



# North Dallas Gazette

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## In Biden-Trump handshake, Black America sees more than just a gesture

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In a scene that one might easily describe as privilege meeting privilege, two powerful white and elderly men—Joe Biden, 81, and Donald Trump, 78—shared a cordial exchange in the Oval Office, an image strikingly at odds with the grim reality many Black Americans now face with Trump’s re-election. While Biden extended a warm “welcome back” to his predecessor and successor, for African Americans and other marginalized groups, the moment marked something else entirely: the return of a leader who has made explicit promises to dismantle the civil rights framework that barely holds at the edges in the nation.

Trump is adamant about his intentions, thanks to his renewed man-



*While Biden extended a warm “welcome back” to his predecessor and successor, for African Americans and other marginalized groups, the moment marked something else entirely: the return of a leader who has made explicit promises to dismantle the civil rights framework that barely holds at the edges in the nation. (Photo via NNPA)*

date. Among his stated goals, which include dismantling the Department of Education, defunding historically Black colleges and universities (HB-

CU), and killing any remote chance that African Americans could finally

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#### People In The News ...



Judith Jameson



Gavin Newsom

NDG Quote of the Week: "In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect."  
- Alice Walker



## Judith Jamison

Renowned dancer and choreographer Judith Jamison, who led the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for over two decades, passed away on Saturday in New York at 81. Jamison's death occurred at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center after a brief illness, according to Christopher Zunner, managing director of public relations at the dance company.

"We remember and are grateful for her artistry, humanity, and incredible light, which inspired us all," Zunner stated.

Born on May 10, 1943, in



Philadelphia, Jamison discovered her love for dance early on, beginning lessons at age six at the Judimar School of Dance in her hometown. Encouraged initially to study the piano and violin, Jamison gravitated toward ballet, later train-

ing under African American dance pioneer Katherine Dunham. She attended Germantown High School and briefly enrolled at Fisk University before dedicating herself to dance and kinesiology studies at the Philadelphia Dance Academy.

Jamison joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965, quickly becoming a celebrated figure in modern dance when few Black women held prominence in the field. Her defining moment came in 1971 with the premiere of Cry, a 17-minute solo created by Alvin Ailey as a tribute "to all Black women everywhere—especially our mothers." This piece

became a hallmark of the Ailey troupe and earned Jamison international acclaim. Alvin Ailey later wrote of Jamison's performance, "With Cry, she became herself. Once she found this contact, this release, she poured her being into everybody who came to see her perform."

In addition to her iconic work with Ailey's company, Jamison performed with global ballet companies, including the San Francisco Ballet, Swedish Royal Ballet, and Vienna State Ballet, and even graced the Broadway stage in Sophisticated Ladies alongside Gregory Hines. She began her choreography work in the

1980s, premiering her first ballet, Divining, with the Ailey company in 1984 and launching her dance group, The Jamison Project Dance Company, in 1988.

Following Ailey's death in 1989, Jamison took over as the artistic director of his company, steering it through a period of profound growth and establishing its first permanent home, the Joan Weill Center for Dance. She also founded a partnership with Fordham University, creating a joint Bachelor of Fine Arts program to support a multicultural dance curriculum.

Throughout her career, Jamison received numer-

ous honors, including the National Medal of Arts and a Kennedy Center Honor, recognizing her contribution to the arts and her role in broadening the visibility of Black dancers and choreographers. Her legacy is preserved in her autobiography, Dancing Spirit, and her choreography, which remains foundational to the company's repertoire.

Reflecting on her role as Ailey's successor, Jamison once said, "I felt prepared to carry [the company] forward. Alvin and I were like parts of the same tree. He, the roots and the trunk, and we were the branches. I was his muse. We were all his muses."

## Gavin Newsom

California Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom has proclaimed a special session of the California Legislature dedicated to defending core state values and rights under potential challenges from the incoming Trump administration. Set to convene on December 2, the session will prioritize legal strategies to protect civil rights, reproductive freedom, climate action, and immigrant rights, aiming to bolster California's ability to resist federal policies that may threaten these areas.

The move is the first in a series of planned actions by Newsom's administration to safeguard what he describes as "California values" against federal threats. With support from state lawmakers, Newsom emphasized California's resilience and readiness to protect its residents, stating, "The freedoms we hold dear in California are under attack — and we won't sit idle."



State Attorney General Rob Bonta reiterated the Governor's stance, noting the state's prior confrontations with Trump-era policies and emphasizing California's commitment to continue defending rights under potential renewed federal challenges. "No matter what the incoming Administration has in store, California will keep moving forward," Bonta said. "We're working closely with the Governor and the Legislature to shore up our defenses and ensure we have the resources we need to take on each fight as it comes."

Assembly Speaker Rob-

ert Rivas (D-Hollister) and Senate President pro-Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) voiced their support for the special session, highlighting the importance of maintaining California's progress and preparing for what they foresee as challenging times ahead. "We learned a lot about former President Trump in his first term," McGuire remarked. "California has come too far and accomplished too much to simply surrender and accept his dystopian vision for America."

Rivas emphasized the importance of standing up for Californians. "Voters sent a clear message this election, and we need to lean-in and listen," he said. "But we also must be prepared to defend California values, no matter the challenges ahead, so it makes sense to consider the Governor's proposal. I'm ready to fight harder than ever for opportunity, equality, and a Golden State that works for each and every resident."

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# Autopsy for a failed presidential campaign and the Democratic Party

By Dr. Wilmer J. Leon, III

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - "...People know that something's wrong; Everybody oughta know winter...The truth is there ain't nobody fighting; Because, well nobody knows what to save, Brother, save your soul; Lord knows it's winter in America. The Constitution, a noble piece of paper; With free society; Well, they struggled but they died in vain; And now democracy is ragtime on the corners; On the cord, hoping it'd rain..." - Winter In America - Gil Scott-Heron

The 2024 American presidential election is over. The people have spoken. The world is shocked! Trump won! Americans fell for it again, or did they...fall for it?

Many in the African American community are angry, shocked and looking for the culprits. Who did this to VP Harris? Somebody must be held accountable! The audacity of those misogynistic Latino men, White women and those angry Black men who hate Black women. All of them must be held accountable. What damage does this do to the psyche of Black Women? VP Harris was ENTITLED to the Oval Office and has been denied.

According to Senator Lindsey Graham in 2015, Trump is a "a race-baiting xenophobic religious bigot." Senator Rick Perry

warned us that Trump, "doesn't know the difference between truth and lies..." while Senator Ted Cruz said, "he lies, practically every word that comes out of his mouth..."

With all of that, Hilary Clinton lost to him in 2016 and now VP Harris has lost to him as well. Trump has prevailed...AGAIN! Why? Don't ask why Harris lost; ask yourself why did this "race-baiting xenophobic religious bigot," win. AGAIN!

It's too easy to chalk this up to or write this off as being a "masterclass in white privilege." It's too simplistic to attribute this cataclysmic failure to "hatred toward Black women." Too many Democrats, their pundits, and some analysts are trying to write this historic blunder off as America will "never elect a Black woman as president". Stop it! The bad lies are the lies you tell yourself. Even worse are the ones you tell yourself and believe.

That flawed "hatred toward Black women" troupe is more convenient than making the necessary course corrections that the Democratic Party needs to make in order to help America live up to its promise. Instead, odds are that they will continue to "maintain course and speed", running aground or striking the iceberg time and again. To truly be able to move forward, the Party and its African American constituency must first

look inward and self-assess before placing blame.

On March 6, 1857, Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney opined in Plessy v Ferguson, "... negro's had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect..."

I believe that the racist, white supremacist, eugenic based mindsets that led to the holdings in Plessey, even though that decision has since been overturned by the Brown decision and others, continues to influence mindsets in America today. Variations of this racist theme continue to be the reality in America.

This is not new. This is not a news flash. This is everyday life in America for Black people. So, to boil VP Harris' loss down to "no one will vote for a Black woman" is too simplistic. It lets the Democratic party and her off the hook for their failures. Hilary Clinton (a woman) won the popular vote in 2016 with 64M votes. Harris (a Black woman) received 68M votes. Barack Obama (a Black man) was elected as president twice.

So, before we turn to the very simplistic knee jerk refrain that America will not elect a Black woman

to be president, ask yourself, did the Democrats set themselves up for this outcome? Was VP Harris the best candidate? Did the Party and her campaign make mistakes that resulted in this failure regardless of phenotype?

Start the analysis here, Democrats and their financial backers knew that President Biden's faculties were declining before he embarrassed himself and the party during the debate. The phrase "non compos mentis" comes to mind.

It was a huge mistake to anoint VP Harris as the nominee. James Carville wrote in early July that Democrats needed to move away from Biden, "But it can't be by anointing (VP Harris) or anyone else as the presumptive...nominee. We've got to do it out in the open — the exact opposite of what Donald Trump wants us to do." Carville was correct.

Once on the stump, VP Harris ran a campaign based upon the politics of personality and identity, not a policy-based campaign. It took until mid-September before her webpage even had a policy tab and the policies that were listed were more campaign talking points than substantive solutions to the real problems facing the country.

VP Harris ran away from her base instead of embracing it. For example, polling

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# Which risk factors are linked to having a severe stroke?

Newswise — MINNEAPOLIS — People with conditions or habits such as high blood pressure, an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, or smoking, not only have a higher risk of stroke, they may also have more severe strokes than people without these risk factors, according to a study published in the November 13, 2024, online issue of *Neurology*®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

“Stroke can lead to disability or even death, yet there are a number of risk factors that people can modify with a change in lifestyle or medication,” said study author Catriona Reddin, MD at the University of Galway in Ireland and a member of the American Academy of Neurology.



DWG Studio

“Our results emphasize the importance of managing risk factors for stroke, especially high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation and smoking in order to prevent severe, disabling stroke.”

The study involved 26,948 people from 32 countries with an average age of 62. Of this group, half the people had a stroke and half were people who did not have a stroke. Participants without stroke

were matched for age and sex to people who had stroke.

Of those with stroke, 4,848 people had a severe stroke and 8,612 people had a mild to moderate stroke. Severe stroke was defined as outcomes ranging from being unable to walk or care for oneself without assistance to requiring constant nursing care to death. Mild to moderate stroke was defined as outcomes ranging

from having no symptoms to requiring some help with personal care but being able to walk without the assistance of another person.

Researchers determined the following stroke risk factors for each person: blood pressure higher than 140/90 millimeters of mercury (mmHg); atrial fibrillation; diabetes; high cholesterol; smoking; alcohol use; diet quality; physical inactivity; psychological and social stress; and excess body fat around the waist called waist-to-hip ratio.

Researchers compared how important risk factors were for severe stroke and mild to moderate stroke to people who did not have a stroke. Researchers also compared how important risk factors were in those with stroke only, where

people with a severe stroke were matched with and compared to people with a mild to severe stroke.

A total of 74% of those with severe stroke had high blood pressure, compared to 72% of those with mild to moderate stroke. For atrial fibrillation, 11% of those with severe stroke had the condition, compared to 9% of those with mild to moderate stroke. In both groups, 30% were current smokers.

After adjusting for age, sex, country and type of stroke, researchers found people with high blood pressure were 3.2 times more likely to have a severe stroke and 2.9 times more likely to have a mild to moderate stroke than people without high blood pressure.

They also found people with atrial fibrillation were

4.7 times more likely to have severe stroke and 3.6 times more likely to have mild to moderate stroke than people without atrial fibrillation.

Researchers found people who smoked were 1.9 times more likely to have severe stroke and 1.7 times more likely to have mild to moderate stroke than people who were not current smokers.

“Our findings emphasize the importance of controlling high blood pressure, which is the most important modifiable risk factor for stroke globally,” said Reddin. “This is particularly relevant for lower- and middle-income countries that have rapidly increasing rates of high blood pressure and strokes at younger

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showed that over 70 percent of Democrats supported a ceasefire in Gaza. Additionally, almost four in 10 likely voters, as well as more than half of all Democrats, believe that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. VP Harris and the DNC would not even allow a Palestinian spokesperson on stage at the convention. Thus, losing Michigan.

Former President Obama had a stroke of genius and decided, once again, to attack, castigate and lecture Black men during a speech in October. Maybe he forgot that approximately eight-in-ten Black voters — both women (84%) and men (81%) — are Democrats or lean Democratic. Mr. President, note to self, don’t attack your base that

close to an election. Embrace them. Trump embraced his.

The Obama/Biden campaign promised to deliver federal codification of Roe. Over two terms, they failed to deliver. The Biden/Harris campaign promised the same thing and failed to deliver. With women’s reproductive rights as a lead issue of the Harris/Waltz campaign, why would voters trust that she would deliver now?

VP Harris chose to embrace the endorsement of former ultra-conservative, war hawk, Republican VP Dick Cheney, over working closer with Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VM). She traversed the campaign trail with former Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY) who

voted with Trump 93 percent of the time, instead of campaigning with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). These are just two examples of how the Democrats have moved to the political right and realigned themselves with political adversaries that were once considered extremists, instead of securing their base.

The traditional Republicans did not win. MAGA won. Project 2025 won. The kleptocrats won. America will now be governed by the pathocracy, the inmates have taken control of the asylum. Voters did not fall for it. They clearly voted for it and America is about to get what these folks voted for. JD Vance is being groomed to carry the banner forward after Trump is done. Are you ready for that? It might

very well be a long cold winter in America.

As we continue to do this autopsy and/or requiem for a failed presidential campaign and a party, African Americans who have been so loyal and ideologically wedded to the Democratic party may want to reconsider this alliance. Former President Bill Clinton and his DLC acolytes have taken the party so far to the right that if he were alive today, Ronald Reagan would be considered a conservative Democrat.

Historically, those are not our politics and that’s why our continued support of it, without it supporting us makes no sense. DuBois told us in 1956, “I shall not go to the polls. I have not registered. I believe that democracy has so far disappeared in the United

States that no “two evils” exist. There is but one evil party with two names, and it will be elected despite all I can do or say.” As Fred Hampton said, this is why you continue to “... come up with answers that don’t answer, explanations that don’t explain, you’ll come up with conclusions that don’t conclude...”

So, if you really want to understand why VP Harris and the Democrats lost, don’t blame misogynist Latino males or “the White man”. Look inward and self-assess before placing blame on those around you. Because contrary to popular belief, Harris/Waltz (just like Clinton/Kaine) was a lousy campaign.

“And I see the robins, yeah, perched in barren tree tops

Watching last-ditch rac-

*ists marching across the floor*

*And like the peace sign that vanished in our dreams*

*That never had a chance to grow*

*Somebody want to go tell them it’s winter*

*It’s cold, it’s like winter in America...*

Winter In America – Gil Scott-Heron

*Dr. Wilmer Leon, a Trice Edney News Wire columnist, is a national broadcast radio talk-show host; author of Politics Another Perspective; and host of the podcast, Connecting the Dots w/ Dr. Wilmer Leon. Contact: www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com. www.twitter.com/drwlleon and Dr. Leon’s Prescription at Facebook.com © 2024 InfoWave Communications, LLC.*

# U.S. election systems strong, despite growing disruptions caused by disinformation

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

Americans were bombarded with misinformation during the 2024 election, as Russia, China, and North Korea manipulated messaging through social media, Intelligence Committee Chair Mark Warner said in an October Ethnic Media Services briefing. The global interference was even more pronounced than in 2020, as deep fakes and misinformation have grown increasingly sophisticated.

The good news, said Warner, the security of our voting systems, staff, and machinery is quite good. This, despite concerns earlier in the year over election officials abandoning their posts due to security threats.

On election day, officials were well prepared to re-



Unseen Histories / Unsplash

spond to the bomb threats in battleground states, after training for various scenarios and updating emergency plans, the Associated Press reported. The FBI said the threats originated from Russian email domains, though that doesn't necessarily mean they actually came from Russia.

Their goal -- to undermine American confidence and to gradually diminish U.S. power, according to Emerson Brooking, resi-

dent senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, which tracks foreign disinformation. Russia, in particular, preferred to have President-elect Trump in power because he is seen as less likely to support assistance for Ukraine, said Brooking.

Iran, on the other hand, is likely to want to undermine Trump, while China is focused less at the presidential level as much, and

more in down-ballot races, added Warner.

These countries have all realized it is increasingly cost effective to spread such misinformation, explained Warner, often simply amplifying conspiracy theories already circulating on the web. Many Americans, exacerbated by certain political candidates, have grown more and more willing to believe such information, despite having no basis in fact, Warner added.

During the current election, there was a disproportionate focus of disinformation to Latino and Jewish communities in America, while in 2016, Russia emphasized misinformation to African-American communities, said Warner.

All the social media and technology platforms have been putting fewer resources into monitoring their

content since 2020, said Warner, the most extreme example being X, whose owner actually perpetrates disinformation. There have also been enormous challenges with TikTok due to its ownership by ByteDance and control by the Communist Party of China, he said.

Despite that U.S. security does monitor and try to prevent disinformation and misinformation coming from foreign adversaries, Americans, of course, have First Amendment rights that allow them to claim anything they want, even though it may be slightly crazy, said Warner. Yet, if these claims are amplified by a foreign spy service, the U.S. can try to prevent this activity.

Nations like Sweden, which have had Russian interference for a number of years, is pretty good about

advising people to simply dismiss the information, said Warner.

Because we don't all vote into a central voting tally the way Venezuela does, for example, it's more difficult to hack into U.S. election systems. That's the good news, said Warner. The bad news is, though, when candidates and individuals, continue to make baseless claims about voting systems the way they have about the company Dominion, this undermines confidence in our elections.

The U.S. government took all precautions to strengthen both physical and cybersecurity for voting locations, spending enormous amounts of time and money to strengthen physical protection, through the addition of bulletproof glass, as well as other protections for election workers, said Warner.

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# Taking a pause while reaching the halfway mark



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

It's hard to believe the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year is almost over.

The holidays are now upon us, and I want to take a minute to remind everyone to stop, breathe, and enjoy the season. In this spirit of gratitude, I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to the principals, teachers, and staff of D6 for their hard work and dedication to our students. Your work doesn't go unnoticed, and we are grateful for all that



Courtesy photo

you do.

**District 6 hosts Community Listening Session:** I want to thank everyone for participating in the Community Listening meetings

across the city. As you are aware, the David W. Carter High School meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. However, many of you were able to join the

virtual meeting. I enjoyed meeting the families and students and learning more about their vision for Dallas ISD. These conversations are important because our district is resetting its five-year priorities, which are going to serve as a guide for student achievement goals and the overall direction of the district. To give your input, email me at [joyceforeman@dallasisd.org](mailto:joyceforeman@dallasisd.org). You can also visit the district's website to take the online survey.

**Discover Dallas ISD:** Thank you to all of the District 6 schools who showed up for Discover Dallas! This event showcases all that our school district has to offer, from specialty

schools and programs to our neighborhood schools, which have been the heart of our communities for years, providing a rich legacy we all proudly share. I am glad they are marketing their schools early in the school year and was proud to see D6 well represented. For those who did not attend Discover Dallas ISD, you missed an opportunity to apply on site for a choice school for 2025-2026. However, you can still apply by visiting the Dallas ISD website or participating in one of our virtual sessions Dec. 7 and Jan. 18. For more information, visit the Dallas ISD website.

**Upcoming Thanksgiving Break:** As a reminder,

schools will be closed from Nov. 25-29 for Thanksgiving Break. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you enjoy some well-deserved time off with your family.

**Free student meals over Thanksgiving Break:** To help fight hunger among children in our Dallas community during the Thanksgiving Break, Dallas ISD will provide free meals to all students 18 years and younger and children with disabilities up to age 21. Starting Nov. 25, three breakfasts and three lunches will be served while supplies last. Please visit the Dallas ISD Food and Child Nutrition website for more information.

## Professor Tonya M. Evans on cryptocurrency, Black wealth, and the high stakes of Trump's Agenda 47 and Project 2025

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a recent appearance on Let It Be Known News, Professor Tonya M. Evans—an expert in fintech law at Penn State Dickinson Law and a prominent figure in digital asset strategy—discussed the evolving landscape of cryptocurrency, particularly its impact on Black America. As an advisor on fintech policy through her company Advantage Evans, LLC, and a board member of Digital Currency Group, Evans is deeply invested in guiding Black investors



*In the face of increasing hype and misinformation, Evans encouraged Black investors to pursue a clear understanding of cryptocurrency, noting that education is key. (Photo via NNPA)*

through the complex world of cryptocurrency.

Evans' insights align

with the ongoing discussions surrounding her recent Forbes article, "Can

the Crypto Industry Survive Trump's Agenda 47 and Project 2025?" She

highlighted the friction between the government's regulatory initiatives, prioritizing national sovereignty, and the decentralized ideals at the heart of digital currencies like Bitcoin.

In the face of increasing hype and misinformation, Evans encouraged Black investors to pursue a clear understanding of cryptocurrency, noting that education is key. "There are several trusted resources available to help investors learn more about crypto risks and rewards," she advised. She added that thorough research and skepticism toward "get

rich quick" schemes are vital for protection against scams.

The potential of cryptocurrency to bridge the racial wealth gap remains a key topic among Black investors. With low entry barriers, crypto promises accessibility, yet without serious consumer protections, it remains fraught with risk. Evans emphasized the need for Black investors to adopt strategies for minimizing losses amid volatility, advising the establishment of backup plans to protect investments. For Black families,

**See CRYPTO, Page 8**



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[DallasISD.org/Discover](https://DallasISD.org/Discover)



# Dallas natives Shedeur Sanders and Kevin Jennings eye college football playoff opportunities

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

Under the Friday night lights of a Texas high school football game is where you will find some of the most elite talent on the gridiron. Shedeur Sanders played his high school ball at Trinity Christian High School in Cedar Hill, Texas and Kevin Jennings served as signal-caller for the South Oak Cliff Golden Bears in Oak Cliff, Texas. Both were state champions and three-star recruits entering the college ranks—now seizing the chance to compete in the expanded College Football Playoff.

Jennings and the SMU Mustangs are undefeated in conference play during their first season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. The University of Miami's stunning loss to Georgia Tech puts SMU in the driver's seat to reach the 2024 ACC Championship. Coming off a bye,



Shedeur Sanders (left) and Kevin Jennings (right) (Sanders photo / 2C2K Photography (CC BY 2.0) Jennins photo / SMU, NDG Composite)

SMU prepares to face a Boston College team that defeated them in last year's Wasabi Fenway Bowl. In his sophomore season, Jennings has led the Mustangs to sole possession of first place in the ACC.

"We believe in Kevin. We know him by the work that he puts in every single day," SMU QB coach D'Eriq King said.

There are three teams in the ACC competing for two spots—SMU, Clemson, and Miami are right in the thick of things for one of the conference championship berths. Controlling

their own destiny, SMU is on a mission to finish the season strong and remain undefeated in conference play.

The Colorado Buffaloes rallied past Texas Tech in a 41-27 comeback victory. Sanders was named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week after throwing for 293 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for a score. Colorado has moved to second place in the Big 12 standings and positioned themselves to potentially take part in the Big 12 Championship Game versus BYU.

As Donald Trump prepares to re-enter the presidency, his pivot from denouncing cryptocurrency as a "scam" to launching his own platform, World Liberty Financial (WLFI), raises questions about ethics and transparency in the rapidly expanding digital asset market. Critics argue that Trump's venture into crypto could be less about financial innovation and more about political and personal gain, especially as he positions WLFI as a groundbreaking platform despite the involvement of controversial figures.

er safeguards leaves Black investors vulnerable to yet another risk cycle.

Political dynamics further complicate this landscape. With the influence of crypto-backed super PACs in the 2024 election, millions have been funneled to maintain light regulations. Evans observed that crypto's sway in Washington benefits those who can bear financial risk, underscoring the uneven playing field that often excludes marginalized communities.

The Buffaloes also control their own destiny and have cemented themselves as a legit College Football Playoff Contender. Sanders credits the trust and collectiveness the team has in one another.

"We knew we could do it, there was never any pressure or anything. We have that confidence as a team, if the defense gives up something, they gone figure it out. For example, if offensively we're not going, the defense know[s]

we gone figure [it] out," Sanders stated postgame.

Colorado continues to silence naysayers by handling their business on the field. This season's success is a complete turnaround from last year—all doubters owe Sanders and company an apology.

Jennings and Sanders have done admirable jobs leading their respective schools throughout the season. If each can win their conference championship, they clinch an automatic

bid to the College Football Playoff. With both paths being clear and set, it is up to the Dallas-bred quarterbacks to deliver by playing championship level football. Jennings and Sanders are no strangers to high pressure moments and are built to lead their teams to the promised land. These young men continue to represent the city of Dallas with pride and to the highest standard—in the words of rapper Big Tuck, 'South Da Reelist.'

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## CRYPTO, from Page 6

staying informed about new regulations is essential, as crypto's largely unregulated market can make it challenging to avoid financial pitfalls.

"Cryptocurrency was marketed as a tool for financial freedom for Black Americans—a way to bypass banks, build wealth, and close the racial wealth gap," Evans noted. However, after the 2022 market crash, that promise faded for many. While Bitcoin remains a significant player, a lack of solid consum-



# Film Review: Nothing can prepare you for 'Emilia Perez'

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*1/2) Nothing in law school prepared her for this. Not the bar exam. Mock trials. Nothing!

Only creative, forward-thinking and innovative filmmakers could concoct this modern-day life-of-crime fable. Those accolades describe writer/director Jacques Audiard (*A Prophet*) and his co-screenwriters Thomas Bidegain and Nicolas Livechi. They're telling a tale that will rock audiences' world. A parable so different ears won't believe what they hear. Eyeballs will be glued to the screen. And that's just the beginning.

Rita (Zoe Saldana, *Avatar*) is a very successful defense lawyer who lives and works in Mexico. She's so good she gets guilty creeps off the hook even when they deserve to go to the slammer. Her success doesn't go unnoticed. She gets a mysterious phone call, "Do you want to become rich?" It's for a job she doesn't want and declines. Unfortunately for her, no is not an acceptable answer. Next thing she knows, she's been kidnapped and is facing the menacing leader of a drug cartel. Rita is scared to death as Manitas Del Monte (Karla Sofía Gascón), with his evil stare, gravelly voice and metal-grill teeth, demands her services. Defense lawyer? No. Consigliere? Closer. How about leader of his transition team.

The fresh, mind-boggling narrative captures attention and holds it throughout. Audiences won't gain their equilibrium again until the



Zoe Saldana in *Emilia Perez* (Image via NNPA)

film ends. That's 2h 10m later (editor, the very brilliant Juliette Welfling). Not willing to make things easy for anybody, the filmmakers made this movie a musical too. Characters sing and dance. They break into song at good or awkward moments. The pulsating musical score in the beginning is entrancing. But some of the song/dance routines feel Broadwayish. Others like a fashion shoot.

However, the words and music, unlike those in *Joker Folie à Deux*, define scenes, distinguish characters, extend emotions or further the plot. Sometimes the breaking into song feels organic. Sometimes disruptive in a plotline that needs no enhancements. Saldana is a decent singer, a better dancer. Selena Gomez and other cast members have stellar voices that can sell records. Still nothing is imperfect enough to detour attention from the riveting storyline. Nothing.

Rita helps Manitas become his better self. The

machinations involved, from finding international surgeons like Dr. Wasserman (Mark Ivanir, *Schindler's List*) and operating rooms, to learning how to accommodate her newly transformed boss Emilia, keep Rita on her toes. She also has to juggle the lives of Manitas' wife Jessi (Gomez) and his two sons. They're moved around under the deception that their lives are in danger, and they must live on the lam. Jessi's lover Gustavo (Edgar Ramírez, TV miniseries *Carlos*) is in the picture. Epifanía (Adriana Paz), a battered wife, who becomes Emilia's new friend, is added to the new extended family. Jealousy, threats and guns add complexities. How will this all coalesce? Where will this lead?

Saldana, Gomez, Paz and Gascón intermesh well, pushing each other's performances to greater heights. Saldana demonstrates a certain dexterity as a lawyer who becomes a fixer. Gomez plays Jes-

si like a lamb lost in the woods. A lamb with a strong libido, "Gustavo, my p---- still hurts when I think of you." She's a wife who


knows her dead husband's cruelty well, "He'd cut us into pieces and feed us to the dogs." Ivanir is one of the better singers. Ramírez has an edge that makes you feel like Gustavo is reckless. But when Oscar noms are announced, if there's justice in this world, Gascón may make history and gain an Oscar nom for Best Actress. Hard to ignore the magic she creates as she navigates between OG cartel head and a sweet lover with a jealous streak.

Jumping between violent action scenes, brightly lit operating rooms and low-light bedrooms seems easy for cinematographer Paul Guillaume (Paris, 13th District). Adding to the footage's visual flair looks like second nature for pro-

duction designer Emmanuelle Duplay (*Anatomy of a Fall*) and costume designer Virginie Montel (*A Prophet*). The very daring music by Camille and Clément Ducol sets this film apart. Some songs are powerful. Some not. Yet viewers and listeners will take the great with the not so great in stride.

The very versatile French director Jacques Audiard can add musical film to his eclectic resume. This project idea came to him during COVID, when he read the 2018 novel *Écoute*, by Boris Razon. Now with this inventive production, combined with previous work like the immigrant prison/drama *A Prophet* and mod-



See PEREZ, Page 13



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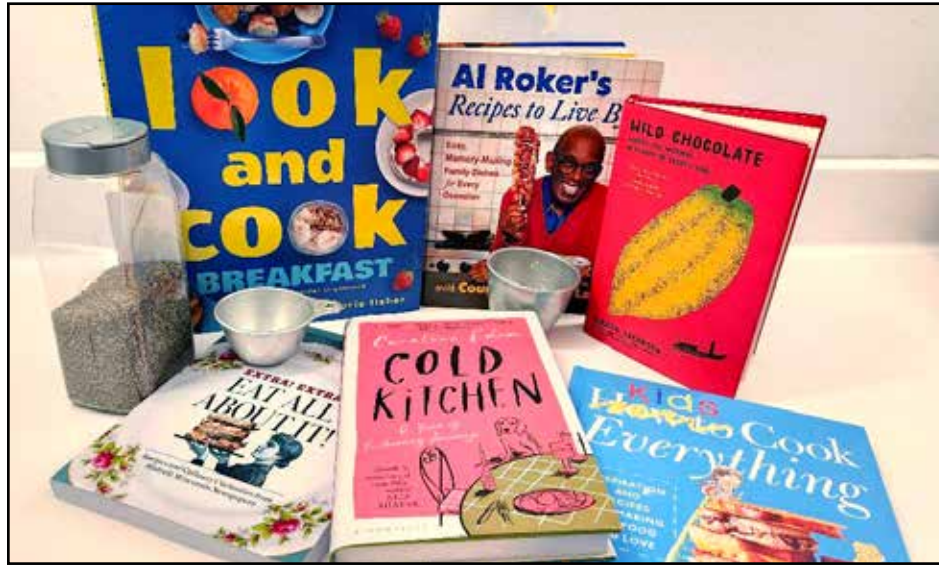
# NDG Book Review: Cookbooks for the Family by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

‘Tis the season. The season to bundle up when going outside. To anticipate a holiday tune or two, to admire lights on your evening walk or to decorate your own windows. ‘Tis the season to start looking for recipes to wow your guests this year, so why not check out these great cookbooks...

Just gazing at the cover of “Al Roker’s Recipes to Live By” by Al Roker with Courtney Roker Laga (Legacy Lit, \$35) is going to make you hungry. Just paging through it is going to make you confident because what’s in here are easy-to-make dishes that your family will want again. Check out the sandwich section for those leftovers.

You don’t have to be



Terri Schlichenmeyer

from Wisconsin to want “Extra! Extra! Eat All About It! by Jane Conway and Randi Julia Ramsden (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$30). What you will need, though, is an adventurous spirit to try the old-time suggestions and a willingness to enjoy the articles that go with them.

Tasty recipes plus tasty history equals a yummy book for the person who likes to read cookbooks and then actually use them.

Of course, you want to bring the kids into the kitchen so they can host you someday, right? So have “Kids Cook Everything” by Mark Bittman (HarperCol-

lins Harvest, \$35), a nice hefty book that’s meant for the budding cook in two nice ways: this cookbook is easy for the 10-and-up reader to follow, and the recipes in here are both kid favorites and kid-enticing. The sidebars and illustrations just make it better. Be aware that you’ll want to be

around to lend a hand, but then... how could you not, with this fun book?

For littler kids who need a little-kid-friendly first cookbook, find “Look and Cook Breakfast” by Valerie Fisher (Astra Young Readers, \$19.99). Step-by-step pictures make this book perfect for the smallest kitchen helper, ages five to eight.

So your shelves are full of cookbooks, thank-you-very-much, but you still want to read something new about food? Then look for “Cold Kitchen: A Year of Culinary Journeys” by Caroline Eden (Bloomsbury, \$27.99), and take a trip through Eastern Europe and Central Asia with Eden, a Scottish writer who’s happy to have you along. You won’t find recipes in this book, but you’ll find plenty of inspiration.

Likewise, there are no recipes inside “Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas in Search of Cacao’s Soul” by Rowan Jacobsen (Bloomsbury, \$28.99) but chocolate. Chocolate in its most raw form, in its most hard-to-reach form, and how its fervent fans are working to ensure that the wild cacao doesn’t disappear. It’s a tale of adventure, perfect for reading between meals and with a big bar of, well, you know...

And if these great cookbooks aren’t enough for your hosting pleasure or your kitchen counter, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask to see the cookbook section. Better yet, ask if your favorite bookseller or librarian has some favorite dishes and where they got them. Because ‘tis the season for (r)eating.

## CASA applauds Mavericks and local heroes at Champion of Children dinner

Dallas CASA’s Champion of Children Award Dinner on October 18 celebrated the Dallas Mavericks for their impactful work in the community.

Mavericks owner Patrick Dumont and CEO Cynt Marshall accepted the Jan and Judge Barefoot Sanders Champion of Children Award to enthu-

siastic applause from fans just days before the season opener.

The evening featured Sixto Cancel, founder of Think of Us, who shared

his personal foster care journey and the importance of family connections for foster youth. Hosted by event co-chairs Janice and Richard Davis

and Nicki and Paul Stafford, with Bob Mong as honorary chair the night brought together Dallas CASA supporters, judges, and board members, all

inspired by the Mavericks’ commitment to bettering Dallas.

(Find more photos from the event on our website at [northdallasgazette.com](http://northdallasgazette.com).)



(Left) Michael LaValle, Kathleen M. LaValle, Patrick Dumont, Sivan Dumont, Cynt Marshall, Kenneth Marshall, Shirley Marshall and Anthony Marshall, (Middle) Award presentation; Patrick Dumont, Cynt Marshall and Scott Orr, (Right) Forrest Hogleund, Kristy Hogleund Robinson and Sally Hogleund. (Photos by Kristina Bowman Photography)



# A loan shark in your pocket: Cellphone cash advance apps

## *Fast-growing app usage leaves many consumers worse off*

By Charlene Crowell

Many Americans continue to find it challenging to keep up with the rising cost of living. Despite economic reports attesting to a growing broad economy, the majority of Americans' household finances feel insecure – especially people who live paycheck to paycheck with little or no savings.

The financial marketplace has responded to this ongoing consumer cash crunch with an emerging predatory lending product designed to take full advantage of consumers' financial mismatch: earned wage advances (EWA). These cash advance products are small, short-term loans, typically ranging from \$40 to \$200, that are repaid on the consumer's next payday either directly from a bank account or as a payroll deduction. They're also conveniently available with a few clicks on borrowers' smartphones.

But as with other predatory loans, wage advances also create a deceptive and highly profitable cycle of debt built upon repeated reborrowing with interest equivalent to 300 percent annual percentage rates or more. In most cases, these cash advances also lead to frequent overdraft fees. The combined repeat borrowing and high costs result in unsuspecting consumers learning the so-called convenience brought more – not less – financial hardship.

This summer, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau shared its early analysis of this growing market segment, including key data points:

- The number of transactions processed by these providers grew by over 90% from 2021 to 2022, with more than 7 million workers accessing approximately \$22 billion in 2022;

- The average transaction amount ranged from \$35 to \$200, with an overall average transaction size of \$106, and the average worker accessed \$3,000 in funds per year; and

The average worker in their study had 27 earned wage transactions per year, and a strong growth in frequent usage of at least once a month rising from 41% in 2021 to nearly 50% in 2022.

More recently, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), released a new policy brief entitled, *Paying to be Paid: Consumer Protections Needed for Earned Wage Advances and Other Fintech Cash Advances*.

“By offering predatory credit with just a few taps on your cell phone, cash advance apps are a loan shark in your pocket. This report shows many cash advance app borrowers are trapped in a cycle of debt like that experienced by payday loan borrowers,” said Candice Wang, senior researcher at CRL. “Cash advance app companies issue loans with triple-digit annual interest rates in nearly every corner of America – even where those rates are illegally high – inflicting financial pain on a growing number of consumers.”

CRL's analysis of EWA harms wrought in 18 states from January 2021 through June 2024, led to three key findings on its impacts on low- to- moderate-income consumers:

- Many cash advance app borrowers are trapped in a debt cycle and the heaviest users drive the business model. Repeat use of advances is common and high-frequency users accounted for 38% of users and 86% of advances. Many users borrowed from multiple apps simultaneously. Nearly half of all borrowers had used multiple companies in the same month.

- App use is associated with increased overdraft fees and payday loan use.

- Consumers across states are experiencing similar harms. The eighteen states analyzed had similar patterns of repeat borrowing and overdraft use.

States studied included: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

An earlier and related CRL report released this April, cited the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) finding that the share of users earning less than \$50,000 a year ranged from 59% to 97% across four different advance companies that separately provided these percentages. A survey of low-income workers receiving government benefits found that 51% had used or downloaded direct-to-consumer apps and 16% had used them once a week.

Most importantly, this report included comments by consumers who used cash apps to make ends meet.

“I usually use them every time I get paid because they

take out their payment and usually my check is short because I use the apps and I have to go back and re-borrow almost every time I get paid. It has been harder to save money, because I often find myself paying back more than what I borrowed every time and that sets me back for paying off other things.” –Ayanna

Resolving this growing predatory product would best be addressed by a vigilant combination of more state and federal financial regulation. It took decades of consumer advocacy before 20 states and the

District of Columbia enacted payday lending rate caps that made triple-digit lending illegal. Even so, the other 30 states without comparable regulation still drain nearly \$3 billion in fees annually.

Fortunately, one state attorney general, Maryland's Anthony Brown, wrote a related guest column in the Baltimore Sun that reads in part:

“EWA providers claim that they offer an important service. But Maryland workers, many of whom live paycheck-to-paycheck, cannot afford exorbitant in-

terest on these loans which diminish their hard-earned wages. Although my office understands the inconvenience caused by employers who don't pay workers frequently enough, or bills that come due between paychecks, the answer is not payday and other predatory loans that charge more than permitted by law.”

The quest for financial fairness must go on.

*Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*



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## TRUMP, from Page 1

receive reparations for centuries of racism and discrimination.

White college students who, in his opinion, have suffered because of diversity, equity, and inclusion policies have received a signal from Trump that he would extend reparative measures to them. He's vowed to ramp up law enforcement efforts targeting minority communities, with plans to reinstate controversial stop-and-frisk laws, grant sweeping immunity to police, and dismantle the Department of Justice's civil rights division.

For Biden, the White House meeting on Wednesday may have been just another statesmanlike duty, another handshake for the cameras. But for Black Americans, the stakes are disturbingly real. The prom-

ise of a Trump administration heavy-handed in law enforcement and dismissive of civil rights is not a distant threat; it's an imminent one. As Biden offered his congratulations, Black Americans, knowing that white women and white men were responsible for the 2024 election results, were left with the image of a president who appeared shielded by privilege, watching as the same Oval Office welcomed back a leader intent on unraveling hard-fought protections.

As the fire crackled behind the two in the Oval Office, Biden wished for a smooth transition—ironically, the same gesture Trump had denied him four years ago—and Black America could only look on with trepidation and the unmistakable privilege that

white America has fought so viciously to deny people of color. Under Trump, Black Americans saw police-involved deaths rise, racist rhetoric embolden hate groups, and policies favoring predominantly white and affluent communities. Now, with the incoming Trump-led administration reinvigorated, communities across the nation are bracing themselves for policies that echo Jim Crow's shadow.

In this return to power, Trump brings with him a promise of transformation—one that may bear little good news for communities of color. His rhetoric on law enforcement paints a vision of a "police state," where "order" is synonymous with marginalization and where civil liberties are an afterthought. The administration's proposed reforms under Project 2025 or

Agenda 47 promise further marginalization of those already most affected by systemic injustices.

As Biden shook Trump's hand, the widening chasm between the lived experience of Black people and the political theater of the day was apparent. Confederates who remain heroes of Trump and those ensconced in the MAGA movement are likely to replace the portraits of historical figures like Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. that currently line the Oval Office. Trump has spoken openly of his opposition to removing Confederate monuments and relics that honor those who fought

to retain slavery in America.

While the two men smiled and shook hands, it's likely that the lives of Biden and Trump and many who look like them—particularly those who enjoy their wealth—will, at worst, remain unchanged. In contrast, Black Americans—and other communities of color—are set to face an administration chomping at the bit to eradicate all civil rights protections afforded minorities. Trump's approach has already emboldened hate groups, stirred racist sentiments, and further divided the nation.

Still, Biden, seated comfortably within the privileges that come with his office

and with being white and wealthy, offered a "smooth transition" to a man who promised to tighten the grip of authority on communities that have fought hardest for equity and justice.

"Privilege meeting privilege isn't just about two men shaking hands," said one administration official who asked to remain anonymous and who will be without a job come January 20. "It's about a system that protects itself, a system that tells Black America, 'It's your turn to wait—again.' And while they exchange niceties, Black America holds its breath, knowing that the fight for justice got a lot harder."

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# NAACP launches \$200 million fund to transform venture capital landscape

(Black PR Wire) WASHINGTON – Recently, during a dealmaking summit for investors, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurs in New York City, the NAACP, the nation’s largest civil rights organization, announced the launch of NAACP Capital, a fund of funds that will invest in fund managers and startups that are focused on closing gaps facing communities of color. The fund, which seeks to raise \$200 million, was conceptualized in partnership with Kapor Capital and Kapor Center, along with a team of nine venture fund managers.

NAACP President & CEO, Derrick Johnson released the following statement in celebration of the Fund’s launch:

“As an ever-evolving

legacy organization, the NAACP knows that innovation is borne out of inclusivity. Impact investing has the power to drive historic financial returns and uplift overlooked communities. Right now, deeply entrenched systemic barriers are curtailing the innovative progress necessary to breed healthy competition in a global economy. We’re seeking to change that. Investment is the backbone of impact, and impact investing will shape socioeconomics for generations to come. It’s time to invest in fund managers who share a forward-looking vision that invests in innovation and technology, ensuring the economy works for everybody, not just a select few.”

For over 115 years, the NAACP has led the fight

for equal rights and opportunities. As part of the #KeepAdvancing campaign – a modernized approach to civic engagement – NAACP Capital is a natural extension of the Association’s deep heritage in the fight for social justice and a more inclusive economy. Many of the important issues that the NAACP has long fought for, from education to healthcare to financial access, are growing markets for startup innovation. By investing in fund managers focusing on these markets and startups directly, NAACP Capital will stake the NAACP into the technology and venture

capital ecosystem. To lead NAACP’s bold new venture, the Association has hired Jay Lundy as Managing Director of NAACP Capital. Jay Lundy is an experienced venture capital investor and management consultant who started his career in education and impact investing.

“The NAACP and community engagement have long played a role in my family, which makes me even more excited to lead this pivotal effort and launch this historic fund,” said Jay Lundy, managing director of NAACP Capital. “Through this fund, we have an opportunity to in-

vest and capitalize the next generation of managers and founders who will work to bring technology and innovation into our communities. Our investment strategy will target the intersection of generational impact and tech innovation and we believe that this holistic approach will allow us to drive both impact at scale and generate top returns on investment.”

NAACP Capital will operate as a standard fund of funds and co-investing

strategy that will seek to make the venture ecosystem more equitable. In addition to capital, NAACP Capital will provide additional resources and support to the managers and founders it invests in to close racial equity gaps and increase the representation of people of color across the tech ecosystem.

For more information about the NAACP’s work towards building an Inclusive Economy, visit naacp.org.

## PEREZ, from Page 9

ern romance Paris, 13th District, he has a diverse filmography. He can also expect Oscar nods for Best Director, Film, Adapted Screenplay and acting nominations. Very impressive.

Nothing will prepare audiences for this heady

strange mix of gender ID transformations, crime, thrills and romance. Nothing. They’ll feel as coerced and lost in love’s drama as Rita.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

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# Did I Really Say That?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I was working on my computer when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in and said, "Are you ready to go?" She caught me by surprise.

I looked up from my computer and, staring at her, said, "What are you talking about?"

"You remember what you said this morning? That we can go to to get our blood drawn for the doctor?"

I looked at her, not knowing what she was talking about, and said, "What doctor are you talking about?"

"Don't tell me you don't remember me telling you about our appointment this afternoon?"

I had no recollection at all about an appointment to have my blood drawn. I knew it was somewhere in our schedule, but I really didn't think it was for today. If she told me about it this morning, I do not remember.

Not knowing what else to do, I got up, followed her out to the car, and we went to the place to have

our blood drawn. I knew we had it scheduled, but I did not think it was for today. But, I was wrong. I just didn't hear correctly.

That's one of my problems. I don't remember a lot of things. It's not because I'm getting old, but because this has always been one of my problems. It's not that I can't hear. It's just that I sometimes am not listening to what people are saying, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I need to work on this weakness of mine, but I just don't know how to do it. When I'm doing some work on my computer, I can hear what's going on around me, but I don't understand, and I'm not really listening to it. I'm afraid I say "yes," not knowing what I am "yesing" to. That can get me into a lot of trouble. Believe me it has.

Sometimes, while watching TV, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will point something out and say, "Did you see what that person just did?" Then she will laugh.

Of course, I didn't, but I

did shake my head and say calmly, "Yes, my dear. I did see that. Yes, it is funny."

I need to look up the definition of lying. Some people misunderstand it, and I think I'm on that list.

However, I tried to improve my listening habits and pay attention to what people around me were saying.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage recently approached me while I was working and said, "I'll take that \$50 you promised me to get groceries."

I looked at her and said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You know, I ask you this morning if you could give me \$50 to get groceries this afternoon. You said you would."

I pulled out my wallet; all I had was \$50. I handed it to her, and then I thought about it. Is it a coincidence that she asked for \$50, and all I had in my wallet was \$50? Did she really ask me that morning for \$50?

If I only paid attention, maybe I could figure some of these things out. I don't

remember telling her that I would give her \$50 for groceries, but after all, I am not going to infer to her that she is lying to me.

If only I would keep my mouth shut when I should, maybe I wouldn't get into some of the trouble I get into. And maybe, just maybe, if I had the volume in my ears turned up a little more, I might hear more clearly what's being said around me. If I could do those two things, I could escape some of the problems I get into.

While she was going to get the groceries, I pondered this subject for a while. Then, I had a wonderful thought that maybe I could get even with her. I thought about it, put it together very nicely, and was ready to put it together

when she walked in.

She came home from shopping and put the bags on the table, so I went to the kitchen, looked at her, and said, "Can I have the Apple Fritter that you promised me now?" I was laughing on the inside and trying to keep it from coming to the outside. There was no way she was going to get out of this one.

Looking at me seriously, she said, "Oh, my dear. I got that Apple Fritter, and it smelled so good that I'm afraid I ate it on the way home."

To counteract that, I would number the days of my life. I have not known her to eat an Apple Fritter with this time she got me.

I wish I could prepare for the next trick she'll play on me, but I'm afraid I won't

be able to.

Thinking about this I was reminded of a special verse of scripture. My spiritual life is based on my hearing the "word of God."

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," Romans 10:17.

I can read the Bible but not really hear what God is saying to me. If I don't hear what God is saying how can I live a life that is pleasing unto the Lord. Daily I need to so surrender to God's word that I understand what He really wants of me.

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## STROKE, from Page 4

ages."

A limitation of the study was that some factors that may contribute to stroke severity were not measured. For example, Reddin noted that smoking is associated with factors such as cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that may also contribute to increased stroke severity.

Learn more about stroke at [BrainandLife.org](http://BrainandLife.org) home of the American Academy of Neurology's free patient and caregiver magazine

focused on the intersection of neurologic disease and brain health. Follow Brain & Life® on Facebook, X and Instagram.

When posting to social media channels about this research, we encourage you to use the hashtags #Neurology and #AANscience.

The American Academy of Neurology is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN's mission is to en-

hance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

For more information about the American Academy of Neurology, visit [AAN.com](http://AAN.com) or find us on Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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# Why Does God Allow Evil?



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand"? But there is forgiveness with You. That You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits. And in His word I do hope.* - Psalm 130:3-5

One of the most common questions every person wrestles with in life is this:

"God, if You are loving, just, and all-powerful, why do You allow good people to suffer?"

Many choose not to believe in God because they cannot adequately explain this question.

Evangelist Billy Graham



addressed this question in his book *Answers to Life's Problems*:

"We do not know all the reasons why God permits evil. We need to remember, however, that he is not the cause of evil in this world and we should therefore not blame Him for it.

Remember that God did not create evil, as some believe. God created the world perfect. Man chose to defy God and go his own way, and it is man's fault that evil

entered the world.

Even so, God has provided the ultimate triumph of good over evil in Jesus Christ, who on the cross, defeated Satan and those who follow him.

Jesus Christ is coming back and when He does, all evil will be ended forever and righteousness and justice will prevail."

Have you ever thought about what would happen if God suddenly eliminated all the evil in this world? Not

one person would be left, because we are all guilty of sin.

Whenever we suffer, we should remember that the Son of God went before us, drinking the cup of suffering and death to the dregs, on the cross when He shed His precious blood.

Because Christ is fully man and fully God, we know that God understands our fears, sorrows and suffering.

He identifies with us. Most important of all, the Father has given us the gift of His Son so that we don't have to die and suffer forever in eternity.

Because Jesus suffered and died for us, our suffer-

ing can be made like His -purposeful and meaningful.

Evil, suffering and death came into the world when the first man and woman listened to Satan and committed the first sin.

Evil was never part of the Garden of Eden. The moment Adam and Eve crossed

the boundary of God's command, evil became the terrible reality of this world.

There are some questions that will remain unresolved until we are able to meet face to face with our Creator in Heaven.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in November 2017.)*

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## DOING THE RIGHT THING

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<b>Thursday, Nov 21</b> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday, Dec 12</b> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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