



NORTHERND AGENT'S

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YOUR EXPERIENCES AND YOUNG LIVES MATTER

We are pleased to publish another edition of Northend Agent’s youth-centric companion publication, Junior Agent’s. We heard your feedback and are pleased that you’ve all enjoyed past editions of Junior Agent’s and this year, we are hoping to knock your socks off and make you think and consider some of the things impacting the lives of youth; especially in this current political and social climate.

We take great pride in helping amplify the voices and stories of the Hartford community and the Black community at large, and certainly don’t want the lived experiences, stories, and concerns of our young readers to get lost in the ether. So often, while trying to make sense of the world from an adult lens (when things aren’t being made a complete mess of), the opinions of youth are often disregarded. And it is for this reason Northend Agent’s is looking to appeal to new and progressive young readers, as well as, cultivate young writers to be featured in Junior Agent’s. Is that you? If so, speak up and tell us what are some of the topics and concerns impacting *your* lives, you’d like to see published for your edification.

Even if adults don’t say it enough, the insight of our young readers matter to say matter. Age is not a factor with us and we hope to share with you, our strongest resource.

Read, write, and send in your stories, pictures, and essays about the current events, pop-culture, movies, and books *you* love; the things that have meaning and holds significance in your young lives. We are creating a platform for revolutionary young people who want to stand out and be heard. It’s important for adult readers to grasp and truly understand how a child’s wisdom and insight can help us gain a fresh and honest perspective on how to view the world. Amid a child’s innocence and a teenager’s seemingly carefree impressionability, are profound kernels of truth about society. And it is crucial that we, as a publication with an impressive reach comprised of adult readers who are self-aware and socially conscious, do everything in within the realm of feasibility, to help guide and protect our young readers.

We hope you genuinely enjoy what we’re creating for you, and can’t do it without your vision and insight, young readers and writers.

Let’s do this!

Endera Allen—Editor, *Junior Agent’s*

If you would like to participate in the next edition of Junior Agent’s, please contact: eallen@northendagents.com

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Sasha Allen Walton
Managing Editor

- The **Northend Agents, LLC** newspaper is designed to focus upon the urban region of CT, and will be used as a vehicle for business organizations and residents. Due to the problems we face economically, it is our objective to inform and assist our readers of buys within and out of the community, and of upcoming events.
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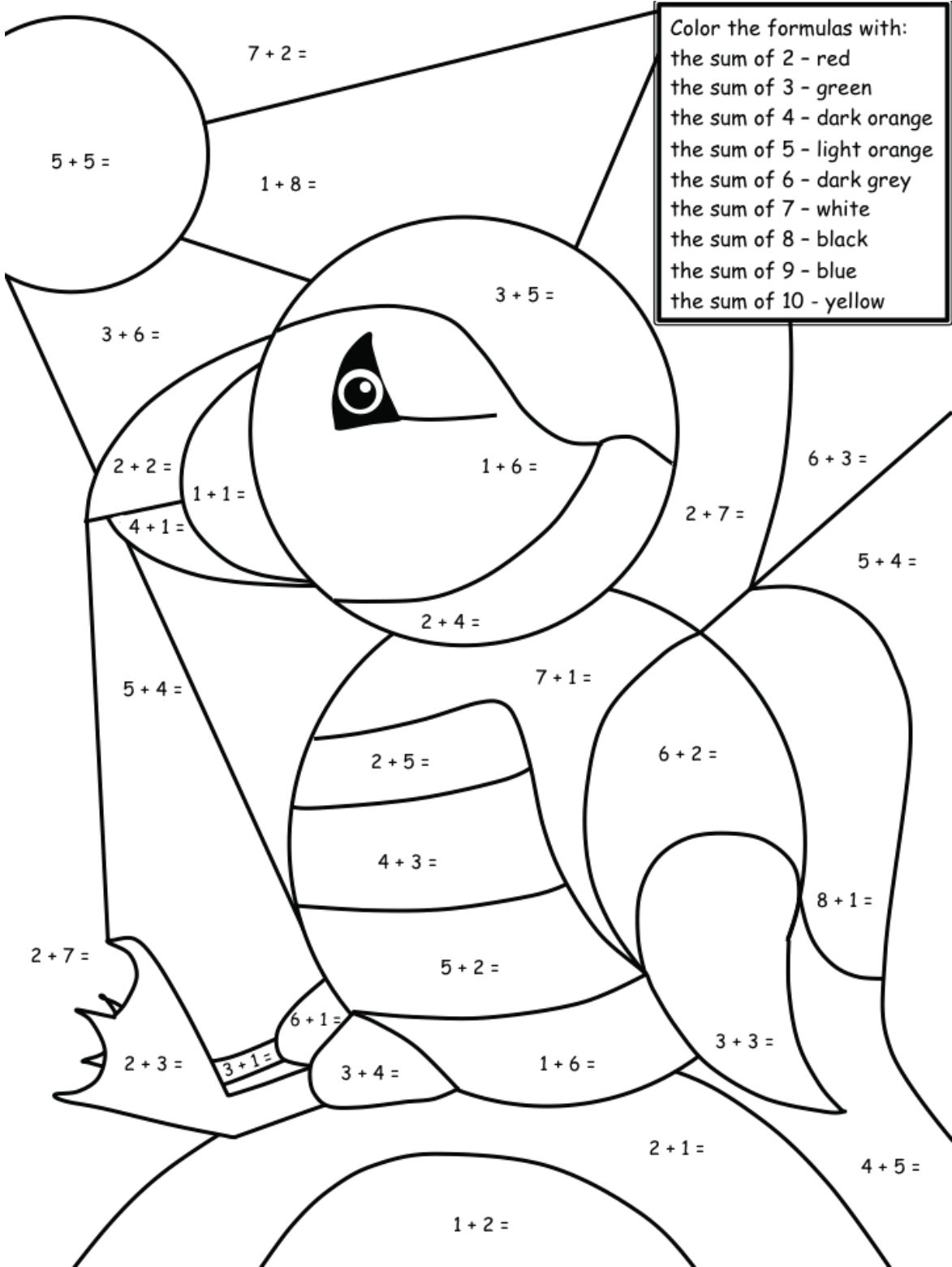


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A Kiss When I Wake in the Morning
(Nursery Rhyme)
By Stuart Macfarlane



A kiss when I wake in the morning,
A kiss when I go to bed,
A kiss when I burn my fingers,
A kiss when I bump my head.
A kiss when my bath begins,
A kiss when my bath is over,
My mamma is as full of kisses
As a nurse is full of pins.
A kiss when I pull her hair,
A kiss when I play with my rattle,
She covered me all over with kisses
The day I fell down stairs.
A kiss when I give her trouble,
A kiss when I give her joy;
There is nothing like mamma's kisses
To her own little boy.





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Where Have They Gone

By Charlie Costict

Human trafficking is big business, in fact, there are more slaves than ever before in human history. We watch the Hollywood movies, essentially US propaganda, create the narrative that human trafficking is solely a foreign issue. White savior movies like *Taken* uphold anti-terrorist themes when in fact human trafficking is global and the second largest criminal industry. An estimated 21-35 million victims of trafficking, forced labor and modern slavery worldwide with 79% of cases involving sexual exploitation. It’s an import/export system especially here in the USA with immigrants being exploited and American children/adults being kidnapped and disappearing before our very eyes. The USA is one of the highest ranked destination for trafficked victims. Migrants in the US, runaways, homeless(or transient), and those from oppressed/marginalized groups and the poor all risk chances of becoming victims. Many factors come into play as to how this epidemic is constant and ignored, things like poverty and corruption go hand in hand. Our government fails to invest in proper education and socioeconomic reform which leaves our children and peers to fall by the wayside. Increases in poverty threaten food security and shelter causing our youth to run the streets giving way to crime and performing sex work for that next meal. These children fall prey to human traffickers who exploit the vulnerability of being uneducated and poor.

A human trafficker/enabler can come in various forms from a pimp on the streets; an employer of a restaurant, bar, farm; or worse, a politician. They lure immigrants with hopes of prosperity and employment opportunities only to threaten them by force, fraud or coercion upon arrival into unpaid labor, sex rings, or domestic servitude to cover smuggling costs. Victims are forced into paying back these predatory loans (no pun intended) while costs of room and board raise trapping them even further. This form of debt bondage allows exploiters to offer the sale of services or goods rendered by the abused to consumers for profit and unfortunately, it’s big business. A slave is sold, on average for just \$90 with only 1-2% of those taken are found. The human trafficking industry is estimated to generate 40 billion dollars ANNUALLY according to the [EndHTNow](#) organization with 80% of all trafficked victims being women and children. Recent years of police brutality in the Black community overshadowed the fact that 64,000 Black women are missing in America. Racism and sexism are most likely the leading causes of how our missing women have not gotten the urgency and action it takes to raise alarm. Black men in police brutality cases took centerstage while Black and POC women and children went missing in large numbers in areas like Washington D.C and Bronx, NY. This is alarming when our law enforcement generally isn’t properly trained to recognize, identify, and assist victims. This may be due in part to only 4 states having anti-human trafficking laws back in 2004 rising to just 28 states in 2012. Even currently with all states containing some sort of human trafficking laws, the legal framework is still incomplete in many states to cover all bases. This is witnessed when victims are afraid to report their captors due to the criminalization of the sex work they are being forced to perform. When sex work illegalization supersedes your freedom and welfare it’s clear our laws and priorities are backwards as a nation.

Another not-so-spoken aspect of human trafficking is possible organ harvesting on the Black Market. I’m not one for hotepping but with all the recent revelations in our government, these conspiracy theories aren’t so outlandish anymore. We went to the movies and watched *Get Out*, wrote think-pieces and shot YouTube reviews and couldn’t help be reminded of the world’s obsession with Black bodies. We followed the stories like Kendrick Johnson who was found dead, rolled in a wrestling mat following by his body stuffed with newspaper before burial. What are the chances of a three-sport athlete mysteriously dead plus missing footage from cameras and his organs never received from the coroner? Then there are cases like with Dr. [Michael Mastromarino](#) who created a \$4.6 million enterprise of harvesting organs from bodies without consent. People capable of such atrocities aren’t necessarily colorblind either. This falls in line with a history of scientific racism as well as obsession with extracting resources and skills from a people while subjugating them in the process.

A recent interview on the Dr. Phil show added fuel to #Pedogate as a young woman on his show went into detail about her past as a child sex slave. She went into detail about being service to some of the world’s power elite and being trafficked all over the globe from law enforcement to and U.S politicians. She then described what was known as “Hunting Parties” where they would release children on a large plot of land and hunt them down to rape or torture. Dr. Phil’s investigative team consulted law enforcement experts who confirmed her story. It’s frightening to imagine the very same people with the power and wealth would use their influence to indulge in such sadistic acts.

I feel in attempt to protect the marginalized and oppressed we must boost our own coverage. Rely on each other for reliable news that highlights the underreported stories of our brothers and sisters. It took a simple tweet shared by the social influencers to remind us of our 64,000 missing Black women. A story spread a few years ago, that we just let die under the rubble of social media blitz (e.g Ferguson riots). It took one movie to get conversations reignited about organ harvesting to which many were quite simply unaware. We may perhaps walk by or interact with people who need our help and around afraid or uneducated as to how to rescue themselves. It’s on us to teach and share information about the epidemic of human trafficking because it primarily affects people of color. Mainstream media will not help, or care for that matter. Boost those Amber Alerts and work as a community to watch our own. Invest in GPS trackers and devices that keep you aware of your child’s location. Beware of sketchy job postings and quick money advertising as these are lures for sex trafficking. Teach your children how to be safe while navigating their world by observing their surroundings and how they interact with strangers. Self-defense should be taught not only as basic survival but also as a tool of empowerment. Transform that paranoia into confidence and refuse to live in ignorance because this.....is not bliss.

A Note From Senator Chris Murphy

Quietly, while Americans have been focused on the ongoing drama over repealing the Affordable Care Act and the new revelations about the Trump campaign's ties to Russia, President Trump has been busy dramatically expanding the American troop presence inside Syria. And virtually no one in Washington has noticed. Americans have a right to know what Trump is planning and whether this will lead to an Iraq-style occupation of Syria for years to come.

Without any official notification, Trump sent 500 new American troops into Syria, ostensibly to take part in the upcoming assault on the ISIS stronghold of Raqqa. News reports suggest this deployment may just be the tip of the iceberg, with some saying that the plan is for hundreds more American troops to be added to the fight in the coming weeks. No one actually knows how many troops are inside Syria now, because the administration has largely tried to keep the build-up a secret.

This deployment poses a significant, potentially catastrophic risk for the United States and the future of Syria and the Middle East. Congress cannot be silent on this matter. I have long been against putting U.S. troops on the ground in Syria--I opposed the idea during the Obama administration and I oppose it now, because I believe we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the Iraq War if we try to force political stability simply through the barrel of a gun. I would urge my colleagues who have not focused on the question of U.S. troop presence in Syria to, at the very least, demand the administration answer two basic questions before signing off on the money to fund this dangerous escalation.

First, what is our mission and what is our exit strategy?

The public explanation of the military escalation has been to prepare for the assault on Raqqa. Taking Raqqa is a necessary and long-desired objective. The problem lies in making U.S. troops an indispensable part of the invasion force, which likely will require us to stay and become an indispensable part of the occupation force as well. This is what happened in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I see no reason why we wouldn't face the same trap in Syria. But if this is not the administration's plan, they should be explicit about this. They should assure Congress and the American public that we are in Syria simply until Raqqa falls, and no longer.

There are other important questions to ask. Recently, Trump sent a small group of Special Forces operators to Manbij to keep the peace between Kurdish and Turkish-backed forces fighting for control of this remote section of northern Syria. This suggests our military mission is much broader--and more complicated--than simply helping to retake Raqqa.

Many Syria experts agree that once Raqqa is taken from ISIS, the fighting is just beginning. The contest then begins between the various proxy forces (Saudi, Iranian, Russian, Turkish, Kurdish) over who ultimately controls the city. Will U.S. forces leave at that point, or does Trump's plan envision that we will stay to mediate future control of large portions of the battlespace? This would be a mirror of Iraq, in which thousands of Americans died trying to figure out the post-Saddam settlement of accounts between the Sunnis, Shia, and Kurds. And it could result in just as much American bloodshed.

Second, do we have a political strategy or just a military strategy?

This past Thursday, I joined other members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee for lunch with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. I was glad that Tillerson was willing to open the doors of the State Department to a bipartisan group of Senators, and our discussion was honest and frank. In the meeting, Tillerson showed admirable candor in admitting that the military strategy was far ahead of the diplomatic strategy in Syria.

But this was actually a dramatic understatement. Unless a secret plan exists, that Trump is keeping from U.S. Senators and his own Secretary of State, there is absolutely no plan for who controls post-ISIS Raqqa, or post-Assad Syria.

The obstacles to a political plan for the future of Raqqa increase by the week. U.S. military leaders want to rely on Kurdish and Arab fighters to retake Raqqa, but hope that the Kurds will then abandon the city after they lose hundreds or thousands of their soldiers in the assault. Even if this fantasy were to become reality, it would come at a price - the Kurds would expect something in return for their effort. And today, we have no idea how to execute this two-step without having peace undermined by the Turks, who remain violently opposed to giving territory the Kurds. To add complications, the Russian and Iranian-backed forces, sitting just outside Raqqa today, are not going to allow for a U.S.-backed Arab or Arab/Kurdish government to be peacefully installed inside the city. They will want a piece of the action, and we have no credible plan to accommodate them today.

Without a political plan for the future of Raqqa, a military plan is practically useless. Yes, getting ISIS out of Raqqa is a victory in and of itself, but if we set into motion a series of events that simply prolongs the broader conflict, ISIS will easily pick up the pieces and use the ongoing turmoil to regroup and re-emerge. We should have learned in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya that a military victory without a plan for what comes next is really not a victory at all. But unbelievably, we seem on the verge of making this mistake again, because of (understandable) enthusiasm for taking the fight to a vicious enemy.

I want ISIS gone. I want them destroyed. But I want it done the right way. I do not want to Americans to die and billions of dollars to be wasted in a war that makes the same mistakes as the disastrous American invasion of Iraq. And I certainly don't want the war to start in secret, without Congress even noticing that it's starting. Congress needs to get in the game and start asking questions - before it's too late.

Chris Murphy
U.S. Senator, Connecticut

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How to Make Your Own Bath bombs

If you are looking for something to relax you after a long day at school and don't want to spend too much money, creating your own batch of bath bombs at home is the perfect solution. It is a great way to show your independence and also save money for other things you might enjoy. Bath bombs are also great gifts for mom and dad to show them that you care, and help them to relax after a long day of work. It might even be the perfect way to ask your parents to take on the trips featured in this edition of the Junior Agent's. Oh! And, Junior Agent's don't forget to send in pictures and even a video of you making these amazing bath bombs. Some lucky Junior DIY Agent's might even be featured on the website or even published in an upcoming Junior Agent's Edition.

Ingredients and Supplies:

- 1 Cup Baking Soda
- 1/2 Cup Citric Acid
- 1/2 Cup Epsom Salts
- 1 Tsp. Water
- 2 Tsp. Essential Oil
- 3 Tsp. Oil (Olive Oil)
- Food Coloring (Any Color You Want)
- Bowl
- Whisk
- Jar
- Bath Bomb Mold

Step 1:

Place the dry ingredients in a bowl and then mix them all evenly with the whisk.



(<http://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-bath-bombs-recipe/#>)

Step 2:

In a separate container, mix the liquid ingredients together. Note that in this step, the essential oils, fragrances and colors are added. This is an important step! Make sure to pick out lots of fragrance oils to try out here, as you can make many fabulous combinations for bath time. Lavender bath bombs for relaxation and sleep, perhaps tinted purple.



(<http://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-bath-bombs-recipe/#>)

Step 3:

Slowly add the liquid mixture to the dry mix, one small spoon at a time.



(<http://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-bath-bombs-recipe/#>)

Step 4:

When well mixed, you simply pack this mixture into a bath bomb mold and pack tightly, then let it dry. Work quickly so as not to let the bath bomb mixture dry out.



(<http://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-bath-bombs-recipe/#>)

Cake or cookies?

Hmmm... Cake to cookies... Now I absolutely love cake I mean who doesn't love it! Especially when it's all warm and moist on the inside- oh! My apologies am I making you, want cake, well I better stop because I am actually here today to tell you how to make your favorite cake mix into cookies. It's simple alchemy really, and did I mention guaranteed bake sale winners. Hmmm have I peaked your interest now, very well sit down and pay close attention to the simple directions I am about to give. Oh! And, don't forget- need I say it... really, oh alright then make sure a parent is present while you do any of this. And if all goes well 'say you saw it in Junior Agents.'

Now lets begin...



(<http://www.instructables.com/id/cake-mix-cookies/>)

Now for this particular recipe I am going to use confetti cake as an example. No don't look at the box look at me the Junior Agent's I have the recipe. Now you can cake mix but as I said I love confetti so my example will be confetti.



(<http://www.instructables.com/id/cake-mix-cookies/step4/Baking/>)

All you will need for this project is:

- 2 eggs
- Cake Mix
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil

Now that we have everything we need let get this in a bowl and mix!!! Get your **parent** to preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. And the using two spoons make little dollops of the cookie dough (because I find it is so hard to make perfect circles) and then once your pan is filled with at least 6 of these delicious treats pop them into the oven for 9-12 minutes if you like the center really moist and 12-14 if you don't. Make sure to keep an eye on them or else they will dry out and no one wants a dry cookie.

And don't forget to share your experience with your friends. No one likes a chef who keeps secrets, so don't let that be you.

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Black Girls with Mirrors in their Nana’s house!
By Tanya C. Fleeting

The story “No Mirrors In My Nana’s House ” by Ysaye M. Barnwell tells the whimsical tale of a young girl who recognizes her beauty not by looking in the mirror but gazing into in her nana’s eyes. She understands her worth as it is reflected back to her by her nana, thus she is able to maintain a strong and healthy self-image. This is one of my favorite stories! It demonstrates the power of love. It reminds me of nights I spent cuddled up next to my grandmother looking at Little House on the Prairie or sitting in the kitchen admiring her beauty, envious as I watched her use the straightening comb on her huge cottony puff of hair, in a haze of smoke and sizzle it descended into straightness and acceptability.

My grandmother was an amazing woman, she made me laugh with her corny jokes, she taught me valuable life lessons, and she let me hide in her strength when I didn’t have my own. My grandmother made me feel special, smart, and cute and of course LOVED. However, I would still argue that there were mirrors in my grandmother’s house, just as there where mirrors in her mother’s house, and there are mirrors in my mother’s house and in my house too.



The distorted mirror that my grandmother looked into during her childhood changed her perception of self in ways I will never know. I can imagine that her mirror held many of the things that generations of Blacks girls have and are still struggling with, issues of hair texture, skin color or the ability feel valued as a Black girl. There were mirrors in her Nana’s house!

The young Black girls of today are victimized by the same broken and distorted mirror that I looked into and my mother before me. It is virtually impossible for a Black girl to experience the tender period of girlhood without looking in a mirror, a mirror that reflects crooked and broken images of who they are mentally, emotionally and physically. While it could be argued that media depictions of girls of any race can be harsh and unrealistically. It is especially harsh for Black and Brown girls as they are subject to deeply rooted beliefs and expectations that have a history steeped in racism and patriarchy. Black girls are so very often under protected yet over policed. Time and time again we hear the stories on the news of young black girls being treated without care or concern pinned to the ground in a swimsuit, thrown across a room by a security officer, shamed and on the receiving end of a negative consequence for wearing their hair in its natural state, suspended six times more often than their white peers and missing and abducted at alarming rates without making any headlines. There are mirrors in their Nana’s house!

So while it is tempting to envision a world where self-worth is built and maintained solely by the love and support of a nana (or other positive adult) and the ability to block out negative images and stereotypes is as easy as not installing mirrors. The reality is there our mirrors in the houses of all young black girls and we must work hard to combat and destroy the images that these mirrors are portraying. We must show Black girls that they don’t have to follow the single narrative so often laid out before them.

If you would like to take action and help build the self-esteem of black girl in your life, here are a few things you can do:

- 1. Surround them with things that show and reflect their beauty. Provide them with Black dolls, Decorate their room with Black art
- 2. Provide books with positive images of Black girls and women
- 3. Model body and self-acceptance
- 4. Direct your praise away from their physical appearance (ex. You are intelligent)
- 5. Provide a safe space for them to express feelings and concerns

If you would like more information on Black girls and self-esteem, please contact me at Conversationswithsistas@gmail.com. Tanya Fleeting M.Ed., Certified life and Creativity coach. Tanya is a wife and mother of three, a Dean of students by profession, a published author and Founder of Conversations with My Sistas.

I Love Myself – A Love Note to Black Children
By Charlie Costict

I love myself. I love being Black. I am loved. I am strong. I am smart. I am great. I am different. I like being different. These are things I want you to tell yourself every day. Every Black boy and every Black girl. Don’t grow too fast. Don’t be so distant. We must grow together. We must build together. We can learn from you and you can learn from us. The world is changing and we must try our best to adapt.



Tell us what makes you happy. Tell us what makes you scared. How do you feel about being Black? Do you understand what being Black means? It means greatness. It means excellence. It means people will be jealous. They will lie on you. They will try to bully you. Do you know why people bully? Because they are punks. They’re scared of you. They want to be like you but they can’t. You are one of a kind. You will never be ugly. Light or Dark, Skinny or Big, Short or Tall, Able or Disabled. You’re are beautiful.

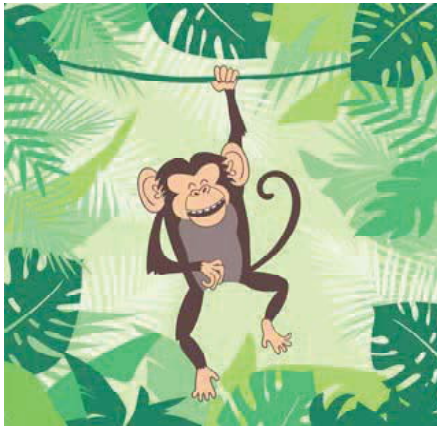
Make sure they see you happy. Show that smile. Make sure they see how proud you are. Proud to be Black. Black is beautiful. Black is strong. Black is powerful. Black is original. People want to know what makes us so special. You should show them. What do you want to be when you grow up? Who are you going to let stop you? NOBODY. Some people won’t believe in you but you know what? YOU got to believe in you. Do good for your parents. Do good for your grandparents. Do good for all the Black people you see around you. Everybody will be proud of you.

We want you to be happy and we want you to be safe. Be careful around strangers. Some strangers will pretend to be your friend. Not every kid is a friend. Not every grownup is a friend. Ask your parents who can you trust. Trust is important. If you can’t trust them, don’t talk to them. If you do not trust them, they shouldn’t touch you. If you don’t trust them, they don’t have permission.

Honesty is important too. Be honest with yourself first. It’s okay to cry. It’s okay to be mad. It’s okay to be scared. It’s okay to be nervous. Be open about your feelings. Tell people how you feel. People cannot help you if you do not share your feelings. Your family, your teachers, your friends are all here to help you. We all know how it is because we used to be young like you. We used to be kids who laugh and cry. We used to be nervous and scared.

When you look in the mirror I want you to say to yourself. “I love myself”. “I love being Black”. “I am loved”. “I am strong”. “I am smart”. “I am great”. “I am different”. “I like being different”. “I am Beautiful”. “Black is Beautiful”

Aesop’s Fables: Monkey Business



Let us enjoy reading this one of Aesop’s Fables of Monkey Business.

A monkey climbed the roof of a house and entertained the people who had gathered below to watch it, with its antics. After it had gone, an ass who craved popularity climbed the roof and tried to perform the same tricks. In the process, it dislodged and broke several tiles. The owner of the house was furious. His servants went up, drove the ass down, and beat it black and blue.

Moral: Actions that suit others may not suit you. Be yourself.

Desiree's Top 10 Must Read Children's Series
By Desiree Anderson, Librarian Assistant at HPL Mark Twain Branch

The best thing about series are that there is almost always more. This list is not in order from our least favorite to our most favorite, generally because all of the books on this list are special in their own way.

Parents: Please note that although ALL of these books are classified as Children's Literature, there is a large range of reading levels throughout this list. Depending on your child's reading level, as well as content that you may or may not approve of, we at Northend Agent's highly recommend that you screen any books your child may be interested in.



1. The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S Lewis
This series is a literary classic, one of which even your parents have most likely read and loved. It contains 7 books and although all of the books take place in the same magical world of Narnia, each book contains an entirely different story.

2. The Diary of A Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
So far, this series contains a 11 books. This book is exceptionally popular right now so it is only fitting that it should make it on our must-read list. The books follow a boy named Greg as he journals his experience through middle school. Greg is very easy to relate to and the illustrations make what is already a fun book an even more enjoyable read.

3. The Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell
According to Goodreads.com, "It's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for girls in this hilarious novel!" This 11-book series follows Nikki as she starts 8th grade at a brand new school.

Fun fact: the author, Rachel Renee Russell is actually an attorney who writes on her free time.

4. The Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne
This is by far, the largest series on our list with an astounding 50+ books AND a spin off series. The original series follows two siblings on their numerous adventures aboard the magical tree house.

5. Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan
This book series contains 5 books following the main character, Percy and his adventures. The series is based off of Greek mythology and Percy, as well as some of the other characters, are demigods (the children of a human and a god). After the success of the first series, multiple spin off series were published.

6. Harry Potter by J.K Rowling
This series is definitely our most popular pick! It has been featured on countless "Must Read" and "Best Seller" lists and after having such a dynamic and successful movie adaptation, it would be a sin to not include it.

7. Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park
Junie B. Jones is another almost-classic pick. There are 28 books in the series. The last book was published in 2013. The first book follows almost-6 year old, Junie on as she starts her very first day of kindergarten.

Fun Fact: The series was actually #71 on the top #100 Banned/Challenged Books list from 2000 to 2009.

8. Clubhouse Mysteries by Sharon Draper
One of our most cherished book series, follows Ziggy and three of his friends. After their neighborhood basketball court was destroyed by vandalism, the

four boys decide to start a club complete with secret meetings in a clubhouse they built behind Ziggy's house. However, the boys are shocked when they find that someone has buried a box of bones near their secret place and the neighbor is acting strange.

9. The School for Good & Evil by Soman Chainani
The smallest "series" on this list, is technically "a trilogy" as it only includes 3 books. However, do not be fooled. The books are quite physically large. For fans of books like Descendants, the School for Good & Evil follows Sophie and Agatha, two girls destined for tremendously different futures who were never supposed to be friends.

10. The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Recently adapted into a Netflix television show, this 13 book series is a morbidly spectacular pick. Full of sarcasm and wit, Lemony Snicket narrates a slightly creepy and mysterious story of three incredible siblings whose stint of "bad luck" just can't be shook.

We hope you enjoy all of the books we have listed. All of the books on this list can be found at your local library!

Feed the Love: How One 9-Year-Old Is Helping His Peers
By Tiffani Jones



When most young kids have a birthday on the horizon, they look forward to a day full of their favorite things: party, cake and other treats, and presents. But right before Donovan's 9th birthday, he told his mother he wanted to start a charitable foundation that would help provide food and other necessities to children in need.

Impressed but not sure whether he would follow-through with the idea, Donovan's doting mother, Erica, was surprised when he brought the idea up again, set about planning the launch of his foundation Donate2TheHeart to coincide with his 9th birthday, and started a crowdfunding campaign called Feed the Love, a fundraising drive to help collect food for underserved kids in the Greater Hartford area.

Donovan, who said he had been formulating the idea for a while, was prompted to action after seeing homeless people begging food and growing concern about hungry children in need.

"I'm hoping my campaign impacts kids' lives if they need food," Donovan said.

Erica says Donovan has been very involved with the creation of his foundation, including drafting its mission, helping create the logo, and brainstorming an upcoming calendar of events, including a holiday fundraiser and a school drive to help collect books and other supplies.

Donovan's *Feed the Love* campaign runs through March 1st, but people are highly encouraged to continue donating to Donate2TheHeart and dropping off food at participating drop-off spots: How Bazaar on 11 Whitney Street in Hartford and Oasis Barber, Salon and Spa on 626 Blue Hills Avenue in Hartford. Food items such as: juice boxes, granola bars, applesauce, trail mix, and cereal are also needed. For more information and to donate visit: www.donate2theheart.com or email: donate2theheart@gmail.com.



Tiffani Jones is the creator and writer of Coffee Rhetoric, a blog about women, pop-culture, film and race. A frequent contributor to both print and digital media platforms, she is also the Digital Content Editor for Northend Agent's. Tiffani has offered commentary on HuffPost Live, in the NY Times, and on WNPR in another life. More info about her work can be found on www.coffeerhetoric.com. Follow her on Twitter: [@Coffey0072](https://twitter.com/Coffey0072)

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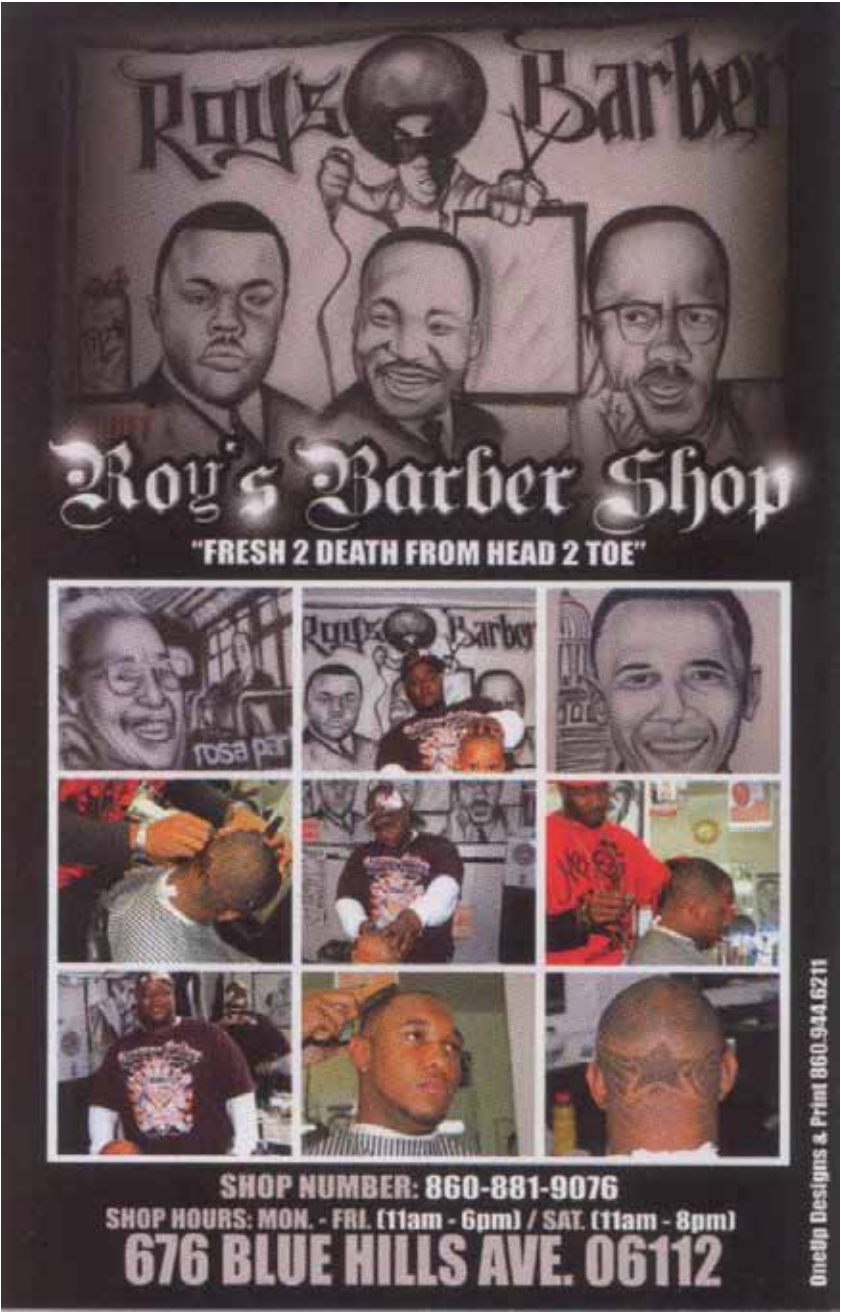
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Sunday Morning Service 10:00am



Pastor Paul Everett

Wednesdays
Morning Prayer 6:00am
Noon Bible Study 12:00pm
Evening Prayer 6:00pm
Evening Bible Study 6:30pm



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prophets. Jesus Christ himself being
the chief cornerstone.
Ephesians 2:20

The birthday of the
original New Testament Church was
on the day of Pentecost—A.D. 33
Acts 2:14

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:45 A.M.
Evening Evangelistic Service 6:30 P.M.
MONDAY
Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY
Evening Evangelistic Service 7:30 P.M.
(Brotherhood, Senior and Young Missionary Auxiliaries alternately)
WEDNESDAY
Prayer and Bible Class 7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY
Evening Evangelistic Service 7:30 P.M.
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
Noon Day Prayer 12:00-1:00 P.M.

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Discipleship Classes: 9:30am - 10:30am
2nd Morning Worship Service: 10:40am - 1:00pm
Children's Church (1st & 3rd Sundays)

WEEKLY ENRICHMENT SERVICES:

Monday: Prayer Meeting: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday: Bible Study Classes 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Women's Ministry - As announced
Boys Club & Girls Club (1st & 3rd)
Youth Bible Study (2nd & 4th)
Thursday: Roccet Young Adult Bible Study
Saturday: Men's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am - 9:00am



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Monday Prayer - 12:00 noon
Tuesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
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Holy Temple is the church where:
Love abides, (Ephesians 1:4, 15, 16; 4:16),
Strangers meet friends, (Ephesians 2:11-19),
Sinners find God, (John 3:16, 17;
1 Timothy 1:15, 16), and
The Word of God is made plain to all,
(Nehemiah 8:8, Acts 8:26-35).

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Apostle Dr. Dexter Burke, Senior Pastor
Pastor O’Neil Christie, Associate Pastor
Bishop Vincent Tate



Hours of Worship:
Sunday School - 1:00pm
Sunday Worship - 2:00pm
Tuesday Women Fellowship - 6:30pm
Thursday Bible Study - 7:00pm
Saturday Outreach Evangelism - 3:00pm

Archbishop Tate Weekly Radio Show:
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Baptist Training Union ~ 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
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SATURDAY
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Sunday School	9:30am—10:40am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45am— 1:30pm
Tuesday Night Bible Study	7:00pm — 9:00pm
Thursday Night Pastorial Instruction	7:00pm — 9:00 pm
Noonday Prayer Monday thru Friday	12:00pm—12:45pm

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Sun: 9:30am Sunday School
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6:00pm Evening Worship
Wed: 7:00pm Bible Class
Fri: 7:00pm Evenagelistic Services

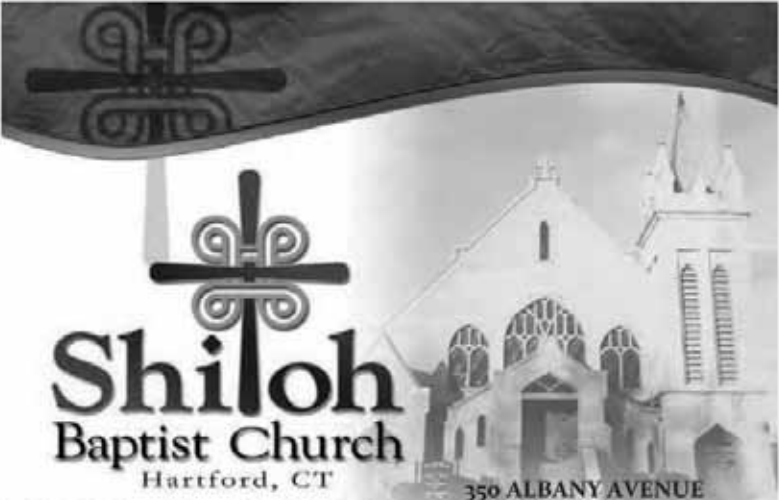


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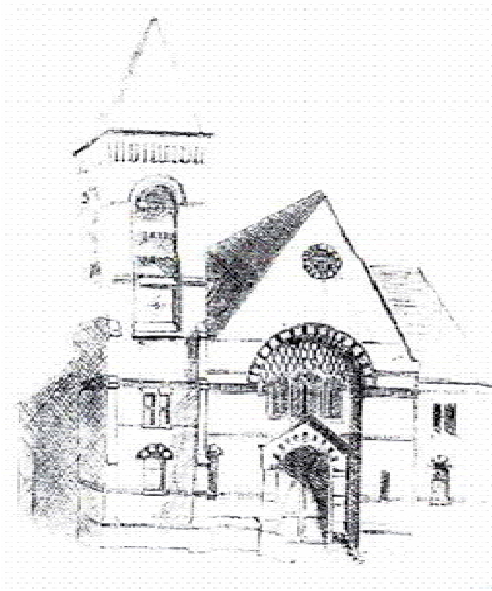
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2 COR 5:7

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**Junior Explorers’
Summer Destination Bucket List**

Junior Explorers, summer is coming fast! Before you know it, the sun will be shining, the flowers will be in bloom, and with no school (yay!) you’ll have A LOT of time on your hands. Your parents, maybe not so much but with a little convincing, I’m sure you will be able to hit a few places on this list (if not ALL!). A key part to being a Jr. Adventurer is learning and understanding the history behind what you love. We at Northend Agents hope to have captured your interest with one of these fascinating gems hidden right here in Connecticut. And don’t forget to take loads of pictures and document your adventures because YOU could be in the next upcoming Junior’s edition.

With an amazing variety of exhibits to choose from, **Mystic Aquarium** is definitely one of our top picks for a day trip packed with learning and adventure. From one of their 30 species of frogs to the largest Beluga Whale, if you have a love for marine animals, the mystic aquarium is a “Must Visit” destination. Are you fifteen years old or older and interested in volunteering at the Mystic Aquarium? They are hosting a Volunteer Open House on April 29th at 12:30pm. Make sure to remember to ask your parents! For more general information such as hours, ticket prices, and current exhibits, visit www.mysticaquarium.org.



In need of another animal fix? With over 90 different species of animals, **Beardsley Zoo** is a fascinating destination for any animal lover. This little gem is open EVERY SINGLE DAY with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. For a list of all animals on exhibit, as well as general information, visit www.beardsleyzoo.com.

Need a day of thrilling rides and raving waters? Visit the oldest, continuously operating theme park in North America: **Lake Compounce Amusement Park!** Home to Connecticut’s largest water park, Lake Compounce is the perfect place for a family day full of excitement. Lake Compounce will open its doors for the season weekends in May. For more information, visit www.lakecompounce.com.

Located right in the heart of our capital, the **Connecticut Science Center** is a stunning addition to any summer vacation bucket list. With more than 165 hands on activities, the Connecticut Science Center is more than capable of getting your growing explorer minds thinking. From racing robots to digging up dinosaurs, this big gem in downtown Hartford has something for the entire family to enjoy. And for even more fun, they also offer 90 minute Saturday workshops for kids in grades 3 to 5. Visit www.ctsciencecenter.org for more information on all workshops, exhibits, and operating hours.

Are you a resident of Hartford? Hartford residents with an active Hartford Public Library card are able to visit the Connecticut Science Center for FREE the entire month of August. Not visiting in August, no need to fret. The library also offers 20% off discount coupons throughout the entire year. Just call or visit your local HPL branch for more information.

A little time sensitive but **The Bushnell Performing Arts Theater** will be hosting spectacular showings of The King and I, the breathtaking musical story of the relationship between a king and a schoolteacher brought to tutor his many wives and children. With raving New York Times reviews and a beautiful score of classic songs such as “Getting To Know You”, this beautiful musical will have 8 magical showings from May 30th until June 4th. For more information on this show, as well as countless others, visit www.thebushnell.org/events.

From a quiet afternoon to a bustling day of learning and adventure, each of these places are sure to captivate your attention while teaching you new things. There are a million things at your disposal right here in Connecticut. From carnivorous sharks to stomach dropping rollercoasters and ancient dinosaur fossils, the sky’s the limit; just have fun!



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Education’s Uprising
By Tomari Parks

How important is the teaching?

As a whole, people in society would believe that the education system is the way to keep our children on the path to success and lead them in the right direction for an excellent future. We achieve these goals through teaching and providing them with an education that stays with them for the rest of their lives. The teachers who are hired are trained professionals who are entrusted with the responsibility of helping today’s children exceed society’s expectations and work to their fullest potential.

We all can remember sitting in our classrooms between the ages of five and eighteen through elementary school and high school and either being completely into school or barely getting by. Regardless of what we were like during our years of being in high school, believe it or not, we always relied on our teachers to guide us in the right direction or educate us on topics that we had no idea about. We may take teachers for granted but they are one of the few people who are responsible for us having a future aside from our family and ourselves.

Studies show that every year 1.2 million students drop out of school. This sums up to about 7,000 dropouts per day or 1 every twenty-six seconds. Our teachers can stop this heightened inclination for students to drop out of school. All education is valuable and teachers are here to show us as students that it is. They are not only here to teach us basic skills but they are here to teach us life skills such as how to treat others or be able to interact with others in the outside world.

My Turn to Teach the Kids



I had the opportunity to work with a group of sixth graders myself. I was given the opportunity to go to Sunset Ridge School located in East Hartford. A partner and myself completed a bullying workshop with a small group of students who attend the school. The workshop was a complete success and the students loved it.

This workshop opened my eyes to how important it is to educate our children in all aspects. These kids were resilient and very respectful. I loved how much they participated and ask questions. Being given the opportunity to educate these young kids on bullying and how to treat each other was definitely a momentous experience.

Educating our young children changes0 lives. Their future depends on what they are taught at a young age. The amount of questions and answers that were given during the workshop was tremendous. Keep in mind that what we teach these kids today is what sticks with them forever.

Rainy Day Activity
By Tomari Parks



Rainy days are the worst at times. Rainy days are also the best days to have fun indoors with your family. On rainy days, I make the most out of them with my younger brothers. We create very educational games while we are in our home. One of our favorite games to play is our game of names. This game of names is great for learning new words at a young age and helping young children sound words out. Below are some instructions on how to play the game.

The purpose of the game is to say as many words as you can throughout the day. If you see and object you have to say another word that starts with the first letter of that object. For example, if I see a pillow I would have to say another word that starts with a P while pointing at the pillow. Each time you say a word you score a point. Keep score with everyone you are playing with and the person with the most points at the end of the day wins!

This game has always been a favorite of mine and my brothers’. We still play this game today even on road trips with our family. Rainy days are usually the best days to play this game because it helps learn new words and makes learning fun. Thanks for playing and I hope you enjoy with your family!

Hartford Needs Blue Hills Hospital
Senator Douglas McCrory

The headlines in the Hartford Courant keep printing, relentlessly: “CDC: Connecticut Second In Percent Increase Of Synthetic Opioid Deaths Rate,” (Jan. 8, 2017). “Three Dead From Suspected Overdoses Within 16 Hours In Hartford,” (January 12, 2017). “Fentanyl Fueling Connecticut’s Overdose Crisis,” (Feb. 24, 2017). The statistics are just as grim: 917 state residents died in 2016 due to drug overdoses, a 25% increase over the previous year. 61 were residents of Hartford, more than any other city or town in the state.

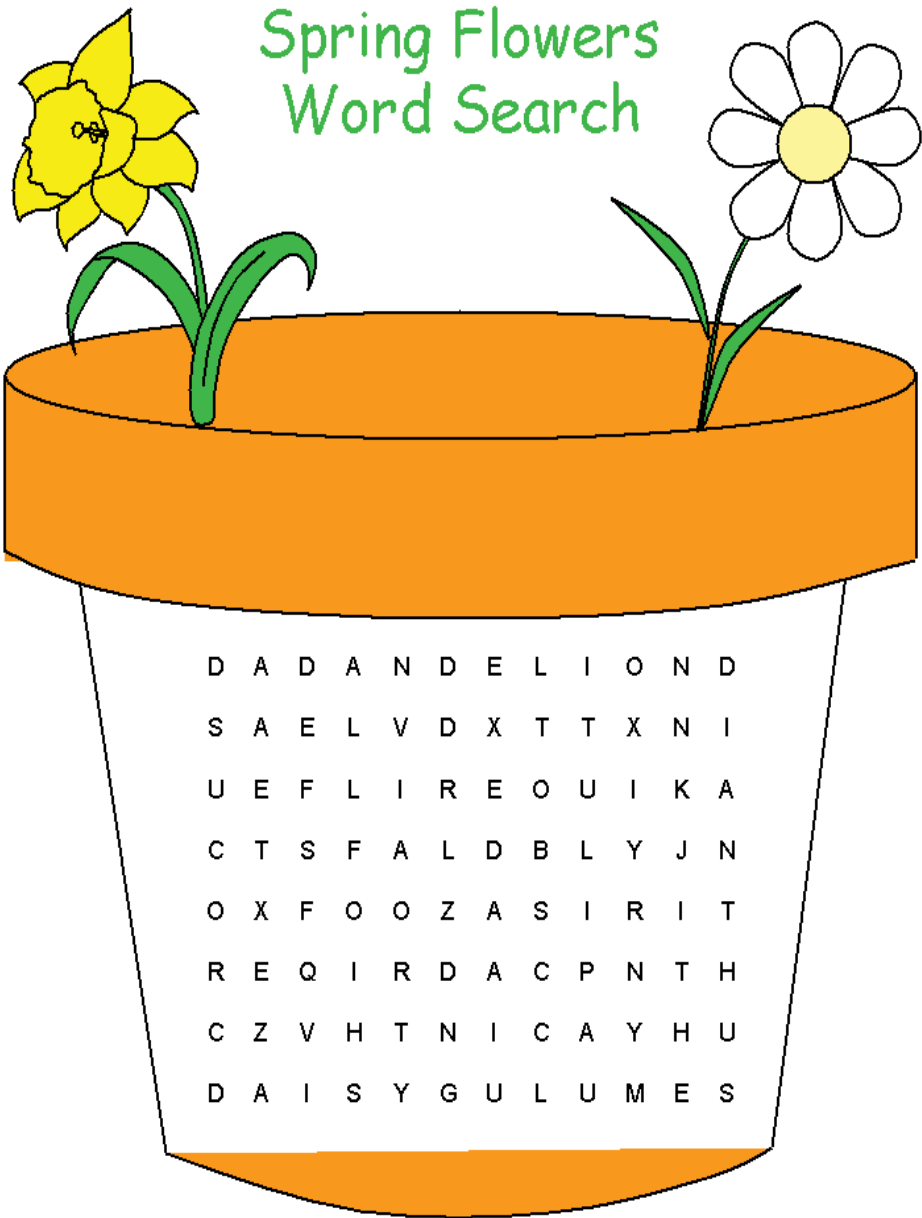
The need for substance abuse treatment in Hartford is stark and undeniable. Effective crisis management demands that we put proven resources where they are most needed. So why is Connecticut’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services moving forward with the plan to shutter Hartford’s Blue Hills Hospital?

Opposition to the idea of closing Blue Hills by moving half of the 42 beds to the main DMHAS campus at CT Valley Hospital in Middletown and privatizing the rest has been both deep and broad. Former clients credit Blue Hills for turning their lives around. Community activists, city leaders and legislators rightly fear an even sharper rise in drug deaths if Blue Hills beds disappear. Even former DMHAS Commission Thomas Kirk Jr. opposes the closure, because the services need to be where the addicts are, not the other way around. Addicts need fewer obstacles to getting treatment, not more; adding a bus ride 18 miles south to get help will tip the balance in the wrong direction for too many.

DMHAS’ own statistics support the need for Blue Hills to remain in Hartford to serve the community. In the last calendar year, Blue Hills had more than 2,600 admissions. 60% of those admissions were walk-ins from the community. At the same time, the emergency department of area hospitals are consistently overwhelmed with individuals seeking treatment, even before the opioid epidemic; Blue Hills is often the provider of last resort given its track record of effective intervention and treatment.

Blue Hills’ pharmacy is one of only two programs in the City of Hartford that provides life-saving maintenance drugs such as Methadone and Sub Oxone. The facility also provides Narcan kits with training to prevent future overdoses when clients are discharged after treatment.

Blue Hills is a well-established, effective provider of substance abuse services; respected and trusted by the community it has served for XX years. Now, right when an epidemic is raging, Hartford is being told to trade in a vital resource for a bus ticket to Middletown and the promise of private providers to be named later. Let’s be blunt about this: if Blue Hills disappears from Vine Street, more lives will be shattered and more people will die. This is no time to for a life-or-death gamble. Hartford needs Blue Hills Hospital.



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