











What an inspirational day I have had for the first time in a long while! Thanks so much for including me in today's luncheon. Clarence Carter was inspiring and the guests credentials were

impressive. - Cherylyn Strong

Monterey, California

Mr. Perry is a great source for getting qualified individuals opportunities to sit on boards. By serving on boards, you gain a wealth of inside knowledge in regards to how businesses operate. It also looks good on your resume. I have personally found it rewarding. - Ray LaStrape

## **BBOD** Project Members Building Great Communities and Reaping Abundant Awards

Keith Brazier Named Athletic Director at Camelback High School and was a guest Poet at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Contest Central at ASU **Downtown Campus.** 

Kimulet Winzer elected to South Mountain Regional First Things First Council.

Linda Cooper elected to Board of Directors of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Tamika Curry Smith elected to the board of **Global Bank** 

Angela Copeland and Tyronda Curry elected to the AZ Furniture Bank Board

Kimulet Winzer and Denise Merideth participated in a forum an affordable healthcare.

James May selected for the East Valley NAACP Business Award.

Bettina Vance Johnson has joined the staff of Valley of the Sun United Way. She is a former volunteer with the organization.

Phoenix College honored Betty Greathouse with the Golden Bear Champion Award.

Tamika Curry Smith was a speaker at the diversity leadership Alliance Conference on October 17 and the Valley of the Sun Human **Resource Association Diversity and Inclusion** Luncheon on November 21.

**Ben Montgomery** elected to the board of **Agape** Adoption Agency.

Kenja Hassan received a Diversity Champion Award from the Phoenix Business Journal.

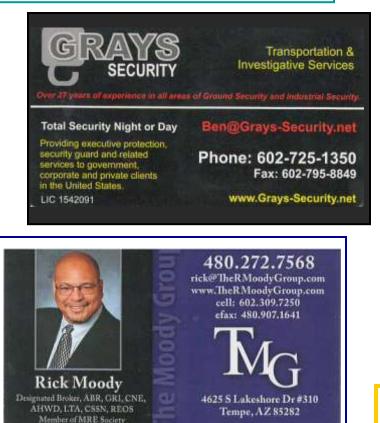
As a person in the twilight of his career and who wants to put something back. I found the lunches extremely valuable. It would have taken me many months to make the contacts I did at the event. - George Nelms

Thank you for the invitation to the BBOD Project Synergy<sup>x</sup> Luncheon with Clarence Carter. I truly enjoyed Director Carter's presentation and building relationships with other BBOD Project Members. - Ginger Spencer





Aliek Williams Recruiting Manager, Permanent Placement 2375 E. Camelback Road, Suite 290 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Tel: 602.224.2486 • Fax: 602.224.4870 • rht.com aliek.williams@rht.com

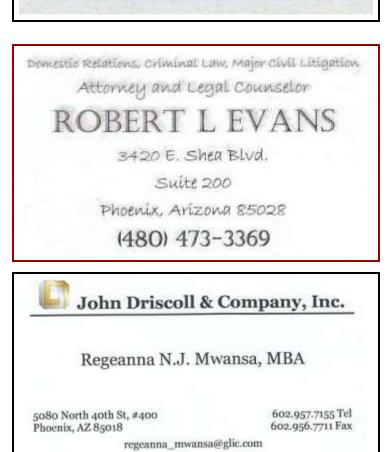


An Innocent Girl Weeps

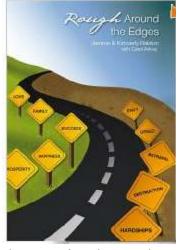
(For the female survivors of Child Sexual Abuse)

Denise M. Blommel Attorney at Law Voice 480 425 7272 Fax 480 425 7274 Email denise@azlaborlaw.com Denise M. Blommel, PLLC

7272 East Indian School Rd Suite 206 Scottadale, AZ 85251 www.azlaborlaw.com



Rough Around the Edges Review by: Kendra Smith Rough Around the Edges is an autobiographical account of the life and times of Jerome and Kimberly Ralston. From diverse backgrounds, Jerome and Kimberly met in Detroit, Michigan where they developed a



friendship of mutual respect that grew into love and eventually marriage. Jerome, a young man raised by a loving single mother along with his two brothers grew up experiencing several defining moments as a youth. Kimberly was raised poor but with lots of family around and offering love and support. So much love that, in fact, many of her family members didn't want

her to marry Jerome because he was too 'rough around the edges'. Although many of her family members didn't' support

their union, the Ralstons married each other and began their life together as partners. As a couple, the Ralstons experienced life's joys and many tribulations. Throughout their 20 year marriage, the Ralstons experienced great success in business, loss, childrearing, family discord, and hardship. Through it all, Jerome and Kimberly maintained their faith in

God and relied on each other. *Rough Around the Edges* is an easy read that allows the reader to go on a journey with the authors as they recount their lived experience. By chapter 7, the reader begins to feel as if they know the couple. Jerome and Kimberly offer very real life instances and lessons along with those experiences to share with the reader.

It is inspiring to read about this dynamic couple going on the journey of life together. They spent their adult years building a quality life for their family and when that life was threatened by illness, family members, and financial hardship the Ralstons banded together to always find a way through it. Rough Around the Edge also offers another perspective on the American Dream. The Ralstons' path to success was not only filled with all great victories but, also, instances of failure. The Ralstons prove that a "victorious spirit" and "conquering resolve' are the major ingredients of - Smith is a doctoral student at ASU. success.

> A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be. – Rosalynn Carter

*The unfortunate thing about being ahead of* your time is that when people finally realize you were right... they will say it was obvious all along.

You have two choices in life: you can dissolve into the mainstream, or you can be distinct. To be distinct, you must be different, you must strive to be what no one else but you can be.

The one who flows with the crowd, will usually get no further than the crowd. The one who walks alone is likely to discover places no one has ever been before.

Visit www. BBODProject.com

If you have no confidence in yourself, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you – Marcus Garvey start.

Let me think... where's the best place to start? Right here in the center in the center~ It's different now because I'm a little old ~ So these days the blood runs a little cold~ It's barely a step away from frozen & posin' the query of who will love me now? The real question shouldn't be who, but how? I lived more than half my life hiding a lie~ My tears used to burn my cheeks when I cried~ I pretended that what I felt made my heart right~ I felt the warm sensation it gave so I started to misbehave & and in turn, the more love I

made... even though it wasn't love that made me~ It was more like the will to survive~ So through the

storm I did strive~ Or should I say strove? It was the passion that drove me deeper into myself~ My inward scream for help~ Only my mind heard the call & responded~ Sin sprinkled pride on it & developed an ongoing response~ Almost at once~ So there was the birth of my death~ Now, I think I'm making the only love I have left to this pen~ Never mind the men~ If they knew the truth, there's none... no not one who would not run from this abundance of attention~ I haven't even begun to mention how I managed from day to day~ So now I'll make my way back to the root and pull it out before it bores too deep~ My heart is steeped in confusion 'cause of the battle I'm losin' ~ So pray to the Lord for my soul to keep~ To make me give love before I sleep ... by Keith Brazier

Grand Pursuit: The Story of Economic Genius By Sylvia Nasar

## Review: Dr. Emmanuel Ojameruaye, Ph.D.\*

Reading Nasar's Grand Pursuit: The Story of Economic Genius, reminds me of a dialogue I had with a Nigerian medical student when I arrived in Poland in the early 1970s to study economics. He told me that I made a wrong choice by coming to Poland to study economics because, "You cannot do anything meaningful with economics and economists always argue among themselves". I disagreed and reminded him of the polish proverb Dla chacego nie ma nic trudnego, which literally means, "For those who want, there's nothing difficult" or "Where there's a will, there's always a way". After almost 40 years, I have proved the medical student wrong because of my will to succeed in life as an economist.

For Nasar, poverty has almost been eradicated in the West thanks to the will and ideas of great economists who have said 'yes we can". In this book, Nasar employs her journalistic and dramatic skills to narrate the times, life and ideas of some great economists from about 1850 to 1950 who progressed economics from a "dismal science" to the "queen of the social sciences". She tells the story of how economics has saved much of mankind from poverty. The story is cast in three "Acts" titled: Hope, Fear and Confidence. In the preface, she lays out her purpose of writing the book: "Before 1870, economics was mostly about what you couldn't do. After 1870, it was mostly what you could do...Ultimately, the new economics transformed the lives of everyone on the planet ... rather than a history of economic thought, the book ... is a story of an idea that was born in the golden Age before World War I, challenged in the catastrophic interwar years by the two world wars, ... and was revived in a second golden age in the aftermath of World War II...I chose protagonists who

I know losing is a part of life - doesn't mean I have to like it. - Vince Lombardi

were instrumental in turning economics into an instrument of mastery.... I chose men that took the story from London in the 1840s around the world... All these thinkers were searching for intellectual tools that could help solve what Keynes called "the political problems of mankind: how to combine three things: economic efficiency, social justice and individual liberty".

In Act I, she began with the story of the poverty in England in the 1840s when Thomas Carlyle described economics as a "dismal science" because of the Malthusian spectre of population growth and increasing poverty and misery. She devoted each of the four chapters in the Act to Karl Marx, Alfred Marshal, Beatrice Webb and Irving Fisher, respectively, and brought in other earlier economists such as Adam Smith, David Ricardo and John Stuart Mills. In Act II, she focused on the ideas of Joseph Schumpeter, John Maynard Keynes, Irving Fisher, Friedrich von Hayek, Beatrice Webb and Joan Robinson between the two World Wars and during WWII. In Act III, she narrated post WWII economic ideas continuing with Keynesianism and ending with the Indian development economist, Amartya Sen. In the epilogue, titled "Imagining the Future", Nasar painted a brighter future for all of mankind in spite of the burgeoning economic crisis in the West and the turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa. She predicted "an economic future characterized by growth, stability and a business climate favorable to entrepreneurship. Once a future can be imagined, returning to the nightmare of the past seems increasingly impossible". Really?

Her conclusion reminds me of the lyrics of Imagine composed by John Lennon over 40 years ago: "Imagine all the people living life in peace ... Imagine all the people sharing all the world" but he conceded that "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope some day you'll join us". It

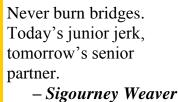
appears Nasar has joined Lennon's dream of an "economic El Dorado".

The Grand Pursuit is not a comprehensive book on the history of economic thought like Robert Heilbroner's The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers. Unlike her previous book, A Beautiful Mind, a biography of the game theorist John Nash, Nasar's new book is a story, not biography, of the times and ideas of several "classical", "Marxian", "neoclassical", Keynesian, "neoclassical synthesis" and development economists - a sort of a potpourri of economists.

If Nasar's aim was to show that we are close to having an economic genius or alchemist to end poverty, she failed to do so. In the U.S., about 46 million people or 15% of the population still live below the poverty line. Worldwide, about 1.4 billion people or 20% of the world population still live in absolute poverty. About 25% of the people in developing countries still live on less than \$1.25 a day. Thus the road to the "end of poverty" is still long and tedious.

Readers who are schooled in economics may be confused and frustrated by the seemingly divergent viewpoints on economic issues and policies. Reading the book will enable us to understand the why the two candidates in the 2012 U.S. presidential election have such different economic worldviews. Governor Romney favors a smaller government and is against "redistribution", while President Obama favors a larger government and redistribution. If the "pursuit" of economic policy is poverty eradication, redistribution is probably inescapable.

The problem is that policy making is dominated by politicians who want power not necessarily to eliminate poverty. Besides, after over a hundred years of debating the role and size of government, economist cannot agree on the "optimal" size and role of government. Economists always come with alternative solutions to almost any issue. In fact, many Presidents and



decision makers still share the frustration of President Harry Truman (1844 -1972) who said "Give me a one-handed economist! All my economists say, On the one hand... on the other".

Nasar's story does not appear balanced. It appears biased. For instance, she did not hide her likeness for Keynes and her disdain for Marx and other "socialist/communist" economists even though Marxism had a significant influence on the enthronement of the modern welfare states and the phenomenal reduction in poverty. For instance, she stated that Karl Marx "got his wife's maid pregnant and suffered from myopia, which might explain why he failed to notice a prosperous middle class growing up all around him in London". Ouch! Also, the book appears "eurocentric". It largely ignores the contributions of many famous economists from other parts of the world to the reduction of poverty. It also pays lip service to the post 1950 "revolution" in empirical economics and the role of advances in science and technology in poverty reduction.

In spite of some of the shortcomings, the book is an important contribution to the history of economic thought from a unique perspective. In particular, Nasar has shed light on the socio-economic context under which some great economists developed some of the brilliant ideas that have shaped economic policies that have led to unprecedented economic growth and reduction in poverty, especially in the West. The challenge now is to make this "magic" work in the developing world so that we can see the end of poverty on a global scale.

\* Emmanuel Ojameruaye is Vice President of Research & Program Development with the International Foundation for Education & Self-Help (IFESH) based in Scottsdale, Arizona State. He was a Lecturer in Economics and Statistics at the University of Benin in Nigeria in the 1980s.

On behalf of the board and staff of the Valley of the Sun United Way. Thank you for Bettina Vance-Johnson participation in the community investment process. - Warren Whitney, Chair, Community Impact Committee

ACCIDENT CHIROPRACTORS 29 ValleyWide Locations Dennis Goldberg, DC, MUAC Chiropractic Physician 3326 North 7th Street Tel: (602) 253-8888 Phoenix, AZ. 85012 Fax: (602) 252-0845 www.accidentchiropractors.com

Reflection — We mourn the passing of our truly outstanding members and loved ones.



Bettye Wilson, a resident of Sedona made a significant impact during her 65 years. She served as president of the Sedona Jazz on the Rocks and on the board of Verde Valley Sinfonietta. Prior to retiring as a corporate executive with Motorola, she served on the Arizona Supreme Court Lawyer Discipline Board, the City of Phoenix Civil Service Board and the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden Board.



We say "goodbye" to **Noella Delaine** Nelms, wife of **BBOD** Project member George Nelms. They were married April 23, 1966 and lived in Edina, Minnesota until May 1999 when they moved to Scottsdale, AZ. To this union, sons Christopher and Michael were born.



We lost **BBOD Project Alum Clarence** "Reggie" Davis, a former employee of Xerox. He was born in Hobbs, New Mexico and graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in quantative systems. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is survived by his wife, Claribeth and Children Regan and C. Reginald.



The featured speaker at our 1987 black tie dinner, Andrew F. **Brimmer**, passed October 7, 2012. He served on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University. He also served on many corporate and non profit boards. He was born in Newellton, Louisiana where his father was a sharecropper.

PROJECT POINTS is published by the Black Board of Directors Project, a 29 year old advanced leadership organization. Copyright 2012. We appreciate your help and support in recruiting new members!

If you know someone you think could benefit and contribute to society by being a member of BBOD Project, please call us or email your recommendations.

We strongly encourage the referral and participation of non-black professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, etc. It takes you - being engaged and standing for the cause we share - Creating a Great Tomorrow - Today!

Please email name and contact information to bbodproject@ampersands.net, call 602-234-1255 fax to 602-234-1856 or mail to BBOD Project; PO Box 45107; Phoenix, AZ 85064.