



www.hopefromthebottomup.com

October 2022 Hope Newsletter

The Arts: Music can frequently inspire hope. Here is a good example.

We Shall be Free – Garth Brooks



[View video here](#)

Stories of Hope:

DuSable vs. Fenger is more than a game — it's believed to be the 1st time in history that 2 Black women will face off as head football coaches

By [Shakeia Taylor](#), Chicago Tribune Sep 15, 2022



Fenger coach Jouscelyn Mayfield instructs players and DuSable coach Konesha Rhea instruct players during practices on Sept. 13, 2022. (Photos by Armando L. Sanchez / Chicago Tribune)

When Fenger's Jouscelyn Mayfield and DuSable's Konesha Rhea were first coaching on opposite sidelines, it was "a battle of voices."

Mayfield was a coach for her son's youth football team and Rhea was the opposing head coach.

"She's got a very loud voice. I've got a very loud voice. Everybody says all they heard was her bark and my bark," Rhea said.

"This time around I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be a battle of defenses because we're both defensive-minded. We just have to see how our offenses can execute."

Mayfield and Rhea will find each other on opposing sidelines once again Thursday at Gately Stadium.

The two never imagined that nearly 10 years after their youth football matchup they'd be on opposite sidelines again, but Thursday's game will be historic. According to the Illinois High School Association, Mayfield and Rhea will be the first two Black women to go head-to-head as head football coaches in history. Each is looking for her first win of the season. To read more, click on this link: [Historic game pits 2 Black women as head football coaches \(chicagotribune.com\)](http://chicagotribune.com)

Waging Peace Through Brotherhood

Pardeep: When I first met Arno, a little over two months had passed since August 5, 2012, the day my father and five other Sikhs were executed in our peaceful Wisconsin temple by a self-avowed white supremacist.



Pardeep and Arno sharing some refreshment

Pardeep: Two of the victims were brothers, both had families and young children. A woman who was killed left behind two teenage boys. Others had suffered grave injuries. Lt. Brian Murphy, a heroic police officer, was cornered by the killer and shot fifteen times at close range. He survived by the grace of God.

From the start I'd been haunted by the question of, "Why?" I wondered about it day and night. I couldn't ask the killer because he was dead. So, I started to search for answers on my own. Who could tell me why he had chosen our place of worship? Why he'd gone after such peaceful people—men, women, and children whose religion, Sikhism, is based on the practice of harmony and equality for all people?

Was I angry? Hell yes. My anger was eating me alive. My father had been violently taken from my family and we were all struggling to find our places in this new and terrible reality. But I knew I couldn't continue to wallow in cynicism and gloom. That would be a stain on my father's legacy. It went against everything he stood for, all that he was.

My father was an American patriot, a proud immigrant who moved his young wife and two small boys from their farming town in India and assimilated into Midwestern culture through hard work and community service. He was murdered because his skin was brown and he wore a turban. How could I not seek answers for that?

Arno: When I met Pardeep, all I knew about him was that his life had been tragically altered by someone with the belief system I once held. I had immersed myself in racist dogma beginning at the age of 16, and by the time I was 18 I had bragging rights as a founding member of the largest white power skinhead organization in the world.

I was still plagued by nightmares about steel-toed boots and smashed skulls, and trapped in shame and guilt for the damage I did. Damage, I was sorry to say, that wouldn't die with me but would endure as long as there were people willing to embrace the hateful rhetoric I once preached at rallies or bellowed in the white power songs I wrote and performed. People like Wade Michael Page, the man who murdered Pardeep's father. To read more click on this link to Love Wisconsin: <https://www.lovewi.com/pardeeparno/>

Operation Warm to donate both coats and shoes for school-age children

By Tatyana Turner, Chicago Tribune, Aug 24, 2022, at 12:21 pm



Glenn Garlick adjusts the foot of Ayden, 8, as he measures his shoe size to receive free athletic shoes during the Summer Kicks shoe gifting event at Fosco Park Fieldhouse on the Near West Side on July 9, 2021. This is a partnership between the Chicago Housing Authority and Operation Warm, sponsored by The MolinaCares Accord. (Vashon Jordan Jr. / Chicago Tribune)

Ambitions for a successful school year may be high, but so are the costs for back-to-school supplies. [In its 15th annual back-to-school survey](#), Deloitte, an international tax consulting firm, found that parents and guardians are spending approximately 27% more on school supplies than in 2019. But Operation Warm, a nationwide nonprofit organization that has provided coats to children in need for 23 years, will be working to provide students with shoes.

Grace Sica, executive director of Operation Warm, said the goal for the nonprofit is to donate 600,000 coats to children in need and 100,000 pairs of athletic shoes.

Operation Warm does not provide coats directly to families but will be taking donations online until Sept. 15. Shoes and coats are given directly to service organizations that can identify the children in need, according to Sica.

The essentials are then distributed through partners including Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Housing Authority and the Chicago Park District. To read more, click on this link: [Operation Warm provides shoes to Chicago youth for their school ready campaign \(chicagotribune.com\)](#)

A Brief Thought for a Friday Night *Finding hope*

By Dan Rather and Elliot Kirschner, Sep 23, 2022



A brief thought for a Friday night — a Friday I fear is fearful for many.

There is a lot about this world that is unsettling, disorienting, and depressing. There is a lot of news that adds up to a stark realization that this is a moment of great peril. We see forces of destruction in ascendance — economic, environmental, cultural, authoritarian, martial.

Historical parallels spur further alarm. Moments of instability can propel and inflame the worst of human instincts and behavior. Stoking fear is a potent tool for despots. When people worry about their own health, safety, and well-being, empathy for others can be framed as a luxury no longer affordable. Divisions harden. Hate takes root. Unity is undercut.

I have lived long enough and through enough momentous events hopefully to bring some context to the present. I offer no particular wisdom other than that born from longevity. But over time, we can hopefully put the concerns of the present into a broader perspective. Upon this foundation we can build a notion of steady.

We should not bury our heads in the sand about the very real dangers we face. It is a prescription only for delaying an inevitable reckoning. The world is on edge, people are suffering, our own democracy is under threat — primarily from within our own ranks.

And yet, I want to say over and over again this evening, “and yet, and yet, and yet,” I am not pessimistic. I would even go so far as to say I am optimistic. I know we run the risk of being Pollyannaish, but I have lived through times when hope seemed far dimmer than I feel it is today. To read more, click on this link:

https://steady.substack.com/p/a-brief-thought-for-a-friday-night?utm_medium=web

The Arts/Quotes:

I am not sure whether the words below are a poem or a quote and where the poem/quote came from. But I really like it. Here it is:

We've been
infected with
this idea that love
is an emotion only felt
between two people.
But love is universal.
An energy.
A contagious force.
A gift.
To offer money
to a homeless person is to love.

To save a worm from
the sun is to love.
To smile at a stranger is love.
To be grateful,
to be hopeful, to be brave,
to be forgiving,
to be proud, is to love.

Hope-Filled Organizations:

OCTOBER 2022 UPDATE



2022 Future Summit

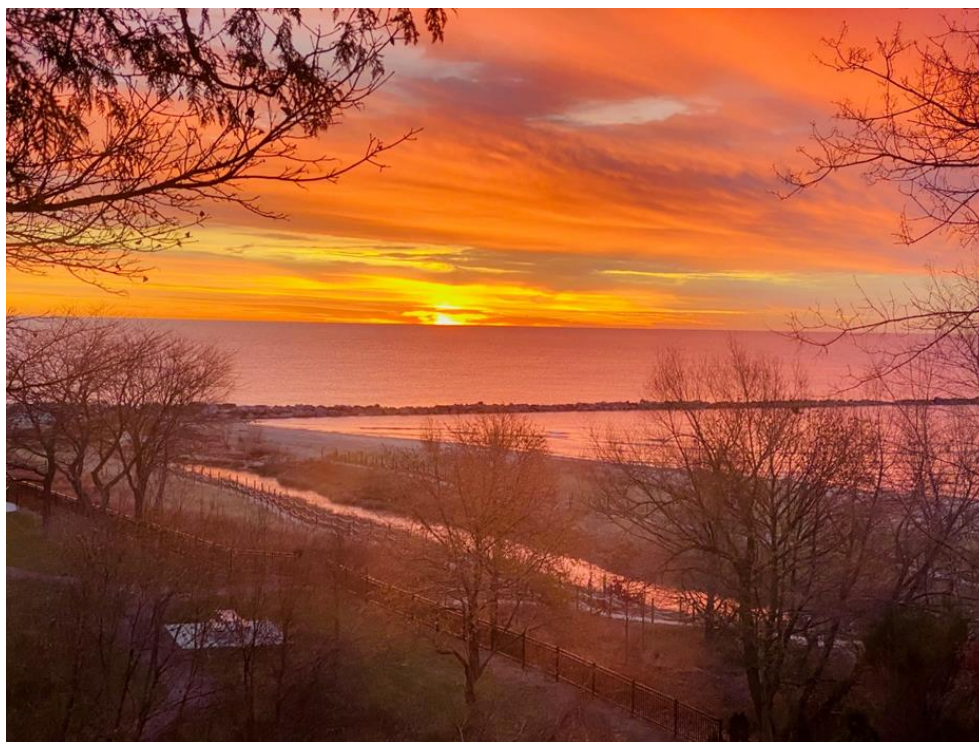
"I'm excited about the work Millennial Action Project does to bring people together... Welcome to our state."
Governor Jared Polis opened 2022 Future Summit, the nation's largest bipartisan gathering of young state legislators with a keynote address. From July 29th to 31st, nearly 50 legislators from all across the country came together to affirm their belief in collaborative policymaking and express their intention to work across the partisan divide to create a more functional democracy. They arrived in Denver, Colorado for the sixth annual Future Summit hosted by Millennial Action Project on the campus of Colorado University Denver's School of Public Affairs.



Friday night started off with an evening reception at the Gates Family Foundation. The Rocky Mountain views from the downtown rooftop paired with a cool breeze, cocktails, and horderves made it a perfect evening for developing relationships and building friendships. So much of the work of bipartisan legislating relies on trust, and the friendships legislators forge through the Future Caucus Network lays the foundation for a productive working relationship once legislators return to their statehouses.

The legislators in attendance represent a cross-section of the more than 1,600 Millennial and Gen Z state legislators within MAP's State Future Caucus Network (SFCN). The SFCN is comprised of 31 states and creates space for bipartisan policymaking and dialogue among leaders committed to working towards innovative and future-focused policy. To read more, click on this link: <https://medium.com/@MAActionProject/2022-future-summit-5f85252e3ed3>

BEAUTY INSPIRES HOPE & JOY



A friend of mine sent me this picture last year. It is the sun rising over Lake Michigan. I used it in the December 2021 Newsletter. I thought it was worth seeing again.

As the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, **“Beauty is its own excuse for being.”**
And as the poet John Keats said, **“A thing of beauty is a joy forever.”**

Share this Newsletter

If you find this Newsletter to be a positive contribution to promote Hope and positive changes for now and in the future, please forward this Newsletter to people you think would enjoy it and who may want to share their hopeful stories and programs for future Newsletters. They can sign up for the monthly Newsletters by doing the following:



Hope From the Bottom Up website link: <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/>

Or send me an email (robert@robertbeezat.com) with the name and email address of the person you think would be interested. I will then contact them.

Thank You