

# THE FORTUNE JOURNAL

## EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

### *The Great American Shutdown Farce!*



It's a life and death struggle! Build a wall and possibly get re-elected; Fail and probably get sent packing. So, in an effort to save his political life, the president declares "a state of national emergency" ... an invasion of marauding Mexicans and Central American criminals, threatening all we hold near and dear; most especially, those menial jobs that African Americans and other legal Latinos so desperately need. Divide and conquer, while adding insult to injury. Use black and brown people against other black and brown people; a shameless display of attempted manipulation! Then of course, move on without actually addressing the real problems. As Eugene Scott states in his Washington Post article, 'The Fix: Trump's Claim That Black Americans Are Hurt Most By Illegal Immigration Gets Pushback', *A genuine interest in addressing the employment obstacles that low-skilled Black and Latino Americans face would include a much broader conversation.*

*Working ages Blacks and Latino citizens who have been denied a quality education, relegated to high poverty communities, struggle because we are not addressing the core investments that would be a viable economic path for them. 'We can blame immigrants if we need a scapegoat. But immigrants aren't creating the problem', said Maya Wiley, public policy professor- The New School.*

Scott goes on to state "But if the President's goal is to get more support for his border wall from Black and Latino Americans, pitting people of color against others seeking to benefit from the American Dream probably won't do that. Instead, it will probably only expand Trump's reputation as being one of the most divisive presidents in recent history." So, with the longest government shutdown in US history, "Nero fiddled while Rome burnt", suffering federal workers and simultaneously denigrating entire races of brown and black immigrants; fully endorsed by those who share his views: the ignorant, the misinformed and the bigots. Are we feeling great yet?

Birgit Mondesir

## February 2019

## CONTENTS

T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center Preview Opening

2

FORTUNE FEATURES:  
Monica Montgomery: Curator

2

Lavett Ballard: Artist

2

History Making Women  
400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Africans in English North America

3

Up & Coming in Fortune-Hood  
T. Thomas Fortune is On the Scene!

4



### T. Thomas Fortune Quote of the Month

*"When a society fosters as much crime and destitution as ours, with ample resources to meet the actual necessities of every one, there must be something radically wrong, not in the society but in the foundation upon which the society is reared..."*

## T. THOMAS FORTUNE CULTURAL CENTER PREVIEW OPENING FEBRUARY 23 & 24



### *Maple Hall Plaque*

*Embellishes front of the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center (right); The Center illuminated at night.*



**Monica Montgomery:**  
TTFCC Curator



**Lavett Ballard:**  
TTFCC Commissioned  
Artist



**Ballard art piece (above)**

**Monica Montgomery**, of The Museum of Impact will be working with the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center to bring our past into the present, allowing us to pay homage to our rich African American heritage. She will be lending her extensive expertise in creatively designing exhibits, digital, scripted and auditory narratives to connect Fortune's legacy to our present and future circumstances. Montgomery uniquely weaves social justice, history and art into experiences of 'impact', unlike the typical mundane museum. Montgomery is an alumna of Temple University and La Salle University. She is a Creative Community Fellow with National Arts Strategies; Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellow with Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute and Cultural Equity Fellow with the New York Community Trust. Montgomery is a Board member of the New York City Museum Educators Roundtable and the Co-Founder and Strategic Director of Museum Hue.

**Lavett Ballard** is a nationally respected artist who has been commissioned by The T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center to create a unique artistic expression that represents Fortune, his social justice legacy and others who have paved the way for a more equitable union. Ballard is an art historian, curator, and author. She holds a dual Bachelor's in Studio Art and Art History with a minor in Museum Studies from Rutgers University. She also has an MFA in Studio Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Ballard was listed as one of the Top 10 Emerging Black Female Artist in America. She also is a regional finalist for both New York & Philadelphia for the Bombay Artisan Emerging Artist competition. Her art has had the honor of being included in literary, film and theater productions. She uses formal elements of paint, charcoal, oil pastel, and collage, and combines them with reclaimed items. Ballard is a New Jersey resident, who is gaining international recognition for her considerable talents.

**HISTORY MAKING WOMEN: March is Women's History Month**

*Jo Lockett, Contributor*



(From left to right) Fannie Lou Hamer; Maya Angelou; Nikki Giovanni; Mary Church Terrill; Maxine Waters; Bertha Knox Gilkey; Myrlie Evers; Unita Blackwell; Shirley Chisholm; Angela Davis; Rosa Parks; Coretta Scott King



Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt.

**Shirley Chisholm**

Greatness is not measured by what a man or woman accomplishes, but by the opposition he or she has overcome to reach his goals.

**Dorothy Height**

The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood.

**Mary McLeod Bethune**

If I fall, I'll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for freedom. I'm not backing off.

**Fannie Lou Hamer**

People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.

**Rosa Parks**

If now isn't a good time for the truth I don't see when we'll get to it.

**Nikki Giovanni**

It's not impossible for a woman - a Black woman - to become President.

**Carol Moseley Braun**

If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

**Shirley Chisholm**

The imperative is to define what is right and do it.

**Barbara Jordan**

When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

**Maya Angelou**

Truth is powerful and it prevails.

**Sojourner Truth**

I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say; I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.

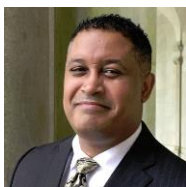
**Harriet Tubman**

I rejected the notion that my race or sex would bar my success in life.

**Constance Baker Motley**

No one, Eleanor Roosevelt said, can make you feel inferior without your consent. Never give it.

**Marian Wright Edelman**



**The 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Africans in English North America**

**By Dr. Walter Geason**

T. Thomas Fortune's accomplishments stand out in any circumstance. However, in the specific instance of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and generations of enslavement in North America, his achievements are unique and miraculous. The TTFCC offers an opportunity to learn more about this specific history and the transformation of Americans descended from the African continent as part of the largest system of slavery in the world's history. In 1619, approximately twenty Africans arrived as indentured servants in Jamestown, Virginia. While other Africans had made the journey to Columbus' New World over the previous three centuries, this specific moment marked the beginning of Africans as part of the English imperial network - the places that would become the United States of America in 1776. This relationship was not coincidental. Without the presence of Africans in these colonies, there would have been no revolution, no confederation, and no constitutional republic. More importantly, the emerging African-American population, as T. Thomas Fortune described them, held the new nation to the highest standards of its ideals. Decade by decade, black people pushed to expand the promise of freedom for humanity. Fortune's leadership after the end of Reconstruction passed a symbolic banner from Frederick Douglass to W.E.B. DuBois. We at the T. Thomas Fortune Foundation now carry this banner, held high, into the heart of the twenty-first century. We join the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in the celebration of this singular legacy in world history -- the triumph of African Americans in service to total human liberation.

## UPCOMING IN FORTUNE-HOOD - Preview News



*"We're better together than apart."  
Our Village Motto*

### MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the T. Thomas Fortune Foundation is to preserve and further the civil rights and social justice legacy of T. Thomas Fortune through community outreach, education and public programming.

### T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center Preview Open House During Black History Month

- Feb. 23** Preview Open House 3:00pm - 6:00pm  
Preview home tour; African American Read-In, Speakers, Lite Refreshments
- Feb. 24** Preview Open House 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Preview home tour; African American Read-In, Speakers, Lite Refreshments
- Feb. 22-24** Dunbar Repertory Company presents: "The Meeting"  
A conversation between Dr. King and Malcolm X; Various show times; \$20; Middletown Arts Center; For additional info call: 732 706-4100
- Now-Feb.24** "Little Girl Blue": A Musical Tribute to Nina Simone  
The George Street Theater, New Brunswick; For info call: 732 246-7717 or visit website

### March is Women's History Month

- Now-Mar. 15** Mike Quon Art Exhibition:  
Monmouth University; DiMattio Gallery
- March 24** Carrie Fortune Day at St. Thomas Episcopal Church @  
10:30am-12noon
- May 4-5** "Old Monmouth Weekend of Historic Sites"-  
Includes The T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center

**Coming Soon!**

### **T. THOMAS FORTUNE CULTURAL CENTER GRAND OPENING**

## THE T. THOMAS FORTUNE CULTURAL CENTER IS ON THE SCENE!



Roger Mumford, of Roger Mumford Homes and French and Parrello Associates, recipients of the 2018 Planning Merit Award, given by the

Monmouth County Planning Board, on December 17, 2018. Congratulations to Mr. Mumford for his exemplary work on the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, located at Fortune Square in Red Bank, NJ.



T. Thomas Fortune Foundation, Vice-Chair, Gilda Rogers @ The Unitarian Universalist Church, Lincroft, Jan. 27, 2019, delivered her "Becoming Fearless" speech.

She expressed her philosophy on the topic and referenced her 'she-ros', Diane Nash, Maya Angelou and Fannie Lou Hamer, just to name a few. They are some of the inspiration for her tireless pursuit in bringing the Fortune Cultural Center to fruition.



Roger Mumford of Roger Mumford Homes, (builder/restorer/philanthropist of T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center) and Gilda Rogers, featured on NJTV segment, stand in a room of the Center, previewing and discussing its progress, on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.