

Dear friends.

I feel like a broken record!

I keep on trying to find a way to interest Black Men in Rockland County in standing up to defend our community of color and its children.

More than twenty years ago, I tried to organize us men around the Million Man March. I later rallied to support our highly successful effort to organize in Rockland County a chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. I have not been equally successful with trying to enable our fraternity to acquire a physical home. I have tried to get the SUNY-Rockland Community College to take the lead with the CEJJES Institute to embrace the idea of organizing a Supplementary Education Resource Center and Service for Rockland County with a special focus on salvaging educational opportunities for children of color in the East Ramapo School District.

With the exception of stimulating a more than 200 person delegation participation in the Million Man March and the birthing of our chapter of the Fraternity, I seem to have struck out. I AM TRYING AGAIN!

This time I suggest that the CEJJES Institute, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the local chapters of NAACP consider a collaboration to mark the Centennial year of my birth and my career in education (2021) with the creation of the Susan G Gordon Supplementary Education Resource and Service Center. I think that the CEJJES Institute will agree to share its facility to house the initiation of this new institution. One of my protégées, who is Founder and CEO of the Eagle Academy Inc. is prepared to recommend to his Board of Trustees, that the Academy supervise or direct a Supplementary Education Institution in Rockland County. If I am correct in my recollection, the Eagle Academy Board did at one time encourage consideration of the idea of the creation of a school or service in Rockland County, should we in Rockland County invite the Academy and support it in doing so.

The law firm that represents the NAACP, in the case that is now in the court system concerning the educational abuse and neglect of children of color in the East Ramapo District, has indicated that it intends to contribute the substantial fee that is due to be paid to the firm, to a fund to improve the education of the children in East Ramapo School District, (but the firm does not intend to give this money to the current administration of the District that they have opposed. I think that the Trustees of the CEJJES Institute will be interested in making a contribution to the support of this initiative. I understand that some of the philanthropic foundations that support education and educational research have signaled interest in making grants to support a Centennial Celebration of my birth.

It would not surprise me if the National Science Foundation, the NY State and the US Departments of Education, through their research arms, could be interested in supporting this idea. I have been in conversation with one major philanthropic group that honored me in 2019, concerning support of the idea.

The Idea of a Supplementary Education Resource and Service Center.

The idea of Supplementary was first elaborated by Gordon and his then research associate, Dean Beatrice Bridglal in *Supplementary Education*; (Pelgrave Publishers in 2005.) The idea has been further elaborated in five additional books by Gordon and several of his colleagues. The core of the idea is that education and academic achievement are most effective when the educational inputs are comprehensive, as in the developmental experiences of children who grow up in well resourced, intellectually sophisticated families, where schooling is supplemented by cultural, economic, educative, health, political and social supports that are thought to encourage and support academic learning. Not only do we see such in operation in affluent families, I have personally experienced the same in my own education in a rural segregated community in North Carolina as I grew up and Black families pooled their resources to ensure that several of my peers and I were adequately educated. One of my peers ended up as one of the first Black engineers at NASA. I earned two endowed chairs at two Ivy League Universities. Another peer became a University President and four or five became professors and/or professional persons. Our folks made education work for poor Black people, by supplementing what miserly provisions a racially segregated and discriminatory school system made available to Black people.

In modern times the idea includes:

- a. A platform in cyberspace from which the idea of supplemental education could be social marketed, guidance could be provided and resource information could be disseminated;
- b. A model demonstration center of a local community service similar to the Center tested for concept validation at RCC some years ago;
- c. A resources development center where instructional and self-directed learning materials and supplies could be developed, field tested, produced and distributed for profit or not for profit;
- d. A technical assistance and professional development service could be provided for community agencies; school districts, religious institutions; and any organizations interested in developing such expertise in their personnel.

Friends, I am trying again to introduce in Rockland County an idea that I believe can make a difference for the better in the lives of our children. I need help! I am rapidly running out of energy and time. Please help me plant and nourish the seeds of this idea.

Stay well.

Cordially,

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