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## May 2021 Newsletter

### The Arts:

## A Beautiful Song By a Wonderful Singer

When I see or hear beauty in any way, shape, or form,  
I am filled with hope.

We can all create beauty. Some can do it through the arts.  
Most of us can create it through our relationships with people.

Hear is something beautiful by the combined talents of a  
composer (Puccini), a soprano (Renata Tebaldi), and orchestra.



[Renata Tebaldi - O mio Babbino caro \(Concert\) - YouTube](#)

### The Future:

## Survey Priority #2: Racism, Sexism, & Rights

### Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Gender Rights, Immigrant Rights

Let's begin by acknowledging that racism, sexism, and other negative, discriminatory perceptions, and practices, really do exist.

They are wrong and they cause a great deal of harm to individuals, families, and society as a whole...One of the causes of racism and sexism throughout history has been:

#### **Extreme Capitalism & Concentrated Wealth: A Source of Racism & Sexism**

Over the past forty years, the abundant wealth of our country has shifted from the majority of the people, including our once vaunted Middle Class, to a tiny fraction of our population.

- The top 1% of the wealthiest people in our country now own 33% of the total wealth.
- The top 10% own 70% of the total wealth.
- The next 40% own 28% of the total wealth.
- The bottom 50% of Americans own 1.9 % of the wealth, with one-half of that group having no wealth at all.

Economic inequity fosters racism and sexism...But it isn't just about money.

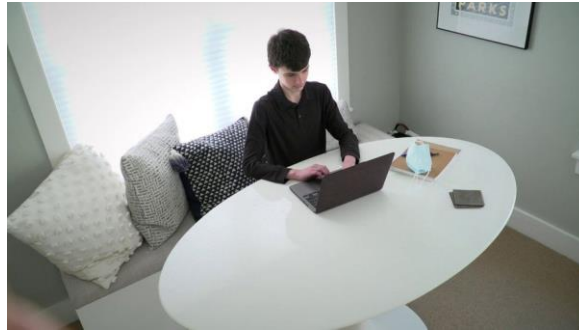
Unless we create a more equitable and balanced economy which gives everyone a chance to provide for themselves and their families, racism and sexism will continue to become even larger problems which affect our freedom, our democracy, and our hopes for the future. To read more click on this link:

<https://hopefromthebottomup.com/future>

### Stories of Hope:

## 13-year-old Eli Coustan is helping Illinoisans find vaccination appointments with his website [ILVaccine.org](https://www.ilvaccine.org)

By DARCEL ROCKETT, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, APR 01, 2021



Talking to Eli Coustan about his website [ILVaccine.org](https://www.ilvaccine.org) makes you wonder what you were doing at age 13.

Eli found out about the difficulty people were having booking COVID-19 vaccination appointments after he helped his grandparents. Putting his programming skills to work, his website aims to make the process easier.

Launched in February, the site lists information about locations across Illinois that are offering COVID-19 vaccinations, including availability and eligibility information. As of Wednesday, Eli said the site had reached 14,600 unique visitors.

“It needs to be easy for people to get appointments. If you’re an essential worker, especially a front-line essential worker, you don’t have the time to be in all the Facebook groups monitoring everything,” he said. “You have time to check a few things every day, maybe. At the very beginning, I saw how hard it was firsthand. ... When they release (appointments), nobody knows. And if you’re not at the right place at the right time, you’re not going to get it. So that’s why I created it.”

He’s always improving the site, from making it available in Spanish to adding accessibility tools (bigger text, contrasting colors). Eli keeps the site updated with the help of volunteers.

To read more click on this link: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/vaccine/ct-life-eli-coustan-vaccination-help-tt-0401-20210401-42cyywdfw5gyrbopfx73lolvj4-story.html>

## Gen Z is our best hope for peaceful politics, so let’s stop dismissing them

By Kevin Singer, Chicago Tribune, April 20, 2021

Joe Biden ran to be a president for all Americans, and this includes young people who were critical contributors to his victory last November.

Young people have the power to influence presidential elections, but whether they influence presidencies is another matter entirely. Biden ran on promises that matter to young people. But, after less than three months in office, there is growing concern these promises were just lip service.

“Young people not only exist to represent the future of the country. We are here to effect change so that our country may have a future,” one student activist told the Center for Law and Social Policy. “This past election, we overwhelmingly voted for Joe Biden, cementing our place as a critical voting bloc,” said Connor Kalahiki. “Despite our efforts, the issues we face are not prioritized. We face high unemployment rates, mental health crises, and injustice environmentally, socially, and economically – the pandemic has only exacerbated this reality. We cannot be ignored anymore.”

“As a member of Gen Z, I was a part of this historic youth turnout. I supported Biden from the start,” Ashley Lynn Priore, a national youth organizer, wrote for The Progressive on inauguration day. But it took months to connect with someone to urge the campaign “to consider the differences in policy based on ages. When I finally did get a call back, I was told something like this: ‘This campaign is about organizing, not policy implementation.’ ” Feeling dismissed, Priore concluded: “How do we expect to have a seat at the table for young Americans without actually engaging them in the White House? We are tired of being shut out.” To read more, click on this link:

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/apr/20/kevin-singer-gen-z-is-our-best-hope-for-peaceful-p/>

## **'It's about the community': One thousand Easter meals distributed by 50 volunteers at Festival Hall**

[Diana Panuncial](#) Racine Journal Times, April 3, 2021



*A family who drove through the first-ever Dan & Ray Easter meal giveaway pose with characters, including the Easter Bunny, at Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St., on Saturday.*

RACINE — One thousand food boxes were distributed at Dan & Ray's first-ever Community Easter Meal Giveaway from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at Festival Hall in Downtown Racine.

Families were able to drive their vehicles, or arrive on foot, through two tents set up in the parking lot. Attendees stated how many boxes they needed and volunteers helped load up their cars.

About 50 volunteers were in attendance to help distribute food, said Ray Stibeck, owner of Route 20 restaurant in Yorkville.

Stibeck, and Dan Johnson, owner of Danny's Meats, have been putting together Dan & Ray Rendering Thanks on Thanksgiving for 11 years, since its inception. The Easter meal giveaway was new this year...

The grab-and-go meal for four or more people included ham, vegetables, rolls, dessert and water. Stibeck and Johnson partnered with CJW, O & H Danish Bakery, Racine County Food Bank and Ralph Malicki's Piggly Wiggly, among other businesses, to help execute the giveaway.

To read more, click on this link: [https://journaltimes.com/news/local/its-about-the-community-one-thousand-easter-meals-distributed-by-50-volunteers-at-festival-hall/article\\_8f4efe40-3b19-5260-a4a6-3c68b5c326ee.html#utm\\_source=journaltimes.com&utm\\_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm\\_medium=PostUp&utm\\_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/its-about-the-community-one-thousand-easter-meals-distributed-by-50-volunteers-at-festival-hall/article_8f4efe40-3b19-5260-a4a6-3c68b5c326ee.html#utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8)

## Chicago's MacArthur Foundation awards \$100 million grant to Community Solutions to end homelessness

By JENNIFER DAY CHICAGO TRIBUNE APR 07, 2021



*Michelle Lindstedt checks on the well being of a homeless man camped out near Charles Street on April 7, 2021, in Rockford. Lindstedt is a housing advocate for the City of Rockford Human Services Department. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)*

Can we end homelessness? Community Solutions, a New York-based nonprofit, thinks we can — and the MacArthur Foundation is awarding the group a five-year, \$100 million grant to help prove it.

When you think of seemingly intractable societal problems — the sort of issues the MacArthur's [100&Change program](#) is designed to address — homelessness is perhaps the epitome. Community Solutions has developed a framework that's been deployed in more than 80 U.S. locations to better coordinate services available to people who are homeless. The goal is not to manage or control homelessness, but to end it.

Fifteen of those participating communities, including Rockford, have brought U.S. military veteran or chronic homelessness rates down to “functional zero” — meaning that homelessness among these populations is rare and brief, as the number of new cases in a city do not exceed a city's ability to provide housing. Individuals who are chronically homeless typically account for a fraction of the overall homeless population, but they use a disproportionately high number of services due to disabilities and longer stints on the streets.

“Homelessness is curable,” said MacArthur President John Palfrey in a statement announcing the grant... “More than 568,000 people experienced homelessness on a given night in the United States, before the pandemic. Community Solutions has proven that people do not have to live this way. Its racially equitable response is primed for this moment.”

Rosanne Haggerty, president of Community Solutions, said the MacArthur Foundation grant will allow the organization to expand its work to 110 communities with the aim of ending chronic or veteran homelessness in 75 of those areas. Six of the 20 largest U.S. cities already participate; although the city of Chicago is not one of them, suburban Cook County is involved in the program. To read more click on this link: [MacArthur Foundation targets homelessness with \\$100 million grant - Chicago Tribune](#)



## **Social workers could be embedded with Racine Police Department**

[Adam Rogan](#) Racine Journal Times, April 15, 2021



*Andrew Muir, a mental health officer with the Madison Police Department, and Sarah Henrickson, a social worker at Journey Mental Health Center who is part of the department's mental health team, drive through Madison on a shift in January 2018. The mental health team, which started in 2015, is one way police in Dane County have tried to improve responses to people with mental illness.*

When the prospect of embedding social workers in police departments gained volume after the killing of George Floyd, many balked at it. But in his final months with the Racine Police Department, Art Howell has tried to set up the foundation for such a program.

A plan being considered Racine wouldn't send social workers in the place of cops to 911 calls, but social workers-in-training may be brought in to assist in certain scenarios in what could be a benefit for community members in crisis, stretched-thin police officers and taxpayers. To read more, click on this link:

[https://journaltimes.com/news/local/social-workers-could-be-embedded-with-racine-police-department/article\\_f9bed213-3fe2-5856-952e-63a72e9c1500.html#utm\\_source=journaltimes.com&utm\\_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm\\_medium=PostUp&utm\\_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/social-workers-could-be-embedded-with-racine-police-department/article_f9bed213-3fe2-5856-952e-63a72e9c1500.html#utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8)

## **Peace Fellowships Through Rotary International**



Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers.

Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. To read more click on this link: [Peace Fellowships | Rotary International](#)

## **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 consider forwarding this Newsletter to people you think would enjoy it and who may want to share their hopeful stories and programs for future Newsletters.

**Thank You**