



Let Them Eat Cake

People were appalled that Marie Antoinette said, “Let them eat cake,” when the French complained they had no bread during the French Revolution in the late 1700s. (There is no evidence she said that, by the way.)

But I can’t help but see the parallels between that tone-deaf statement and this one: “COVID is a manageable disease,” with the implication that “oh well, let’s just everybody catch it and get it over with.”



I recently read a thought-provoking piece in TIME entitled [*“America Is All Too Happy to Let People Die”*](#) by Gregg Gonsalves, an expert on policy for infectious disease and professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health. Gonsalves cites this quote from Leana Wen, the former health commissioner of Baltimore: “[A] key lesson is that it’s inevitable that everyone—even the president of the United States—will be exposed to the coronavirus.... COVID-19 is a manageable disease for almost everyone, *so long as they use the tools available to them* (emphasis mine).”

Nodding my head, yes. Yes, the tools available to them. Manageable, except that COVID deaths continue to occur at some 400 per day, making the U.S. the worldwide leader in COVID-19 associated mortality.

Gonsalves addresses that pretty succinctly:

“You may think it’s the biomedical innovations of the past century that save the most lives, often it’s much simpler than that: having a roof over your head, food to eat, a good job. It’s no coincidence that those who are better off do better in terms of health as they purchase what we call the social determinants of health at a premium. Second, for all the money we spend on healthcare, we spend a fraction of that on public health, with estimates between 1.5 to 2.5 cents spent on public health for each dollar on healthcare.... With a public health system under-funded [and] under-staffed, keeping America healthy is almost impossible to do.”

And about those tools – you know, like accessible and affordable doctor’s appointments, physicians who speak the same language you do, employer-provided health insurance... those tools you mention are not readily available to all.

Health care inequity is not a new topic in this space in *Feel Good Friday*. It’s not a surprise that people who are impoverished have higher rates of life-threatening health-related conditions beyond COVID-19, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, low-birthweight babies, poor maternal health outcomes, smoking, mental health conditions and far more.

Gonsalves claims that America is all too happy to let people die from COVID. But for

generations, America has been just as happy to let the neediest in our society suffer premature death because they do not have the same access to health care as those more privileged.

Gonsalves condemns those who say, “Oh, well, everyone is going to catch it,” while people are dying in the hundreds each day. I suggest we apply that same indignation to this country’s broken and inequitable health care system across the board.

Or, we could just let them eat cake.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.
President and CEO
United Way of Delaware

Reading Assist Demonstrates Summer Programming Effectiveness at Stubbs and Bancroft Schools

This summer, Reading Assist served students in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers at Stubbs Early Education Center and The Bancroft School and will continue to enroll students.



Reading Assist

United Way of Delaware partners with Delaware Department of Education to provide funding for academic assistance and enrichment programs for 21st Century School programs at Stubbs Early Education and Dual Generation Center and The Bancroft School in Christina School District.

From June 28 to Aug. 4, students participated in a 6-week summer enrichment program that focused on providing academic lessons and enrichment activities. One of the programs was Reading Assist, which recruits, trains and embeds Reading Assist Fellows into high-needs schools to provide one-on-one tutoring for students who have severe reading challenges. As AmeriCorps members, the Fellows commit to a school-year of service.

Reading Assist teaches a phonics-based, multisensory reading program. Students took a pre- and post-assessment to measure what they learned over the summer. At Stubbs, 93% of students tested showed growth in at least one measure from the beginning to the end of the program. Similarly strong growth happened at Bancroft, where 88% of students grew in at least one measure.

These results show the importance of summer educational programming for students, particularly those with reading challenges. Not only did these students avoid the common summer reading loss, they improved their skills and are in a better position to enter the new school year.

This past academic year, Reading Assist served approximately 1,100 K-3 students in school day, afterschool, and summer programs across the state of Delaware, and Reading Assist continues to offer these programs for the coming academic year.



Reading Assist programming is held Monday –Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm. For more information, contact Ken Livingston, UWDE, at 302-573-3700 or klivingston@uwde.org; for Reading Assist, contact Caroline O'Neal at 508-380-0747 or Coneal@readingassist.org



Young Voices Debate the Issues on DETV

By Wanda Barrett, Director, Engagement and Partnerships

United Way of Delaware summer interns were invited to participate in a televised debate on DETV. The youth were asked to express their views on topics such as “How can we improve our school system?”

The students' perspectives were organic and genuine. They mentioned some issues they feel should be addressed and updated. The experience was one to motivate and encourage our Summer Youth Employees to consider a career in TV production.

Ivan Thomas, CEO of DETV, gave background on how he made his way to television and how it operates, from cameras to the viewer's show. The youth were significantly engaged, and the experience reinforced the model of “You can do it!” and “Don't say NO to your future.”

Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester received our interns with a warm welcome. She spoke about her path to becoming a Representative for Delaware and her experience when she was their age. She mentioned her internship days and encouraged them never to give up and to always use their voices. She encouraged them to look at a brighter future and never say no to an opportunity in life to succeed.

United Way of Delaware strongly advocates for involving young people and their viewpoints into community conversations. While we acknowledge these are our leaders of the future, we urge inclusion of all voices -- youthful voices in particular -- as we work to change and improve our community.



Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester speaks with our summer interns.

Following is a report on the day by summer intern Naomi Allen:

I attended the DETV station to shoot a debate/conversation show for the network. It was an enjoyable and exciting experience, from hearing everyone's opinions on the screen to seeing to participating behind the scenes.

I was one of four interns on the production team, and we all worked together to ensure everything went according to plan. I was the production assistant, which meant that I assisted backstage when needed. I would tell people when to wrap up topics, ensure that everyone was camera-ready, make sure that different shots looked good on the screen, etc. My job was enjoyable because I gained insight into how a show is fully put together. I also saw the DETV production room, where they switch cameras and control all of the shots, which was very different and complicated work.

My favorite part had to be listening to everyone's different opinions. We had two agreed-upon topics, which were lowering the voting age to 16 and whether people should stand for the Pledge of Allegiance or not.

During the discussion of the first topic, everyone had an exciting opinion, but they were all close to the same thing. But during the second topic discussion, there was much more debate. Most people were saying that schools should not require standing during the Pledge. But one person had a different view which sparked an interesting conversation and showed me that what seems like the obvious answer for me isn't the same for everyone.

I would encourage people to watch it and hear the different perspectives and opinions of everyone involved.

Delaware 211 Helps People in Need Every Day Now They Need Your Help

Delaware 211 provides confidential help for people in need. The following account from a 211 specialist gives you the sad portrait of what our neighbors struggle with every day.



A Spanish-speaking mom who had been trying to get food for her family for the previous few days called 211. I suggested resources in her area and provided information for home delivery service through Food Bank of DE.

When I followed up the next day, she reported that she had called all the places I referred her to, including every number online for WIC, and hadn't been able to speak with anyone. She said she didn't know where she was going to get food for that day.

Together, we called Neighborhood House to see if they could assist. They did not have a person immediately available who spoke Spanish. The receptionist told me they

could help the mom if she came in person, so I got the information translated into Spanish and texted it to the mom along with a plan for her to go to get food.

I will follow up with this caller to make sure she gets connected with sources for food going into the future.

To help Delaware 211 continue and expand their important work throughout the entire state, please consider making a donation today.

Mill Summit 2022 Brings Young Professionals to Wilmington

The MILLSUMMIT, a 3-day networking conference, connects young professionals to information and contacts to help advance their careers and personal and professional growth. The annual event was begun by Spur Impact in 2017 and targeted Millennials, but over time, the focus and the name has changed to be more inclusive of all young professionals.



This year, United Way of Delaware (UWDE) supported this growth opportunity for the next generation of employees by becoming one of a large group of local organizations that sponsored the event.

One of UWDE's summer 2022 interns, Mya Reeves, wrote the following account of the her experience at the Summit:

MILLSUMMIT 2022 was an event that gathered hundreds of professionals of all ages and backgrounds to Wilmington, Delaware. This was a great opportunity to connect, network and learn from professionals, difference makers, rising stars, and other leaders who want to make an impact in their community.

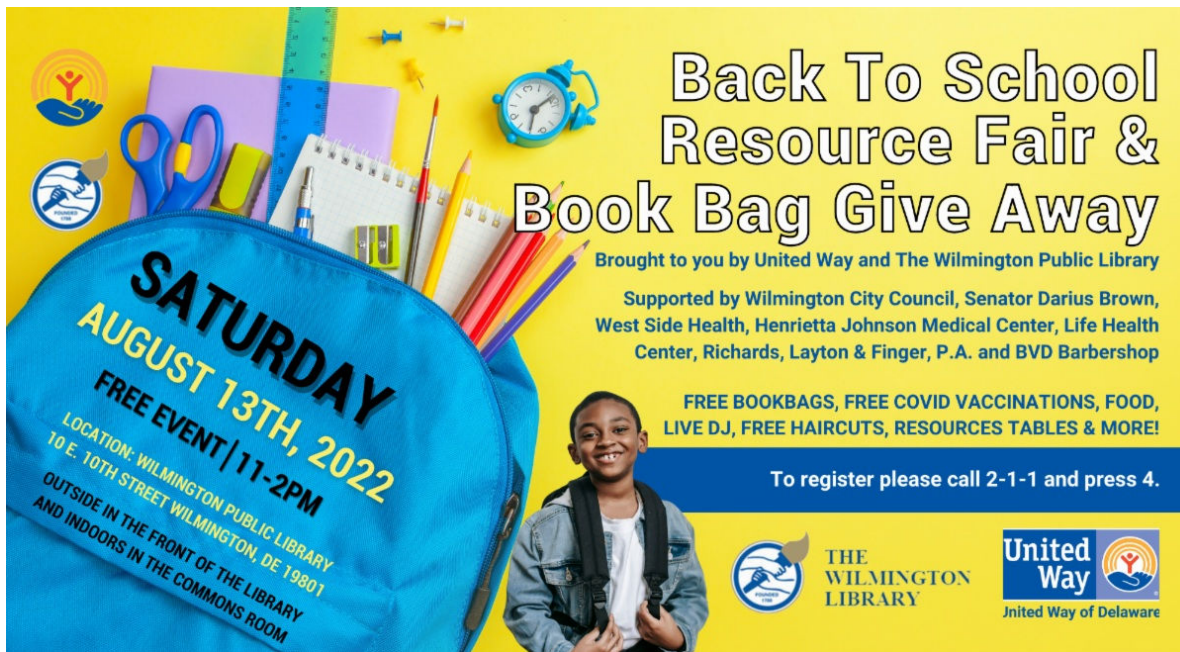
We heard from many different speakers, like Terri Trespicio. Terri Trespicio was one of the first speakers who discussed the idea of breaking down the ideal of finding what your passions are as being a key detail in finding the career that meets your needs. She used her sister as an example, describing how she is an amazing singer and that is her passion but it was not something she ever wanted to pursue as a career option. Hearing this was a shock to me because I have always grown up hearing how finding what my passions are will help me figure out what and who I want to be. I thought I was doing something wrong when I found out all these passions I had but still had no idea of what career was for me.

However, I believe my favorite part was hearing from the women entrepreneurs and listening in on their panel. I say this is my favorite because of this one thing they said that stuck with me. They said that they disagree with the title of a 'woman owned' or 'black owned' or whatever before saying their business. What or who you are does not define your business or what you do. Also how saying 'woman owned' suggests that all businesses are built by men, which is not true. So with that being said, why do we need to define who we are in our business summaries? Not to say that you should not do that at all, but you can if you want to.

The MILLSUMMIT was a nice experience to meet the many different people that attended to pick their brains on the topics you rarely get to discuss in school that can help for future opportunities that may come our way within our careers or even in life in general.

My only complaint would be that I wish the keynote speakers and the mainstage panel was not as long as it was. I believe next time there should not be as many speakers packed into one day. A highlight I need to add though, was the fact that I, Mya Reeves, got to wake everyone up by dancing to Billie Jean by Michael Jackson (who I might add is one of my favorite singers growing up). So if you missed it, I am so sorry, because

that was a one-time only performance.



Back To School Resource Fair & Book Bag Give Away

Brought to you by United Way and The Wilmington Public Library

Supported by Wilmington City Council, Senator Darius Brown, West Side Health, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, Life Health Center, Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A. and BVD Barbershop

FREE BOOKBAGS, FREE COVID VACCINATIONS, FOOD, LIVE DJ, FREE HAIRCUTS, RESOURCES TABLES & MORE!

To register please call 2-1-1 and press 4.

SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH, 2022
FREE EVENT | 11-2PM
 LOCATION: WILMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
 10 E. 10TH STREET WILMINGTON, DE 19801
 OUTSIDE IN THE FRONT OF THE LIBRARY
 AND INDOORS IN THE COMMONS ROOM

THE WILMINGTON LIBRARY

United Way
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**Delaware
 Racial Justice Collaborative
 Happenings**



**Brandon Brice Attended HBCU Propel Week
 for the Young Men United Program**

By Brandon Brice

I'm still reflecting upon Delaware State University's recent impactful HBCU Symposium, (with participants from over 40 Institutions) and wanted to express my gratitude for the consequential dialogue with Mastercard and Disney executives sharing their views on strengthening the HBCU talent pipeline.

The Propel Center leadership team announced a collaboration with The Walt Disney Company to empower the next generation of HBCU storytellers and innovators!

Special thanks to Disney colleagues for their presence at the HBCU Symposium. It was so inspirational engaging with Academic leaders, and exploring ideas to help expose students to career paths beyond their wildest dreams!



Academic and student success leaders were pleased to engage with United Way of Delaware on best practices to support minority youth and prepare them for their futures.

Lastly, special thanks to Tony Allen, Ed.D., President of Delaware State University, for

his thought leadership.



Participants at the HBCU Symposium at Delaware State University

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSING JUSTICE: THE URGENT NEED FOR RENTERS' RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION



ACLU



All Delawareans should have access to safe and stable housing. More than 70% of Americans believe that housing is a human right, but Delaware's eviction filing rate is four times the national average.

When it comes to fighting eviction cases, the power is stacked in favor of landlords. Some 86% of landlords have representation from an attorney or agent in eviction proceedings, but only 2% of renters have representation. In a court system that is difficult to navigate, having legal representation in eviction proceedings can be the key difference in losing or keeping one's housing – up to 30% of landlords' eviction cases

are won by default because renters don't feel that they can fight the complaints on their own.

On Thursday, August 11, at 7 p.m., ACLU is partnering with the Lewes Public Library for an **in-person and virtual panel event on the need for renters' right to representation in Delaware.**

Learn about eviction inequity, housing disparities, and what we are doing right here in Delaware to combat this dangerous trend. We'll also discuss SB 101, a bill that was proposed in Delaware during the most recent legislative session.

Thursday, August 11, 7 - 8 p.m.
Virtual and in-person attendance options available:
Virtually via Zoom
In-person at Lewes Public Library

This panel event features local and national experts who will discuss the urgent need for housing justice in Delaware. Panelists include:

- Sandra Park, Senior Attorney, ACLU National Women's Rights Project;
- Ian Thompson, Senior Legislative Advocate, ACLU National;
- Javonne Rich, Advocacy & Policy Director, ACLU-DE; and
- Moderated by Mike Brickner, Executive Director, ACLU-DE.

Register [here](#).



August is National Eye Exam Month, just in time to add eye exams to your back-to-school checklist. Healthy vision is important to a child's ability to learn and for his or her overall development. Make that appointment today!



Find out how WilmU works for you at our **Virtual Open House!**

**Wednesday,
August 17**

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Live chat starts at 11 a.m.!

 **Online**

At our Virtual Open House, you can:



Live chat with WilmU faculty and staff, starting at 11 a.m. Learn about our academic colleges, financial aid, advising, transfer credit evaluation, and more.



Explore 200+ academic programs, including over 80 industry-leading graduate programs. Learn how to accelerate your education with Dual-Credit ADVANTAGE™.



Learn about affordable funding options and supportive student services.



Watch on-demand videos and download helpful guides and materials.



Navigate the admission process with help from Admissions Specialists and learn how to transfer up to 90 credits.

Get Details and RSVP
go.wilmu.edu/OpenHouse
Application fee waived at this event!



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Technical and Business Help for Sussex County Entrepreneurs

The Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation is currently accepting applications for the next Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (E3) cohort in Sussex County. Entrepreneurs who are based in Sussex County and are eager to receive technical assistance and business coaching are encouraged to submit their application to join our innovative and collaborative process.

Through E3, entrepreneurs will work with industry experts to assess their business and develop a customized action plan to grow their business and achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

We are accepting applications from entrepreneurs within any stage of their journey (conceptual/start-up, emerging, or accelerated). If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please share this information with them. The deadline to apply is Monday, August 1 at 11:59 PM.

Visit petedupontfreedomfoundation.org to learn more or access the application.

SUSSEX COUNTY ENTREPRENEURS:



Apply today to join the next E3 cohort in Sussex County!

Through E3, entrepreneurs will receive technical assistance, leadership coaching, and other customized support to help grow their business.

**Deadline to apply is
11:59 PM on August 1.**

Apply Now!

petedupontfreedomfoundation.org

Pete du Pont
Pete du Pont
Freedom Foundation



Film Screening and Discussion

You are invited to a virtual screening of "*Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote*," followed by a discussion of the film and how we can protect the vote in Delaware!



Tuesday, August 16, 7 to 8:30 pm

The event is co-sponsored by Common Cause Delaware and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/475100/>

About *Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote* (2022) by Robert Greenwald (Director of *Outfoxed*, *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price*, and *Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA*) is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our 2022 midterm elections.

In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the Big Lie of the 2020 election. The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws being




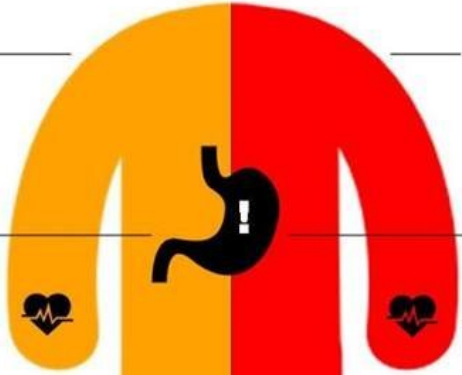






enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a blueprint for today's voter suppression laws across the country.

Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote now includes perspectives from voters in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and Georgia that highlight how these new laws will affect their constitutional right to vote. Suppression tactics covered in the film include registration hurdles, polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times at polling locations, exact match disqualifications, new vote by mail limitations, changes to ballot collection and drop off, and more.

Voter suppression laws disproportionately affect American Students, Senior Citizens, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color from casting their ballots. *Suppressed and Sabotaged* is a call to action against the calculated, unconstitutional, and racist attacks intended to suppress the right to vote in America.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RhrbEh-osI

Be Aware!

HEAT EXHAUSTION	OR	HEAT STROKE
Faint or dizzy		Throbbing headache
Excessive sweating		No sweating
 Cool, pale, clammy skin		Body temperature above 103° Red, hot, dry skin 
Nausea or vomiting		Nausea or vomiting
Rapid, weak pulse 		Rapid, strong pulse 
Muscle cramps 		May lose consciousness 

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

CALL 9-1-1

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

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It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.



[Make an online donation here](#)

Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!

