

Brighter Day Ministries A.P. Shaw Campus  
2525 12th Pl. SE

Busboys & Poets  
2004 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

CSAM's America's Islamic Heritage Museum  
and Cultural Center  
2315 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Cedar Tree Academy  
701 Howard Rd. SE

Community College Preparatory Academy  
2405 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

DHS Congress Heights Service Center  
Dept. of Human Services Child Care  
4001 South Capitol St. SW

Excel Pharmacy  
3923-A S Capitol St SW

Excel Care Pharmacy @United Medical Center  
1310 Southern Ave SE

Fort Carroll Market  
3705 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Good Wash Laundromat  
1603 Good Hope Rd. SE

Hope Village  
2844 Langston Pl SE

IHOP  
1523 Alabama Ave. SE

## Industrial Bank

1800 Good Hope Rd. SE  
1800 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Kingdom Care Senior Village  
814 Alabama Ave SE

Marion Barry's Ward 8 Office  
2100 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

My 3 Sons Barbershop  
3125 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Opportunities Industrialization Center  
3016 MLK Jr. Ave. SE  
3707 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Park Southern Apartments  
800 Southern Ave. SE

Parklands-Turner Neighborhood Library  
1547 Alabama Ave SE

P.R. Harris School  
4600 Livingstone Rd. SE

UPO/Peetey Greene Community Center  
2907 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center  
2730 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

The Roundtree Residences  
2515 Alabama Ave. SE

Secrets of Nature  
5923 South Capitol St. SW

St. Elizabeth's Hospital  
1100 Alabama Ave. SE

Southeast Tennis and Learning Center  
701 Mississippi Ave. SE

SunTrust Bank  
1340 Good Hope Rd. SE

Secrets of Nature Health Food Centers  
3923-B South Capitol St SW

UDC at Congress Heights  
3100 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

United Medical Center  
1310 Southern Ave. SE



## October Horoscopes

### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

This month, try cutting somebody a break when you really don't feel like cutting them a break. Do not make them feel guilty that you are cutting them a break. Simply let them have it. See what this feels like in the moment. See what it feels like a week later. A year from now, do you think you will remember what you gave up?

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Sometimes it seems like we're supposed to get to a place of wholeness or OKness, and then that's it, we just stay there and ride it out. But that's a really weird expectation, because the truth is that everything is always changing. What if the OKness could come in a revised expectation that maybe we never really "arrive"?

### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

People ask me if I believe in astrology and I'm like, "Absolutely not," and also, "Yes." I do believe in the powers of perception and archetype. I don't believe that any human system can ever fully map this mysterious universe to a point of control. This month, let our inability to do so be a good thing.

### LEO

(July 23 to August 22)

Even the least judgmental person has areas of their life (and others' lives) where they feel they know how things should be. This is human and fine, but perhaps not as interesting as accepting that we actually might know nothing at all. This month, leave a little room for the mystery.

### VIRGO

(August 23 to September 22)

This month, pay attention to your desire to pin things down. Maybe let them be unpinned for just a little while.



### LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22)

Happy birthday, Libra! It's harvesting season. Are you planting anything good? Do you like your crops? If you aren't that DTF with your crops, you don't have to harvest all of them. Also, you can totally plant some other shit for next year.

### SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21)

The shortcuts we take out of a fear that we won't be good enough are actually never as good as what we make honestly, with our whole selves. This month, believe that you are where you are because you are enough in your purest form.

### SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21)

This month, think of the silent moments you have with others as the times in life that are the most inspirationally fruitful. So often we jam every silence with words, but remember that you aren't responsible for filling the silence. See what this offers you.

### CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 19)

Oftentimes, the hurtful behaviors we inflict on ourselves also serve us in some ways. If they didn't serve us on some level, however perverse, we would put them down immediately. Take a look at how the behaviors that hurt you most also serve you. Is there something else that could fill that gap?

### AQUARIUS

(January 20 to February 18)

There doesn't have to be such a thing as a bad omen, a prolonged Mercury retrograde, or a negative sign of things to come if we don't want there to be. As long as we listen to our instincts, we can start a day, an hour, or even a moment over at any time.

### PISCES

(February 19 to March 20)

When you get caught doing something bad that others do all the time, or you get sick, or lose something or someone you love, it is only natural to think, Why is this happening to me? Another perspective is that it's not happening to you but simply just happening.

### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

I struggle with acceptance — particularly the notion that to accept something doesn't mean you have to like it. What does that really mean? One way I have found a little room in this concept is through simply saying the words "It's like this now."



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