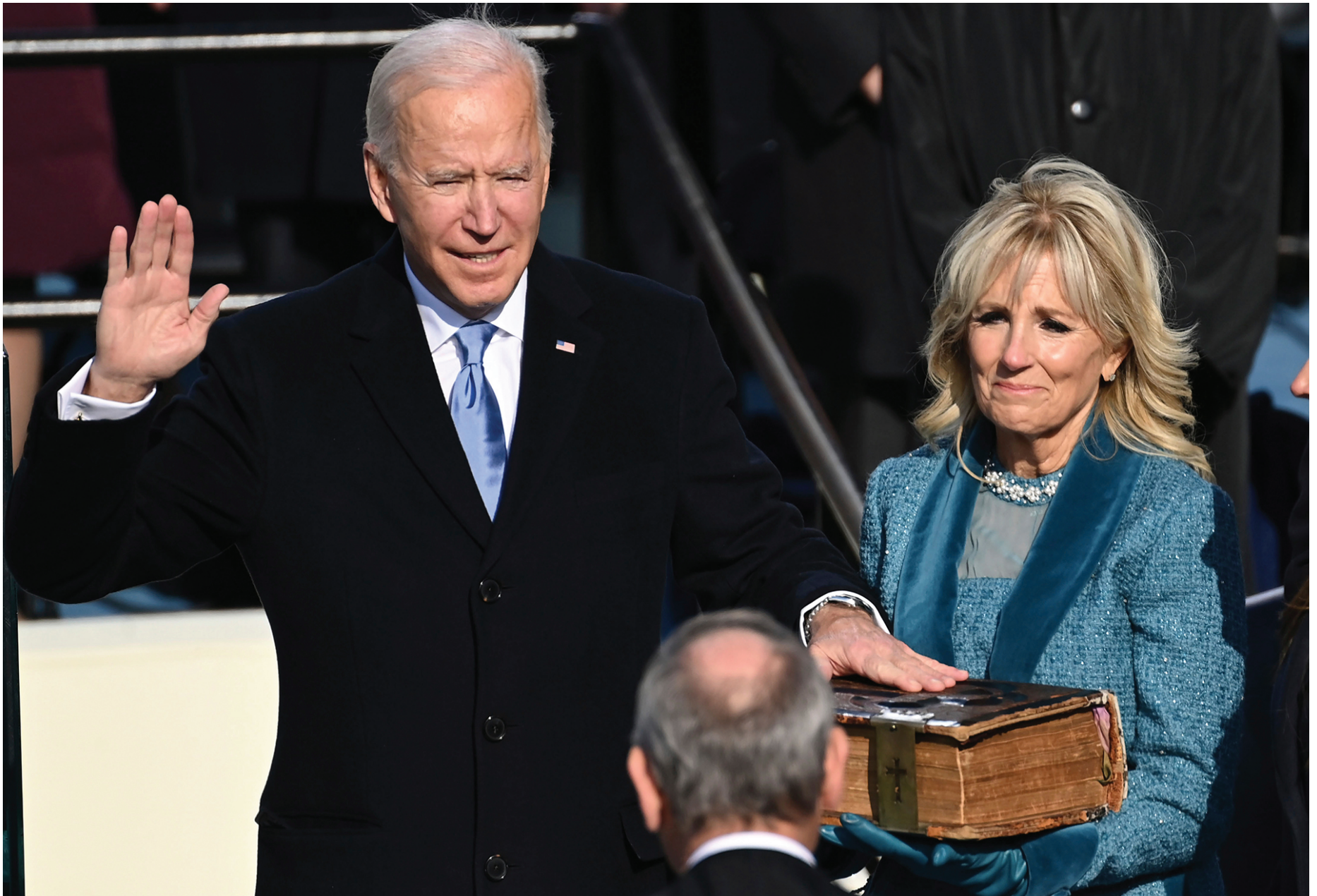


# *The Annapolis Times*

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## *Kamala Harris First Black, First South Asian, First Female Sworn in as Vice President* **Biden Sworn in as 46th President**



*Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Jill Biden holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021. (See article on page 7). (Saul Loeb/Pool Photo via AP)*

## Nine-year-old Tyler Stallings:

# Young humanitarian has some famous ‘roots’

By Ursula V. Battle

This is Part II of a two-part series about Tyler Stallings, 9, who has a project called Give Back to Veterans.

Andrea Blackstone recalled the days she and her son Tyler Stallings parked at Thurgood Marshall BWI Airport. Now nine-years-old, Tyler wanted to be on *Little Big Shots* to discuss his humanitarian efforts to help veterans. Blackstone thought BWI was just the right place to believe his dream to be on the show would one day ‘take flight.’ Hosted by Melissa McCarthy, *Little Big Shot* features highly talented children.

“Tyler and I had a conversation about Little Big Shots featuring kids performing, such as singing and dancing, but not do-gooders,” recalled Blackstone. “He wanted to be on the show, and even practiced giving out things to people.

“He put the clip online for Little Big Shots. I have a method of ‘speaking it into existence.’ I dressed Tyler up in a suit, straw hat and business shoes and drove out to the airport. God told me to do that, and I was obedient in what I felt.”

Tyler added, “I would point to every plane that came in and mom took a photo of it. I began to pray I would go on Little Big Shots.”

Tyler’s prayers were answered. A producer contacted Blackstone and the youngster was featured on Season 3 of the show, which was formerly hosted by Steve Harvey.

“I loved Little Big Shots, and it was my dream come true,” said Tyler. “Flying out to be on the show was my first time on a plane. I enjoyed it a lot and met other kids doing similar things. I still stay in touch with some of them.”

Tyler has a project called *Give Back to Veterans*. The talented youngster has helped veterans pay bills, fed those in crisis, and given away thousands of his ‘Hero Bags’ to thank them. He regularly donates to the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET). The youngster’s appearance on *Little Big Shots* gave the organization



(Left) Tyler Stallings, (far left) pictured with the family of the late Francisco Beltran, Jr., who was a veteran. Tyler presented the family with a \$1200.00 scholarship. (Right) Tyler, 9, has given away thousands of his “Hero Bags” and “Hero Boxes” with toiletries, clothing and other items to thank veterans.



Courtesy Photos

national exposure, and some of MCVET’s veterans appeared on *Little Big Shots* with Tyler. Steve Harvey named Tyler as the ‘Philanthropist of Season 3,’ because of his commitment to help America’s veterans.

“Whatever God has for us, we can’t say how it is going to happen,” said Blackstone. “But if we do the work, He will put the path in place for us if we are obedient. Being on Little Big Shots was really a great experience for a child so young. I learned how our children can have dreams and they can come true, no matter how big. Sometimes we limit ourselves.”

Tyler’s appearance on the show also highlighted the issue of veteran homelessness.

“Veterans and homeless are two words that should never go together,” said Blackstone. “I feel honored and humbled that a child would inspire me and other adults to see the possibility to progress. A lot of people think that if they don’t have money or capitol, they can’t accomplish things. But this all shows the importance of doing something with what you have. We had

no money, but God made a way to help these veterans.”

Recently, Tyler presented a \$1200.00 scholarship to the family of the late Francisco Beltran, Jr., who was a veteran.

Tyler’s many honors include the “Global Child Prodigy Award” and receiving FOX News’ first “Young Patriot” Award.

Greatness is in Tyler’s blood. In addition to coming from a long line of veterans, which includes his grandfather, he is a descendant of author Alex Haley, author of *ROOTS: The Saga of an*

*American Family*. Haley’s father Simon Haley is Tyler’s great-grandfather and served in World War I.

“Alex Haley is Tyler’s great-uncle,” said Blackstone.

As to his own career, Tyler said he is still trying to decide if he wants to go into construction, or become a train engineer or fireman when he grows up.

“Who knows?, said Tyler. “I’m just happy and proud of how the project is going.”

To support Tyler Stallings and his *Give Back to Veterans* project, email [kidtimeenterprises@gmail.com](mailto:kidtimeenterprises@gmail.com).

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## Boston Red Sox hire first Black woman coach in baseball history

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

Bianca Smith, an African American woman, has made baseball history. Smith, who most recently served as an assistant baseball coach and hitting coordinator at Wisconsin's Carroll University, was named a coach in the Boston Red Sox minor league system.

Smith, 29, becomes the first Black woman to coach in professional baseball. She will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Meyers, Florida.

"She was a great candidate coming in," Red Sox vice president of player development Ben Crockett told the Boston Globe. "She's had some really interesting experiences and has been passionate about growing her skillset and development herself."

That Smith's historic hiring happened in Boston, a city where angry mobs violently attacked school buses carrying Black children to previously all-white schools in the 1970s, could be a sign of racial progress.

The Red Sox have had a history of racism at Fenway Park. In 2019, four fans hung a banner that read, "Racism is as American as Baseball," from the famed Green Monster.

Last year, retired baseball star Torii Hunter told ESPN that he was called the N-word several times by fans as young as "little kids." He later said that he had heard more racist remarks in Boston than any other city.

"When I went to Boston, it was so consistent. After a while, I just kind of shoved it off, and I went out and played. I played with aggression, though," Hunter relayed.

He added that he felt uncomfortable with the idea of his family living in Boston if he had signed there.

"That's why I got the no-trade clause, the list of teams, and I put Boston in there," Hunter added. "I love Boston. I wanted to play there. It just hit me that I can't have my wife and my kids in this area."

"There is no way I can do that because I don't ever want them to go through that, and if they do, I don't know what I would do, and I would be the angry Black guy, and that wouldn't be good."

Hunter's comments prompted the Red Sox to issue a statement acknowledging his experience.

The team noted that, in 2019, there were seven reported incidents of fans using racial slurs at Fenway Park.

In 2017, Baltimore Orioles star outfielder Adam Jones said he was on the receiving end of racial slurs at Fenway Park no less than 100 times. Fans even threw bags of peanuts at him, Jones said.

However, the hiring of Smith is barrier breaking. She joins a list of female professional baseball coaches, including Rachel Balkovec of the New York Yankees; Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs; and Christina Whitlock of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Last year, Alyssa Nakken of the San Francisco Giants became the first on-field female coach in Major League Baseball. She once served as an intern for the Texas Rangers and Cincinnati Reds.

Smith also played softball at Dartmouth from 2010-12 before working as director of baseball operations at Case Western Reserve University from 2013 to 2017 and as an assistant coach with the University of Dallas in 2018.

"It's a meaningful," Crockett said of Smith's hire. "Meaningful thing for the organization."



## Community Affairs

### Maryland preps for celebrations for "Maryland School Choice Week"

Baltimore— For the sixth year in a row, the last week of January is being officially, recognized as Maryland School Choice Week by the state's governor.

Gov. Hogan joined hundreds of state, county, city, and town leaders in officially recognizing School Choice Week (Jan. 24-Jan. 30) with a proclamation. Nationally, more than 33,000 safe celebrations have been planned for the Week, which seeks to raise awareness about opportunity in education, encouraging families to celebrate great schools and take active roles in their children's education.

With School Choice Week taking place virtually this year, Maryland parents, schools, and other organizers have planned 487 virtual activities for the Week. All celebrations aim to spark conversations about how different educational opportunities meet families'

needs and help kids succeed.

Schools of every type – traditional public, public magnet, public charter, private, online, and homeschool – will be participating in School Choice Week nationwide.

"We are grateful Gov. Hogan officially recognized the Week and the need for education options—a need many Maryland families felt more keenly than ever this school year," said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. "This is a time to celebrate the impact of K-12 education and work to expand learning options for children across America."

National School Choice Week shines a spotlight on effective K-12 education options for children. As a not-for-profit effort, the Week focuses equally on traditional public, charter, magnet, online, private, and home education options. Every January, participants plan tens of thousands of events and activities— such as school fairs, open houses, and student showcases— to raise awareness about school choice across all 50 states.

For more information, visit [schoolchoiceweek.com/maryland](http://schoolchoiceweek.com/maryland).

## Biden administration must commit to a national pandemic preparedness strategy

By *Kenneth E. Thorpe*

COVID-19 has killed more than 400,000 Americans. And with case counts and hospitalizations soaring, many more deaths are sadly in store.

Defeating this scourge will be President Biden's greatest challenge. But he would be remiss to stop there. He has a unique opportunity to build up our national health care defenses so we're better prepared to fend off future disease outbreaks.

That's why creating a comprehensive pandemic preparedness strategy that is agile and reacts quickly ought to be one of his administration's top priorities. It could save tens of thousands of Americans in the years and decades ahead.

During the current outbreak, many vulnerable Americans have struggled to access affordable care. By one estimate as many as 12 million Americans lost their employer-sponsored health

coverage between February and July.

More than 40 percent of Americans deferred any kind of medical care earlier this year due to fears of contracting the virus. Patients with chronic conditions were also more likely to forego urgent or emergency care during those early months, which was also the case for too many Black and Latino Americans.

reported suffering from some form of mental health or substance abuse problem during COVID-19 induced lockdowns, according to a survey conducted in June.

Building up our health care infrastructure is similarly vital. Investments in telehealth systems that enable patients to access medical care

financial solvency that annual death toll is expected to skyrocket.

Addressing this growing threat will require a coordinated federal response that encourages—and rewards—the development of new, more potent antibiotics. Equally as important, that response would also include reforms that discourage antibiotic overuse and misuse.

Two bipartisan bills currently under consideration in Congress—the DISARM and PASTEUR Acts—would incentivize both antibiotics research and development as well as stewardship. A Biden administration could urge congressional leaders to send both bills to the president's desk right away as a key component of a broader effort to prepare the nation for future pandemics.

COVID-19 is far from over, and already, the next pandemic is looming. The difference with antimicrobial resistance is that we know it is coming, and it would be simply negligent not to prepare for it as best we can. The Biden administration could save countless lives by developing and implementing a national pandemic preparedness plan that ensures we are better equipped to handle future outbreaks and health crises.

*Kenneth E. Thorpe is a professor of health policy at Emory University and chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.*

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***“More than 40 percent of Americans deferred any kind of medical care earlier this year due to fears of contracting the virus. Patients with chronic conditions were also more likely to forego urgent or emergency care during those early months, which was also the case for too many Black and Latino Americans.”***

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Many of these compounding challenges could be alleviated by making health insurance more affordable to help ensure Americans can get the care they need in future health emergencies.

President-elect Biden must also mitigate the impact of social distancing measures and quarantines. No doubt such actions are absolutely necessary for slowing the spread of infectious diseases, but they also take a toll on Americans' mental and economic health.

Consider that 40 percent of Americans

remotely would improve health outcomes in a crisis. Investments in monitoring and contact-tracing systems would prove similarly useful.

A forthcoming preparedness plan could create a mechanism for the federal government to identify, assess, and monitor health risks that could precipitate another pandemic. One such risk is already well known: antimicrobial resistance. Drug-resistant bacteria and fungi kill 35,000 Americans each year, and with a treatment arsenal that is dwindling in both effectiveness and

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# Amanda Gorman calls on Americans to 'leave behind a country better than the one we were left' in powerful inauguration poem

By Chandelis Duster, CNN

(CNN) -- Amanda Gorman, the nation's first-ever youth poet laureate, challenged Americans Wednesday to "leave behind a country better than the one we were left" and unify together as she delivered a stirring inauguration poem.

Speaking at a US Capitol that just two weeks ago was the site of a harrowing attempt to overthrow American democracy, Gorman bridged the violence of January 6 with the anguish felt by so many Americans of color but described the country as ready to begin anew under President Joe Biden.

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it," the 22-year-old Gorman said, a reference to the deadly insurrection that, as she told CNN last week, was a catalyzing inspiration for her poem. "Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. And this effort very nearly succeeded. But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated."

Clad in a yellow coat and punctuating her words with her hands, Gorman nodded not only to the perilous political moment but also the history and promise of a day on which Kamala Harris became the first woman, first Black person and the first South Asian to be elected vice president of the US.

"Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished. We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming President, only to find herself reciting for one," the 22-year-old Gorman said in her poem, entitled, "The Hill We Climb."

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it," Gorman recited, a reference to the deadly insurrection at the US Capitol that, as she told CNN last week, was a catalyzing inspiration for her poem. "Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. And this effort very nearly succeeded.



*Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman speaks at the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2021 in Washington, DC. Photo by Rob Carr/Getty Images*

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated."

Gorman, who regularly draws from current political events in her work, spoke passionately Wednesday about the need for social change: "We learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what 'just is' isn't always justice."

"We are striving to forge our union with purpose. To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man," Gorman said. "And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay

down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all."

Gorman was wearing a ring with a caged bird, which was symbolic of Maya Angelou, who wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and recited a poem at President Bill Clinton's first inauguration. The ring was a gift from none other than Oprah Winfrey, the young poet revealed on Twitter Wednesday afternoon.

Born and raised in Los Angeles by a single-mother and 6th-grade English teacher, Gorman started writing poems when she was a child, but found it terrifying to perform due to a speech impediment. She overcame that fear by drawing confidence from former Presi-

dent Barack Obama and Martin Luther King Jr., and practices songs from the Broadway musical "Hamilton."

She previously told CNN that she drew inspiration for the poem from the two poems read at Barack Obama's inauguration -- Richard Blanco's 2013 "One Today" and Elizabeth Alexander's 2009 "Praise Song for the Day" -- and writers, like Walt Whitman and Frederick Douglass, whom she feels have spoken to the ideals of a nation.

She was halfway through writing the inauguration poem when she saw the Capitol riot, and she previously told CNN she would attempt to "communicate a message of joining together and crossing divides."

# *Kamala Harris First Black, First South Asian, First Female Sworn in as Vice President* **Biden Sworn in as 46th President**

By Maeve Reston, CNN

(CNN) — President Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States Wednesday, ushering in a new era of calm and comity to Washington after four divisive and tumultuous years under former President Donald Trump.

Standing at the Capitol just two weeks after a mob of insurrectionists invaded that building seeking to overturn the presidential election based on Trump's lies about the results, Biden set out on the daunting task of uniting the nation by urging Americans to come together as they confront the deadly pandemic, an economic collapse that has left millions unemployed and deep divisions over issues of racial justice and police brutality.

"Today on this January day, my whole soul is in this — bringing American people together, uniting our nation, and I ask every American to join me in this cause," Biden said in his inaugural speech.

The former vice president, who decided to run for the White House after Trump's shocking reaction to the White supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, noted that the nation is struggling through a rise of White nationalism, racism and deep political divisions.

"Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path," Biden said, calling on Americans to come together. "We have to be different than this. America has to be better than this."

"I will be a president for all Americans," Biden said speaking directly to those who did not support him in the November election. "I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as those who did."

Moments earlier, he was sworn in with his hand on the Biden family Bible, which has a Celtic Cross on the cover and has been a family heirloom since 1893. The President-elect has used the Bible each time he has taken an oath of



***Vice President Kamala Harris, used notable Bibles when she was sworn in on January 20 as the first female, the first Black and first South Asian vice president of the United States.*** Photo: Will Lanzoni/CNN

office, both as a senator from Delaware and as vice president, and his son Beau Biden used the Bible when he was sworn in as attorney general of Delaware in 2007.

Vice President Kamala Harris made history Wednesday when she was sworn in as the first female, the first Black and first South Asian vice president of the United States.

After a tumultuous year that began a new chapter of the civil rights movement as Americans took to the streets to protest against racial injustice and police brutality after the death of George Floyd, the swearing in was a remarkable achievement for a country

that has often struggled to live up to its ideals of equality for all.

Biden noted the historic nature of Harris' swearing in during his speech: "Don't tell me things can't change."

Harris was sworn in on two Bibles — one that belonged to former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, one of her heroes who inspired her to pursue a career in the law, and that of Regina Shelton, a neighbor who cared for Harris and her sister Maya when they were growing up and attended church with her, where she was introduced to the teachings of the Bible. Harris has described Shelton as a "second mother to us."

Trump, who was the first president in more than 150 years to refuse to attend his successor's swearing-in ceremony, had arrived in Florida by the time Biden was sworn in.

Former Vice President Mike Pence, who was in the Capitol when it was stormed by a violent mob earlier this month, and second lady Karen Pence walked out onto the inaugural stands to bipartisan applause.

More than 25,000 National Guard troops were in place to ensure that the nation's transfer of power could take place peacefully.





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# Book Review: “The Engineering of Racism”

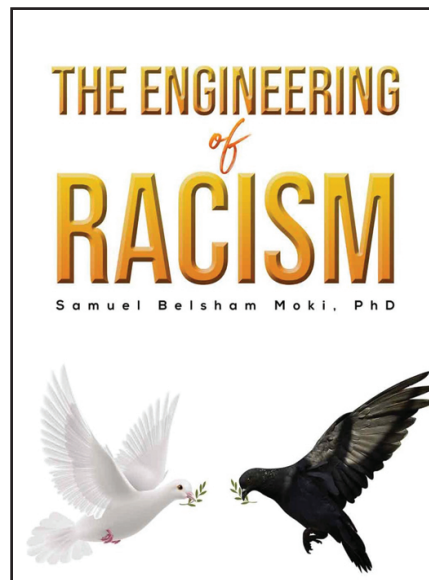
By Nadine Matthews @deeniemedia

In the beginning of, “The Engineering of Racism.” Samuel Belsham Moki PhD, somewhat undercuts his own premise that racism was engineered. He first says, “Engineering means to plan, design, and build engines or structures for a particular purpose.” However, “The Engineering of Racism” does not quite walk us through the planning and design stages of racism per se because Moki goes right on to say that “European traders never considered Black Africans as equal trading partners.” So the book really describes harnessing and codifying of something that already existed.

Moki leads with a very important point that in the fourteenth through fifteenth centuries, the primary vehicle for acquisition of wealth and prestige in Europe was exploration, which brought them to Africa. Portugal got there first. Along with Spain, Portugal also got to the Americas first. In the Americas and Africa they found abundant raw materials for industry, and free labor.

Racism was needed to justify the breach of human rights, and sheer brutality needed to keep human beings in perpetual bondage in service of another idea that grew out of the fifteenth century, global capitalism. Here, Moki also falters in not giving a more thorough description of the growth of the global capitalist economy, and how vital Indigenous Africans and Indigenous American labor and resources were to its success as conceived by the 15th century European elite. Mention of the Treaty of Tordesillas for instance, would lend credence to the calculated way Portugal and Spain viewed the world, as purely a source of wealth.

Moki does a brilliant job however, at breaking down in fairly granular detail,



Cover Image “The Engineering of Racism” by Samuel Belsham Moki PhD  
Photo: Courtesy Austin Macaulay

how the resulting global economy based on exploitation of Indigenous Africans and Indigenous Americans’ natural resources and labor, was in fact engineered. He delivers a vast amount of information in authoritative, yet wholly accessible, conversational language.

Moki walks the reader from the holding cells on the shores of 15th century Africa to the cramped, unhygienic nightmare conditions on slave ships, to the America’s horrific plantations, each step of the way delineating how racism became increasingly indoctrinated and entrenched in every aspect of society. His descriptions of the torturous realities of slavery leave the reader weak.

Pillars of American society such as academia, the church, the Supreme Court, Federal agencies, Congress, the Executive Branch come under scrutiny. Moki explains how they’ve been, and



Author of The Engineering of Racism, Samuel Belsham Moki, PhD  
Photo: Courtesy Samuel Belsham Moki

continue to be, used to keep racism thriving. He points out that slavery did not start with government, but evolved to involve government after slavery became profitable for it. Government then had the authority to create and uphold systems that perpetuated the racism that enabled slavery and all that came afterward. What becomes clear is that ironically, government sometimes doing the right thing, imbued it with the authority to too often do the wrong thing with regard to racism.

Through the examples of Lincoln, Hayes, and FDR, Moki documents how the Executive Branch has repeatedly failed Black America to the benefit of white supremacy.

Moki also trains his eye on the judiciary, and its assemblage of laws that, like bricks on a house, coalesced into the

systematic creation of a Black underclass. A lengthy excerpt from the Dred Scott decision is made all the more chilling in light of recent events like the questioning of Barack Obama’s citizenship.

Culture of course, such as the Star Spangled Banner’s third stanza, monuments, the use of Confederate figures in statues, the name of the Senate Office Building (after an unrepentant segregationist) and monuments are also examined and revealed as the psychological tools of white supremacy they are.

Attitudes from on high trickle down to ordinary everyday whites who discriminated in hiring and bought, almost exclusively, houses with restrictive covenants on them, preventing resale to Blacks. In one poignant section, Moki cites Rothstein’s book, “The Color of Law” which explained how Blacks were explicitly prevented from purchasing homes in the Silicon Valley area in the 1940s when they were worth \$10,000. Those houses now, of course hover somewhere around \$500,000 in value.

He also explains how the tools of racism, still rooted in those pillars of society, have been updated to adapt to new norms. Over policing of working class Black neighborhoods, redlining, gerrymandering, defunding healthcare and education, harsh sentencing, and over incarceration. In Maryland, for example, 72% of those incarcerated are Black people. “The Engineering of Racism” makes it clear that these are not coincidences.

Moki ends with a series of recommendations; things that Americans can do affirmatively each day to start destroying racism, one word, one action at a time.

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# Free art kits from the Walters Art Museum distributed to Baltimore City and County residents

Baltimore— The Walters Art Museum has once again distributed free art kits to supplement arts education for students learning from home. Designed for ages six to 11 and offered in both English and Spanish, the art kits explore themes of art and identity with the goal of encouraging parents and children to learn about and create art together.

“The kits provide fun, educational, and non-digital resources to families that are learning at home,” said Laurel Miller, Director of Visitor Services and Interim Director of Education. “We’ve worked to be responsive to digital burnout, unequal access to technology, best practices in child development and learning, as well as families’ evolving schedules to create resources that are relevant and engaging.”

During the summer, the Walters

assembled and distributed 2000 art kits at 18 sites across the city and through the Baltimore County Public Library system. The most recent batch of art kits were available this month through the Edmondson Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library as well as branches of the Baltimore County Public Library, and city arts organizations such as 901 Arts, Jubilee Arts, Access Arts, Art With a Heart, and Family Connections.

While the kits were developed to increase accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Walters plans to continue and expand the program in the future, with more free art kits set to launch in the Spring of 2021. Each kit contains two art lesson plans, a coloring sheet, scavenger hunt, and an art-making activity.

“These kits are another way of fulfilling our mission to be an educational partner



to families in the region,” said Rebecca Sinel, Manager of Family Programs. “We want to connect students with works of art from the collection that span the globe and also encourage families to think about personal connections to art and to explore the creative process in their own way.”

The Walters Art Museum is a cultural hub in the heart of Baltimore, located in the city’s Mount Vernon neighborhood. The museum’s collection spans more than seven millennia, from 5000 BCE to the 21st century, and encompasses 36,000 objects from around the world.

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