



Issue NO. 31

June 2020

THE DRUM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MICHIGAN LIBERATION ENDING THE WAR ON BLACK LIVES PROSECUTORIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RALLY

Thursday, June, 11th, 10am-12pm
Meet at 1200 N. Telegraph, West Wing Building
#14E, Pontiac, MI 48341

PROJECT REENTRY WEDNESDAY WELLNESS

June, 17th, 6:00pm

Join SADO for Wednesday Wellness co-hosted by the Youth Justice Fund. Founder and Director Toni Crocilla, PsyD LP CSOTP, of Wise Mind Counseling will facilitate a discussion on mental health, answer questions, and provide tools to support mental health and wellness.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95827881673>

SAFE AND JUST, CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAFE

Every Thursday at 10am
Tune in to the criminal justice cafe on Thursdays for educational discussions on current legal policies and topics. Hear from Rick Speck, Safe and Just Community Engagement Specialist, and other experts throughout the state.
Facebook Live: Safe and Just Michigan

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC) SUPPORT CALL FOR LOVED ONES INSIDE PRISON

Every Friday at 3pm
Zoom link:

zoom.us/j/18611/2685

A RACIAL PANDEMIC

BY ASHA BURNS

We live in a country whose roots and foundation was built off the backs of African people. Despite what history taught you, it is important to note that slaves did not come from Africa. People came from Africa and were turned into slaves. There is over 400 years of history in the United States that encompass the horrific harm and discrimination that has been inflicted upon Black people in this country. The COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly demonstrated the racial disparities that exist and have existed since our people were forcibly brought to this country. All of which is perpetuated by structural, institutional and internal racism. This is evident within various institutions of our country, especially the criminal legal system. The criminal legal system was designed to help our society run and maintain order but it is often used to target both Black and Brown communities. This is seen in the disproportionate rates in imprisonment of Black and Brown people. Especially, in comparison to their white counterparts who commit the same crime. Hate and discrimination has driven this country since its origins and will continue to do so unless we as a nation recognize these issues and actively work towards transforming these systems.

Social media has been in an uproar recently as live footage of police brutality against Black people has surfaced. We are not only facing a health pandemic, but a racial pandemic as well. Three main stories have been highlighted throughout social media in hopes to recognize, honor and seek justice for the loss of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. Their stories matter, their lives matter. The prominent abuse of power that has been demonstrated by the death of these three individuals is only a glimpse of the many ways that law enforcement has evaded accountability and tolerated the harm police officers have caused. In recognizing these three lives, it is also important to recognize the lives of many other Black and Brown people who were lost but whose stories were not heard. This is why the Black community and allies have begun to protest and to fight for the recognition of these systemic issues. For hundreds of years, the Black community has been trying to fix a problem that we did not create. Yet, we are forced to suffer the consequences of it on a daily basis.

To all of those outside of the Black community, I encourage you to show your support and recognize that Black Lives Matter. It is not enough to simply state this, but demonstrate this through your actions. Acknowledge that the problem does exist and use the privilege you hold within your respective communities to educate those who endlessly ignore the voices of Black people. On behalf of SADO, I want the Black community to know that we see you, we hear you and we value you. As a member of the community myself, my heart goes out to all of you that are facing these deep emotions of anger, sadness and tiredness as our community faces such horrific police brutality in these already trying times.



IN MEMORY

AHMAUD ARBERY, 1994-2020

Hometown: Brunswick, Georgia

College: South Georgia Technical College

Described as: A beautiful personality and a smile that would light up the room

He was a son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend. He was a person, and his life mattered.



BREONNA TAYLOR, 1993-2020

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

Career: Emergency Medical Technician

Described as: Kind, hardworking and honest

"She had a whole plan on becoming a nurse and buying a house and then starting a family"- Tamika Palmer

She was a person, and her life mattered.



GEORGE FLOYD, 1974-2020

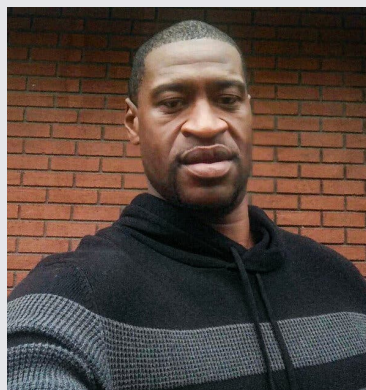
Hometown: Houston, TX

Career: Security Guard

Described as: A gentle giant, exuberant

"He was loved by everyone around here. He was a real quiet guy, liked to have fun."- Wallace White

He was a person, and his life mattered.



SOCIAL DISTANCE BABY SHOWER!

Congrats to Renard Johnson and his baby on the way. Thanks to Lisa Rochow, former reentry team member, we were able to throw a small social distance baby shower for Renard. The day was windy and cold, but the shower brought some light. We look forward to meeting the little one, congrats Renard!



CATCH UP WITH THE TEAM!



A'NARRIS MONGER

NLADA VISTA serving in Detroit, MI

MOTIVATION

A'Narris is driven by her hometown of Detroit and strives to continuously support her community. After working as a Corrections Officer, she saw a greater need to support the incarcerated community that was beyond the role she held. This is what led her to Americorps and SADO's Project Reentry Team.

WHAT'S NEXT?

She is currently working full time while attending school for her PhD in Public Health. Upon completion, she plans to start her own company. She is also working on establishing a non-profit in honor of her mother which will include a T-shirt line. Overall, A'Narris is working hard to achieve her dreams and encourages others to explore entrepreneurship.

--COMMUNITY VOICES--

Do you have a message you'd like to send to the community? We would love to share it! Please send any written pieces, artwork or images to reentry@sado.org to be featured in an upcoming Drum!

Happy Belated Mother's Day by Anthony Givens

Dear Under appreciated, Beautiful Mother. You know that you are beautiful don't you? If not, what else would be a grander word that could better describe your Nature as a woman? Immaculate? Quintessence? Neither? No, better yet...Earth! "The celestial body where humans live." The Earth creates & sustains Life. Shelters ALL of Her creations with Her nurturing ways, as well as, by providing the appropriate environment needed to grow...And our wonderful, beautiful Mother Earth, showers us with all HER energy & love, instilling those attributes to be passed on to future generations. Sound familiar? Women are the very embodiment of all that makes up this planet. Without you, there truly would not be any us. So this weekend, relax & be appreciated.
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

Existentialism: Thinker by Anthony Givens

"Existentialism is a tradition of philosophical enquiry that explores the nature of existence by emphasizing experience of the human subject—not merely the thinking subject, but the acting, feeling, living human individual."- Wikipedia

Everyone has a role to play in the overall function of accomplishing the "goal" set by that environment: someone has to think, someone has to direct and someone has to act. All are equal in that nothing could be done without the others... One's ability to continuously carry out that desired agenda, determines whether a person has vision only for that environment, or eyes that see beyond its constraints. This would imply the old adage: A monkey don't stop no show, Which now gives rise to debate: How can outside influences dictate what choices the Thinker will make, when all decisions should be well thought out by the Thinker, to realize any manipulation is being used against them?

That difference is free Will. Even in the harshest conditions, the strenuous of circumstances, or with the audacious of ideas a Thinker will always be seen as able to Chose "right from wrong" in the set standard and majority opinion of the public, yet I believe emotions are what ultimately sway those decisions, when added with all the above mitigating circumstances. A person they look up to, the affections from someone they love. Economic pressure to support others, fear.

Take the state of events going on now in the country with the pandemic. Caught off guard under the strain of something so contagious and deadly, no one had the forethought to fully and actively prepare? What decisions are people making with the money they have saved, along with those stimulus checks in order to survive as this pandemic continues?

Would the priority to stimulate one's mind and body (by getting high or drunk) trump the future needed possibilities? The Thinker is an innovator of possibilities, fueled by the emotions arisen by one's conditions and there is your IMPORTANCE of choice.

You may question, what tiny decision could have made a huge change in your life, had you followed a different vein on the leaf of Life? Well, this may sound silly or even a little stupid, but just by thinking it, you did. Bear with me. Thoughts, in most cases, are more than dreams and fantasies. They are a yet determined reality (an alternate, if you will), waiting for the Will of One who desires to Create. But before that can happen, a correct choice must be made. Now, after choosing the "wrong" path, why do you think anxiety, pain, heartache was always associated with such decisions? It's because that choice was a fantasy not supposed to exist, in place of what really is; where the alternative choice, (backed by the clear strength of one's Will) sets you at ease, with a confident state of mind at knowing you made the "right choice".

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@SADOreentry



CONTACT US

Email: reentry@sado.org
Phone: 313.256.9833

--COMMUNITY VOICES--

UNDERMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENGAGED CITIZEN AND THE TRUTH

BY LACINO HAMILTON

Today, in the age of COVID-19, I would think no one in his or her right mind would quarrel with the assertion that social problems are present in abundance. But there is a growing authoritarianism that wages a war on social diversity, education, dissent, solidarity, community, and critical thought itself, and desires "alternative facts" and a new normal where ignorance and double speak are valorized. Now more than ever critical analysis is necessary to understand how gross inequities in American employment and medical care delivery systems have been, and continue to be, highly distorted.

When something falls apart what do you do: repair, repurpose or replace? Are there other options? Most Americans may not have a ready-made answer, especially given the immediate challenges right now trying to stay healthy and alive, but many business leaders, social scientists, and politicians do: derail the architectural foundations of reason in order to construct a false reality and alternative political universe in which those who the social system has failed can be blamed for its failure.

The problem is deeper than Donald Trump or the right-wing echo chamber on talk radio and Fox. Powerful people and corporations spin self-serving storylines grounded not in fact but a warped version of reality. A process that shows all the signs of being valid scholarship, complete with tables of numbers, copious footnotes, scientific terminology, leading intellectuals, cultural figures, lab coats, and often cloaked in charity. Which in reality is but a small fraction of profits from underpaying workers and over charging buyers.

Yes, the rise of Donald Trump has given unprecedented legitimacy to unbridled anti-intellectualism, deception, and blatant lies, but there is nothing historically new about blaming the tragic, often deadly consequences of a winner take all social system on those denied basic social protections. Nothing new about distorting what "socially losing" means. Ideas and concepts rooted in systematic condemnation of victims, while ignoring the real causes of the pro-state conditions of the country--the corruption, the lawlessness, the usurpation and the profligacy of local, state and national levers of power. A process that happens so smoothly even a skeptical public is none the wiser.

Overt White Supremacy (Socially Unacceptable)

Lynching
Hate Crimes
Blackface The N-word
Swastikas Neo-Nazis Burning Crosses
Racist Jokes Racial Slurs KKK

Covert White Supremacy (Socially Acceptable)

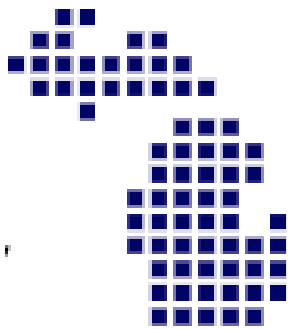
Calling the Police on Black People White Silence Colorblindness
White Parents Self-Segregating Neighborhoods & Schools
Eurocentric Curriculum White Savior Complex Spiritual Bypassing
Education Funding from Property Taxes Discriminatory Lending
Mass Incarceration Respectability Politics Tone Policing
Racist Mascots Not Believing Experiences of BIPOC Paternalism
"Make America Great Again" Blaming the Victim Hiring Discrimination
"You don't sound Black" "Don't Blame Me, I Never Owned Slaves" Bootstrap Theory
School-to-Prison Pipeline Police Murdering BIPOC Virtuous Victim Narrative
Higher Infant & Maternal Mortality Rate for BIPOC "But What About Me?" "All Lives Matter"
BIPOC as Halloween Costumes Racial Profiling Denial of White Privilege
Prioritizing White Voices as Experts Treating Kids of Color as Adults Inequitable Healthcare
Assuming Good Intentions Are Enough Not Challenging Racist Jokes Cultural Appropriation
Eurocentric Beauty Standards Anti-Immigration Policies Considering AAVE "Uneducated"
Denial of Racism Tokenism English-Only Initiatives Self-Appointed White Ally
Exceptionalism Fearing People of Color Police Brutality Fetishizing BIPOC Meritocracy Myth
"You're So Articulate" Celebration of Columbus Day Claiming Reverse-Racism Paternalism
Weaponized Whiteness Expecting BIPOC to Teach White People Believing We Are "Post-Racial"
"But We're All One Big Human Family" / "There's Only One Human Race" Housing Discrimination

In order to challenge the system, we must first recognize the ways in which it perpetuates these historical group inequities and discrimination

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTEST



SADO was proud to be a part of the public defender march for Black lives. Over 150 people from the public defender community marched for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and all Black people who were killed by police and racism. The event was led by Neighborhood Defender Service, and co-sponsored by SADO, and many other organizations such as the Detroit Justice Center, the National Lawyer's Guild, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association. Former SADO client, Demetrius Knuckles shared his experience, strength and hope, and community members recognized the fight is not over. NDS Director Chanta Parker led the crowd in a chant from the steps of Frank Murphy so that those sitting in the Wayne County Jail could hear..."It is our duty to win. And we gonna win, ya'll."



APP OF THE MONTH

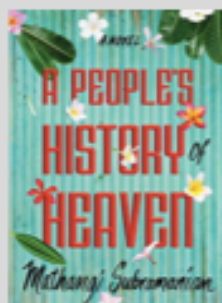
SADO REENTRY SERVICES LOCATOR

SADO's Project Reentry is excited to announce the release of a mobile and web-based reentry application. The app puts reentry and community resources at your fingertips and is accessible from any device with an internet connection, including a smart phone. Thank you to Programmer Harry Seong, who donated his time to build this app for the community.

Visit reentry.sado.org on any mobile device and share to your home screen

READ. WATCH. LISTEN.

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month. The following suggestions highlight LGBTQ creators and content.



READ//A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF HEAVEN

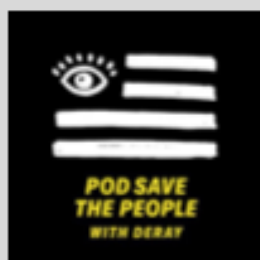
BY MATHANGI SUBRAMANIAN

A People's History of Heaven is Mathangi Subramanian debut novel that explores a thirty year old slum called Heaven, situated in Bangalore, India that is going to be destroyed to make way for new high-rises and what the people from Heaven will do stop it.



WATCH//MOONLIGHT

"In this coming of age drama, a young man who grows up poor, black, and gay in a rough miami neighborhood tries to find his place in the world." (can be found on netflix)



LISTEN//POD SAVE THE PEOPLE

(found anywhere you can listen to podcasts)
Pod Save the People covers issues of race, sexuality, and oppression and has been highlighted by GLAAD for its focus on the LGBTQ+ experience



ONLINE LEARNING

During this time at home, some are looking for more ways to progress their learning, take up free time, or stay engaged. The following universities are offering free online courses. Whether you are seeking personal enrichment or want to learn new skills to add to your resume, these courses could be a great way to utilize your time. You can search these classes online OR follow this link which has all of the resources in one place.

www.theladders.com/career-advice/7-elite-universities-offering-free-online-online-classes

University of California

UC Berkeley created a resource to house all of its online courses and degree programs. In conjunction with edX, courses ranging from statistics and marketing to business writing and literature can be audited for free.

Yale University

No credit or certificates are available. Lectures are presented in video and audio format, and you'll also have access to the syllabus and suggested readings.

Stanford University

Stanford offers more than 100 unique, free online courses or MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) in service to the world, for lifelong learning and self-enrichment." Free college classes can be found on its website in a wide range of topic areas that span humanities, medicine, engineering, and more. Enrollment can be completed at any time as classes are self-directed and completed on your terms.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Known as OpenCourseWare (OCW), the site contains material from 2,400 courses. OCW doesn't require any registration and courses are categorized by topic, department, and MIT course number. Each course contains lecture notes, readings, and assignments.

Carnegie Mellon University

CMU offers low-cost courses and also has an "Open and Free" section that allows students to access courses material for free. These courses are self-guided, meaning there is no instructor or grades assigned, along with no credit. "Evidence-Based Management," "Introduction to Programming in Java," and "Spanish I" are just a few of the courses available.

Duke University

Duke University's free courses are on Coursera, a popular online learning platform. Free classes are on an audit basis, allowing you to access content, but you won't be submitting assignments for a grade or earning a certificate. You can review the syllabus, instructors, and reviews from previous students for each class on Coursera. Offerings include, but are not limited to, courses in statistics, medical neuroscience, and machine learning.

Harvard University

iThe online learning website edX hosts Harvard's free courses. These self-paced courses are free on an audit basis, but a certificate can be awarded for a fee. Each course will provide information on how much time is required, the difficulty level, and information on instructors

SADO & COVID - 19

In order to prevent the spread, Project Reentry is taking precautions and changing the way we live, work, and communicate. At this time, Project Reentry is not permitted to meet with clients in-person. Our intern team is decreasing their workload and our resources are limited. Project Reentry, however, can still offer other types of non-contact assistance with your reentry needs. As always, if you are in need, please reach out by calling 313-420-2967, emailing reentry@sado.org, or messaging us on social media @SADOreentry. A more comprehensive resource guide is available through request.

In response to the virus, many organizations and companies have made special arrangements to accommodate people's changing needs. Read on for some community resources.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mindful Detroit Yoga and Meditation Series
Weekly on Thursdays beginning April 2
12:00-12:45pm
FREE! No mat required
Zoom Meeting
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/387522495>
Meeting ID: 387 522 495

AA Meetings

Online meetings
<http://aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>

SERVICES

Comcast Internet

New Internet Essentials customers will receive two free months of Internet service, which is available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month plus tax. Apply by April 30, 2020 at <https://apply.internetessentials.com>

United Way Hotline and phone number

For resources in your community dial 211 or visit <http://211.org>

PCAP Mutual Aid Financial Assistance

PCAP is donating money to returning citizens. For more information please visit <https://pcapmutualaid.com/>

Michigan COVID-19 Community Response

List of local resources & organizations working to support community – <https://micovidcommunity.com/>

PUBLIC BENEFITS

File for Unemployment. If you find yourself out of work, please contact Michigan's Unemployment Insurance program, www.michigan.gov/uia, which provides temporary income to workers who have lost their job through no fault of their own.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Gleaners Food Bank Food Distribution sites and times:

Roberto Clemente Recreation Center
2631 Bagley
Every other Wednesday starting March 25
2:30pm-5:30pm

Heilmann Recreation Center

19601 Crusade
Every other Thursday starting
March 26
2:30pm-5:30pm

Coleman A. Young Recreation Center

2751 Rober Bradby Dr.
Every other Saturday starting March 29
1:30-4:30pm

All Saints Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry

7824 W Fort St
(855) 882-2736
Soup Kitchen Hours: M, W, Th 11-12:30
Food Pantry Hours: T 10-12 and W 1:30-3.

Core City Neighborhoods Inc.

3301 23rd St
(313) 580 2386
Food distribution is on Tuesdays at 4 pm

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries

150 Stimson St
(313) 993-4700
Community meals provided at 5pm each day; may have food baskets available upon request

COMPANIES WAIVING FEES

Capital One	Navy Federal	DTE
Ally Financial	Comcast	Chase
Sprint	AT&T	Discover
T-Mobile	Verizon	CitiPNC Bank