



STRAIGHT...no chaser: You Are What You Think

Gloria Winston Al-Sarag is a Community Activist, Writer, Communicator, Political Activist. She is a native Rochesterian and has been involved with numerous community organizations in DC, VA, AL as well as Rochester. Contact Gloria at: JazzyG420@aol.com

Jim McCuller was known to say repeatedly, "Good, Better, Best. Never let it rest, until the Good gets Better and the Best is Best!" A major problem in this community is the number of people we all know to be certifiable, stomp down hypocrites. As one person eloquently wrote and said to me, those making \$5.00 over lunch money and don't know how to act are part of the problem. Only a few "fearless scribes" have the courage to say so out loud. God Bless each and every one of you who have taken the time to share your wisdom and your support.

The only promise I can make is to continue to use my God given talent to hold ALL politicians who cross my radar screen headed in the wrong direction accountable; especially when they fail to walk it like they talk it and fail to see the danger in doing so. It ain't personal. As I have said repeatedly we have far too many young impressionable minds that already follow enough bad leads and my God will not allow me to sit back with my arms crossed worrying about being misinterpreted or disliked. The truth is and will always be the light. And the light some people see at the end of their tunnel is definitely a train headed in their direction. Choo, Choo!!

To feed my spirit, I have heard from many who support my assessments, on some individuals who have called themselves into leadership. Last time I checked it is the "people" who make that determination not only to help one arrive but to seek ways to alter their path if deemed necessary. We have major problems in this community and too many people making bad decisions, misleading statements and who have lost their way.

Newsflash: Know this, politicians, if you seek my support and I vote for you, make sure you read the fine print. I am not one of those voters who pull a lever and go away quietly, hoping you do the right thing. You are going to do the right thing or I will work tirelessly to make assure you are fired or retired. Read my resume. Do some research. I am not new. Find out why Richard Hatcher is no longer Mayor of Gary, Indiana, or why Mayor Ken Gibson found the need to retire in Newark, NJ. Investigate and see if you can find my fingerprints anywhere. Discover how my former boss, Mayor Barry with all of his flaws managed to come out of prison to be Mayor again. Some folks may want to save their energy criticizing my approach because I am a product of having been successful at what I do. Who can argue with success?

Anyone who thinks my intent to improve my community is some personal affront to them only flatters themselves, into thinking they are

more important than the numbers of young people dying weekly in our streets, being pushed out of doors with HS diploma and GED in hand and are still unemployable, unable to read and write. Those are my major concerns and removing the people from office who contribute to that is and always has been my agenda. If you are a gambler, know I don't deal from the bottom of the deck, my cards are all on the table. If you are a drinker know that I am Straight, No Chaser. Do better or move on. I am here to help you do either.

Since writing editorials in the '60's, for the Buffalo Challenger when owned by former Assemblyman Arthur Eve, this kid has not changed. What is new to those who fail to know me, is the assumption that because I am now a Senior Citizen that my eyesight is failing and I can't clearly see them or the assumption that I don't recognize "game" and deception when I see it. Accountability is what I teach, what I preach and what I consistently practice. My steps have been ordered to do so, and if not by your God, certainly by mine. I don't support ANY politician who does their Will and not the Will of their constituents or this community. It's that simple.

Sometimes I look for things to write about and sometimes what to write about finds me. Some folks might also need to discover that what I do stem from royalty—a long line of educators, some having been enslaved, some social workers. I thrive on teachable moments and inhale the smoke of injustice, racism, hypocrisy and deception. Because of my upbringing I found myself caring about and serving my community at a very young age. I am more than proud of my heritage, and equally appalled at the demise of my community. Let the work I have done speak for me at all times. I not only feel it is my duty but my God given right to educate and enlighten those who may be have fallen victim to smoke screens and sleight of hand all the while nothing around us is improving.

The most dangerous individuals on the face of planet earth are liars. My grandmother used to always say, that someone who lies to you is capable of doing anything. We are ALL victims of our upbringing and because my father was a "real man", I sometimes hold black men to a higher standard than most. For that I apologize because it has been hard for me to accept that men like my father are almost a disappearing breed. I will not lower my standards, however and have not been known to accept anything less than what is right on many occasions. As a reminder, in the words of James Allen "In order to do, you must first be, and you can only be to the extent you are, and you are what you think."



Something to Think About

By Michael Vaughn; Sr. Pastor, New Wineskin Church

If you would like to contact me, please email me at mvaughn.seniorpastor@newwineskin.org

There is still a long way to go! As I write this letter to you, there is new information regarding the graduation rates for the school districts in New York State. In the report that has been talked about, school districts in the Rochester area have seen improvements. While there have been improvements, there is still a long way to go. For example, in the Rochester city schools the graduation rate is only 52%. While this is seen as an improvement, this rate is pretty bad when you think that in Rochester, nearly half of the young people are not graduating from high school when they are suppose to. We cannot celebrate this news for long!

As a society we must be sure to take education very seriously. Our young people have made it to the summer break, undoubtedly a time they long for. It is indeed important to be able to take time during the year and have a rest. However, we should be asking ourselves the question, how well prepared is my young person to take on the world that they will face. In many other countries, they do not have the summer off from school. They tend to have a time of consistent learning throughout the year. This learning pattern helps these children to become well prepared for the life that they will lead and the others that they will compete against.

I have often said that education is one thing that cannot be taken away from you. Once you get it into your head, they cannot remove it. Therefore, a job may be taken away but the education that one has remains. We

need to make sure that we set the bar high for our young people. Education is very important to the success of an individual and a society. We enjoy our standard of living in this country because we have been blessed by God and because we have a very highly educated workforce. However, as there is more and more competition globally, we find ourselves at a disadvantage. Our very way of life can be impacted by the educational level of the generations that are coming forth.

Again, the improvement that has been seen by the Rochester city school district is great; I do not want to minimize this improvement. All that I am stating is that we need to make sure that we do not rest on our laurels. We have to make sure that the education bar is set high and that we are encouraging our young people to go for it. We are not just stating it in words but we are prepared to back up the words with actions. We recognize that education is priceless in the head of a young person. They are able to take the concepts that we may have learned and with their young, creative minds pull something new together that can revolutionize their generation. Let's applaud the current improvement in graduation rates, but let's also realize that there is a long way to go before we can claim success in this area. I'm Pastor Vaughn and that's something to think about. If you would like to contact me, please email me at mvaughn.seniorpastor@newwineskin.org.



We would LOVE to hear your opinions

Contact:
info@minorityreporter.net

