Volume XXVIII Number 12

DECEMBER 2020



December 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

The year 2020 has been grueling and very different from prior years. For many individuals and families, Covid-19 has brought unspeakable sadness and despair. Besides, there are dire economic conditions that have wrecked the financial stability of many families, propelling them into poverty.

It is helpful, however, when nothing seems right to pause, reflect, refocus and acknowledge what many are doing to help; there are the goodness and selflessness of many who are helping to dispel the darkness.

At this special season of the year when people are normally filled with joy and goodwill, we at CURET take this opportunity to remember those who are trying to save lives, including essential workers at the frontline of the corona virus pandemic serving in varied capacities and settings, risking their own lives and of their families. We laud their bravery and altruism.

CURET wants to express heartfelt thanks to our staff and volunteers for their faithful support throughout the year; this is immeasurable and we are ever so grateful. God uses your willing service of reaching out, improving the wellbeing of families CURET serves. We say, "Thank you soooo very much!"

May the year 2021 usher in growth in joy, peace, hope, blessings, and a happier new year ahead!

Warmly, Edgar & Carol Johnson

Access Health CT: Affordable Health Insurance For You, Your Family, Or Small Business

ketplace, where you can shop, com- Program or CHIP). plans. It is the only place where you company?

Access Health CT is the HUSKY Health (Medicaid/the Shield and ConnectiCare, and partners for free or low-cost health. state's official health insurance mar- Children's Health Insurance

pare and enroll in quality healthcare Is Access Health CT an insurance

can qualify for financial help to No. Access Health CT connects you lower your costs, or be eligible for to brand-name insurance companies free or low-cost coverage through like Anthem Blue Cross & Blue

with the Department of Social Every plan offered has coverage for Services to offer coverage through some services at no cost, like preven-HUSKY Health.

Access Health CT is the only place vaccinations), some prescription where you can:

Qualify for financial help to lower treatment. Find a better, and possiyour costs. See if you are eligible bly less expensive option

tive services (e.g. annual checkups,

drugs, mental health, substance abuse

than COBRA (Consolidated Omnibu s Budget Reconciliation Act) continuation coverage, if offered by your employer.

Wait, there is more!

Compare plans and see options that consider your total costs associated with visiting your doctors, taking your prescription drugs and how often YOU use medical services

Enroll in quality health & dental plans

Can Anyone Enroll?

If you are a Connecticut resident who is lawfully present (U.S. citizen, by birth/naturalization, or who have a valid, current U.S. immigration status) and non-incarcerated you can enroll through Access Health CT.

Did you know that over 90% of our customers get some type of financial help, or are eligible for free or lowcost coverage?

Yes! By including your income and household information when you apply for healthcare coverage, you can see if you are eligible. You might qualify depending on your household size, income and where you live.

Where to Start?

By choosing the Right Plan. Access Health CT makes it easy for you to compare plan options that take into account the costs associated with visiting your doctors, taking prescription drugs, and how often you use medical services.

When choosing a plan, think about costs beyond your monthly payment (known as premium). Pay attention to your yearly deductible, co-payments, or co-insurance costs. Plans with the lowest monthly premium are not always the cheapest option for you and your family.

All help is FREE!

Online: AccessHealthCT.com & Live chat. Phone: 1-855-805-4325 or TTY 1-855-789-2428 (we speak over 100 languages)

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Road.

More information is available at: Learn.AccessHealthCT.com/FindUs Contact Access Health CT before December 15, 2020 and stay cov-

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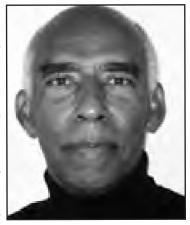
Farewell 2020, Awaiting New Beginnings Of 2021

In a few weeks we will have to let go of the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty. We exhale a collective, national breadth of relief. Should we? It was Jeffrey McDaniel who said, "I realize there is something incredibly honest about trees. They are experts at letting things go." We should do so very carefully.

Each of us should commit to a time of reflection, allowing us to extract maximum learning from our national experience. In cases where those experiences produce sorrow and grief, we should engage in deeper contemplation of the events of the year 2020. Trump's letting hold of the credible to offer the country. It was White House will produce satisfaction just another stage. from eighty million citizens.

Most would agree that of the four years of President Trump's term They were all agog with this flashy in office, each has been remarkable for its divisiveness. We all remember how his campaign for the office of president began. His drive rested on a show on NBC. This he did for 14 foundation of lies anchored through years of dishonest business dealings.

country was hoodwinked into believing that this TV reality performer really had something substantive and



Jim Z. Daniels

Without any doubt whatsoever, the media stands complicit. character that traveled in a certain publicity stream that in fact aided in his selection to host the Apprentice seasons. What many still find astonishing is the length to which he went Many now confess that the to manipulate segments of our country into believing that he had made a remarkable discovery and he was in pursuit of exposing the fraud perpetrated on the nation by a man born outside the United States.

Using this reprehensible lie. Trump began sowing seeds of doubt in our institutions and guiding principles. He satiated a segment of the country that was resentful in accepting the legitimacy of the nation's authority structure—the rule of law.

Seeds of discontent grew because of the evolving and general improvement of the country's various social and economic groups which were experiencing upward mobility economic success.

This however would serve to nurture feelings of envy and covetousness towards the members of this cohort. Feelings that he leveraged time again to keep his political base in check as he exercised power reckless-

It is important to understand that the Apprentice program provided a devoted following that supplied the core element of adulation to Trump's enormous appetite for it. Trump knew he had connected with this group when he said that he could shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue and he

would never be convicted. He knew they knew he was their man.

His first touch stone, rancorous decision, however, reflected the depths to which he would go to pander to this hardcore segment of the country when he issued the executive order barring the people of seven Islamic countries from traveling to the United States.

This pronouncement provided insight into the nature of his leadership style as he began to cement himself into a significant Islamic homophobic population that had repercussions beyond the borders of the United States.

To this mindset may be applied a comment by President Woodrow Wilson, that "a man is not as big as his belief in himself. He is as big as the number of persons who believe in him." It didn't seem to matter that he had no cohesive plan and that he was not able to articulate his own personal comprehensive vision.

He demanded unfailing loyalty even when those being led didn't know where they were

going. All the time keeping his core group of supporters as a backdrop to the direction he envisioned and summed up in his catchall phrase, "Make America Great Again."

The road to an authoritarian government, the emasculation of democratic principles, has been clearly or unintentionally embraced by a series of behaviors that many of our national leaders have displayed. Sliding down the slippery slope away from the principles of democracy has provided the country with precautions of which we must all be alert.

The Trump years will always be remembered as one where he used shame, fear, and embarrassment to silence opposition, or even a difference of opinion. But it has pointed to astonishing incompetence and a lack of willingness to learn and grow.

The COVID virus shines an enormous spotlight on the deficit of his leadership skills. It has left piles of hurt and grieving people across the length and breadth of our nation.

The Trump departure does not mean that he will be abandoning or curtailing his role as a public citizen. The taste of power leads to a desire for more of the same. Healing will come with a new beginning.

Viewpoint

Reflecting On November Election

tected, nurtured and allowed to pros- the "throne" at the White House.

A glance in the rearview per and bloom. Some of the casualties that mirror of the recent USA November are left by the highway are those of fair election shows a trail of figurative elections, regardless of the margins of casualties--fertile soil for seedlings error, USA-style voter intimidation and that cannot, should not be allowed to suppression-moving the end lines to suit survive, and some that must be pro- any particular group so as to gain access to



Leon Fraser

For generations Blacks have chosen to vote, en bloc in most cases for and or against either the Democratic or Republican Party at one point or the other with a silent murmur of what is perceived as "the better of two evils/options."

What if there were a third option, a third choice? Some folks have seen it and tried (for example, the Green Party). It was tolerated up to a point, but it didn't take root because the day- to-day grass root people are way past that level of recruitment by new politicians and

This again points to our blind spot of creating and sustaining a third political party. This is not a simple venture on which to embark. It takes a measure of sustained determination, groundwork foundation to be cemented, and infrastructure to be available access to be guaranteed for the success of this political party. With the stories of past narratives now available to us, we know what to expect if the desire to get in the political game becomes a reality.

Elections and political directions guide a country, and are the yardstick by which a country measures its progress and its setbacks, pitfalls and troughs, the best route to avoid cliffs, and the most suitable trail to the summit. For centuries we have been led by one set of values through two different doors or windows depending on your

We've always used the prism of others to view our future. Shouldn't we at least attempt to open a window for ourselves, to use our own lens to view the future, and to blaze a trail?

In my view, the NAACP is the best-suited organization, at this point of our progression in this country. To do so, is to now focus on one word in the slogan, 'Advancement' and do the due diligence to shed the reluctance to go

The need is great; the time is now; and it can no longer be disascertained, along with a degree of regarded and hope to change another's party from within by simply

joining and hoping to do the change from within. The legal defense arm should seek to embark independently and blaze a trail for the Advancement of generations of subjugated persons of color and African descent.

The pages of our past have kept steady records of our progress and in years to come. As the veils are slowly being lifted from the eyes of a tech-savvy generation, they will begin to ask where is the money from the banks from Black Wall Street in Oklahoma? Who benefitted from the destruction of Rosewood? Where are the assets? What concrete steps to advancement have been made?

These are questions that must be answered to give strength to a better future. Considering the inconsistencies in social circles coupled with a known genius.

Maybe it is time the NAACP relinquishes the leadership role to one of our notable women: mothers, sisters, aunts or nieces? Give them a chance to do what many of the men that have led the organization for so long, have failed to do.

The emergence of black women on the political stage is even more proof that the time is now. And our narratives will tell.

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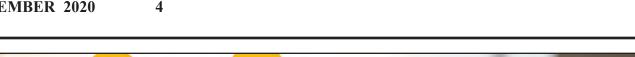
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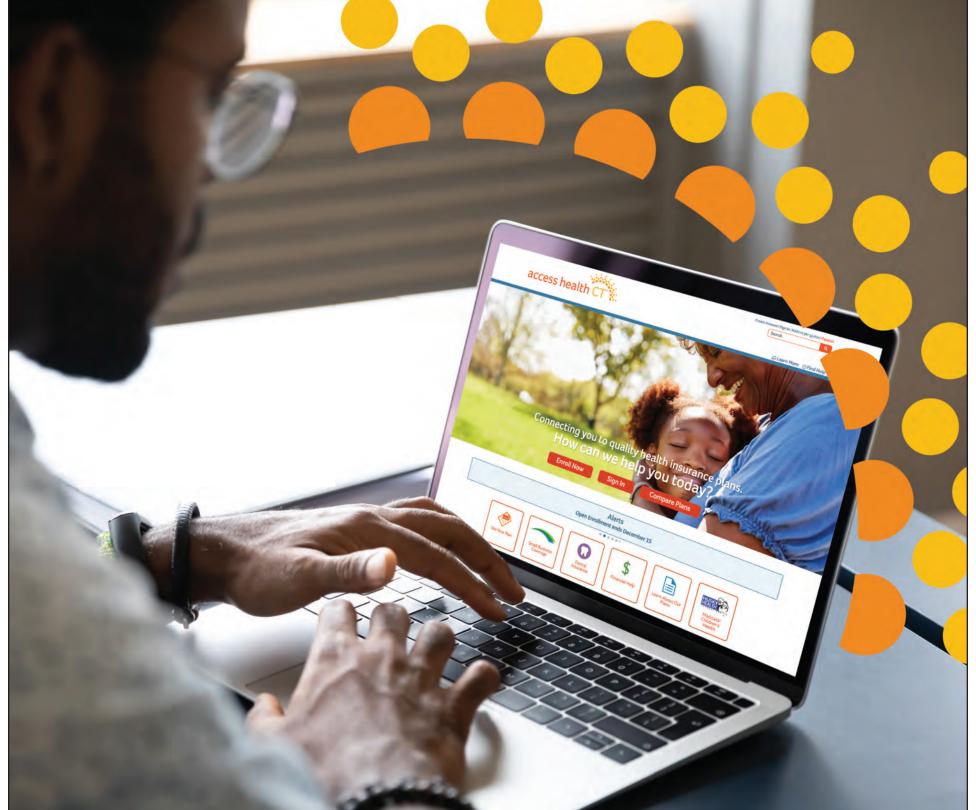
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