

THE  
TRUTH  
WILL SET  
YOU  
FREE

# The *al* Phoenix

*More Than A Newspaper A Community Institution*

NEWS  
YOU  
CAN  
USE

In Our 31th Year

Issue No. 2005

January 2014

Associate Consultants

Serving the Triad

FREE

## "Twelve Years A Slave" And Still Counting

By Dr. Ada Fisher



Dr. Ada Fisher

Solomon Northrup, an 1800's skilled black free man from New York with a musical flair, plied his trade wherever an invitation was extended. Unsuspecting he accepted money to entertain at a carnival across the "Mason-Dixon Line." There he wandered into something he hadn't expected and almost didn't live to exit. Northrup was enslaved, transported to a plantation in the south where he would face the duplicity of that vile institution known as slavery.

Taunted by my student and young friend into attending the movie screen written and produced graphically by John Ridley,

## Our Selective Memory

By William Sprigg



William Sprigg

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - This summer, everyone celebrated the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the address of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in which he described a new, refined American Dream.

On Nov. 22, we noted two historic events. One is the 1863 dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery 150 years ago by President Abraham Lincoln, during which he also gave a new vision for America. Lincoln's address clearly incorporated slaves into the American Dream by citing America's founding documents proclaiming "all men are created equal," and therefore government "of the people, by the people

directed by Stephen R. McQueen and co-produced, financially backed and acted in by Brad Pitt, "12 Years a Slave" in all its brutality captured accurately the harshness of this institution known as slavery which considered humans of a darker skin as property to be used and abused at their "masters" discretion or most assuredly lack thereof. In the theater of human tragedy, grown men cried and were shook to the very fiber of their being with many black souls feeling the ever present heavy hand of powerlessness and the stench of debasement which this part of history has left all over us. One even remarked "When if ever will we ever overcome, for the white man is always in control as Oprah Winfrey with all of her money suggested even with Barack Obama, a black skinned man who would become President of the United States of America."

I intently listened to historical stories about my paternal grandfather, who was a slave, and read in my father's book about some of the same, E. J. Fisher, the Master Slave, my kinsman and grandfather's plight. In the darkness of the auditorium I sat appreciat

## Everyday is an Opportunity to Learn

and for the people" could not be reconciled with slavery.

Dr. King highlighted those same words as a promise America makes to its citizens. A promise, he said, that was broken to African Americans. They both spoke of failures in democracy.

We also note the tragedy of President John F. Kennedy's assassination 50 years ago. His death gives us a moment to reflect on our selective memory. Many want to treat that tragedy as America's loss of innocence, but innocence was already lost. Earlier that year, Medgar Evers, a World War II veteran, was assassinated for his work on voters' rights in Mississippi. And that fall, four young girls were murdered by a bomb set off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

The Pew Research Center says in 1963, 69 percent of Americans were aware of the

[continued on page 11]

ing the words sung by Janis Joplin, "Freedom's just another word for nothing else to lose." I wasn't despondent by the movie's realistic portrayal of slavery as much as I can be from mourning the struggles of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as other cultural institutions; violence directed at each other rather than the cause of our oppression from self inflicted wounds which sometimes my Iodofoam gauze would help but not the resultant disembowelment; complacency in not challenging the status quo or the ever expanding creation of a dependency mentality rather than demanding that doors of opportunity be opened allowing us to get and do things for ourselves. Missed is the upside of my grandfather's slave experience which exhorted by his example, just open the door of opportunity and walk in to get it for ourselves.

I won't despair for the things spawned by slavery in our mentality on all sides of the aisle have been institutionalized belying the lack of genetic contributions. The "mutton grease" dabbed on my grandfather's wounds were akin to that done in the movie's depiction of slave whip burns so tragically and deeply inflicted. But when my grandfather was freed, he didn't seek solely to entertain the master or the masses, he sought to help our people starting with the liberation of their minds knowing our behinds would eventually follow.

[continued on page 3]

## Winners and Losers of 2013

By Raynard Jackson

Well, it's that time of year once again for me to pick my biggest winners and losers for 2013. Unlike most of the year end lists, mine

will not be based on polling data, or popularity. Rather, it's from the lens of a businessman. Based on the contribution of time, money, or intangible capital, did the person or group receive an appropriate rate of return on their investment?

I will begin with the three biggest losers and work down from there.



[continued on page 14]

## Finding Money For Entrepreneurs His Main Business

By John Raye



Bill Hubbard

Say you have been in business for a few years, and business is slow and you find yourself in serious need of additional financing. Where do you go? What do you do when the "spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak?"

In other words, your cash flow has been interrupted and you need cash money now! Well, some well-connected business owners have found their way to Bill Hubbard's First Merchants Financial Services office in Winston-Salem.

For most of his adult life, Hubbard, a Winston-Salem resident, has been self-employed. He would agree that it's difficult working for someone else when you have the skills, passion, talent and resources to work for yourself. So for 17 years, Hubbard, a graduate of North Carolina A & T State University, along with his wife Brenda, operated one of the state's largest residential and commercial cleaning services.

[continued on page 12]

## Inside This Issue

Make Your Best Better	5
School Backpacks May Soon Be Lighter As NC Modernizes to Digital	6
There Are More Blacks In US Prisons Today Than There Were Slaves In 1850	6
Why Americans Have Grown to Hate Congress	10
Unavoidable Year End Changes to Redeeming The Soul of America	14



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2014