

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

## Speaking your truth to power

By Evelyn M. Bingham  
SUN COLUMNIST & POET



We have heard the phrase, *Speaking Truth To Power*, a lot in recent months and years. Although the phrase is not new, you may have wondered what it

meant or its origin. The Quakers used the term during the mid 1950s, which was a call for the United States to stand firm against fascism and other forms of totalitarianism.

Speaking truth to power means believing deeply in what you say and fighting every day to have that heard. It may not be popular, it means taking a risk, it means standing for something. Such was the case with our brave leaders speaking out for justice during the early civil rights era, the student protests and sit-ins and the bus boycotts and the voting rights campaigns. Another example more recently, was the Women's, or Peoples March in Washington D.C., immediately following the Trump inauguration, which sparked other spontaneous protests across our country and the world of people insisting that their voices and their truths be heard, and be responded to!

To speak truth to power, means speaking what we believe to be true, to someone in authority who might take it as a criticism or be offended, and who has the power to punish us in some way. One prime example of this, was Jesus, speaking the ultimate truth

to power before his trial and his crucifixion. More recently, we have seen this scenario play out many times since the Trump presidency, with the leader of our country behaving like a spoiled preschooler who cringes and fights back when he perceives himself being criticized or disrespected or disliked.

What would make us afraid or reluctant to speak up or to speak our minds? Fear of authority is one of them (except when confronted by a two year toddler, who in convincing defiance, is speaking in toddlerese, unafraid to the parent in present authority! Fear comes from the power difference between ourselves and the other person. We may feel, real or perceived, that we have less power than them, which causes fear, but, as David Gurteen, of the Knowledge Café states there are many forms of power difference. Seniority, gender, education, class, articulateness, accent, race, nationality, dress, financial etc.

We all have many opportunities to speak our truths to power, but it is often the combined voices or actions which forms the power to overcome injustice, ignorance, inequity and overall inequality to the powers that be. Some people feel safer or more empowered through anonymity. Our vote gives us a powerful voice, which carries a heavy weight, as does our letters and calls to our elected officials. Our active participation in the NAACP, AARP, and like organizations are powerful and effective tools for social change. Whenever possible, we should seek to be an agent for change, a voice for the voiceless, and an army of ONE, and when combined with the strength of others who share the same beliefs, we can defeat any negative powers, when armed with our combined weapons of LOVE!

## Born to make a difference©

By The Foundation for a Better Life©

Kids these days. Seems they spend most of their time with their noses pointed at their phones or their eyeballs frantically moving to the flashes of video games. It's easy to be a bit pessimistic about the future. But if you look closely, there are young minds solving major world problems.

Jahkil Jackson distributes "Blessing Bags" for the homeless in Chicago: toiletries, snacks, socks and other essentials. Jahkil started his work at 9 years old.

In Bali, preteen sisters Melati and Isabel Wijsen began a campaign to clean up the beaches and rid their country of plastic pollution in 2008. Bali is now plastic-free. But they are not done. They are now focused on the rest of Indonesia.

And speaking of cleanups, Ryan Hickman was 7 years old when he started Ryan's Recycling. He collects over 200,000 bottles and cans a year from 50 customers. In Sierra Leone, Kelvin Doe started bringing electricity and a community radio station to rural villages by making batteries and a transmitter out of recycled materials. He

was 13 years old. Most importantly, Kelvin showed other children that they can make a difference. (Today, Kelvin is a songwriter and engineer, still working to inspire young people)

Teenager Boyan Slat has raised over \$13 million for his project Ocean Cleanup that uses the ocean's natural currents to collect plastic pollution.

At age 15, Ann Makosinski invented a flashlight that uses body heat for power to keep batteries out of landfills.

Kids around the world are raising millions of dollars for cancer research, literacy and environmental causes simply by running lemonade stands, sewing headbands and selling bracelets.

So the next time you get a little worried about what today's kids are up to, rest assured they are using whatever resources they have to make life better for their generation, and beyond.

Hope...PassItOn.com

The Foundation for a Better Life© promotes positive values to live by and pass along to others.

## Familiar friends

By Evangelist Barbara Colbert-Brooks  
SUN COLUMNIST



I'm thinking I may have shared these thoughts some years ago when I was going through a tough time in my life. I may have even been feeling sorry for myself, and entertaining

self-pity. I don't quite rightly recall. Yet, this I do know. Those years have passed and while I've grown stronger, and hopefully wiser, the times remain the same. Trials are necessary. Troubles are inevitable. Pain really does hurt, especially when it's from the inside out.

The latter part of this summer came in worse than any roaring lion. More like a precious friend, turned bitter enemy. What took root in the spring bearing hope and promise, by the summer, was washed away in the blink of an eye. Like a raging tsunami emerging from the deepest of seas, grief gave no warning. It just showed up viciously consuming joy and expectation, leaving me shaken and unsure, desperately grasping for rescue and recuse. Blindsided by life, faith and fear wrestled for my soul. I was caught in a bed of quicksand and thorns, stinging, and sinking fast, with everything I ever held on to, seemingly ions away from my reach.

Then I remembered what I had written some years ago about being in a Pit of Despair. Another time in my life when the ground on which I stood seemed to suddenly crumble beneath me. When all that was a familiar was no longer an assurance. Provoked by unrelenting disappointments, I had cried out to the Lord, and he breathed into my soul. Through

my cries of sorrow, His Word resonated then those many years ago, and now again at such a time as this.

What a Friend we truly have in Jesus. My old Friend promised that He knows the tears I shed and that He knows my brokenness. Though scraped and scarred, I am not shattered, and should I be, then He is the Potter who holds the clay. My old Friend promised that He will give me the strength to go on. Though the tides of life may seek to drown me in a sea of despair, He is the Rock that I shall stand upon and I shall not be moved. He held out his loving arms and said to me "Come all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest. ..Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Now the summer has passed, and Autumn has arrived. The shedding of golden leaves, and colorful summer flowers, plushy green grass, and soft summer breezes, all move aside for a time of dormancy. Nature shall clear out the old and make way for the new. Sometimes what may start out as an anticipated blessing, will turn out to be an unbelievably difficult testing. Like a pop-quiz, unexpected but sure to come someday some way. Best to be prepared not only with the Word of God, but with our own testimonies. I remembered a time when I had been there before. Now a repeat performance from familiar fiends, God helped me make my testimony sure. So, as I proclaimed in the former, I will again declare in the present "As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning and at noon, will I pray and cry aloud and he shall hear my voice. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me for there were many with me."

## Embracing the Goddess Within: The Eye of God

By Addona Smith AKA Godis  
SUN COLUMNIST



In our humanness, we see through eyes colored by our past. Shadows and memories of things good and bad become clouded looking in the glass in which we interpret our

experiences.

As we embrace the truth of who we

are as daughters and co-creators with God, our spiritual eye is opened and the veils of our illusions are lifted. We are able to see through God's eyes. What was old becomes new, as we embrace a greater truth. We expand our minds, and we become beacons of light. Rise Goddess Rise.

GODDESS Affirmation  
God as your daughter I am choosing to see ALL things through your eyes.  
GODIS is a Detroit spiritual artist

whose mission is to use her gifts as a writer, photographer, garment designer and speaker to celebrate, document and inspire the awakening of the Goddess within women. A Goddess is a woman who knows that she is a daughter of God. She is a woman of great spiritual beauty in touch with her creative and spiritual gifts choosing to be a light in the world, by giving birth to the visions and dreams that God has implanted within her.

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