

STEVEN P. DINKIN A Path Forward

# OVERCOMING GENERATIONAL DIVIDES — LIKE IT OR NOT

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I had the privilege of attending a talk given by renowned trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard. A native of New Orleans, Blanchard started his musical career in 1982. Since then, he has composed more than 40 film scores and written two operas, making powerful statements about American tragedies through his music. Blanchard has been nominated for two Academy Awards and 14 Grammys, winning six.

Beyond Blanchard's impressive story, I was struck by his exchange with a 19-year-old audience member. The aspiring jazz trumpeter wanted to know more about Blanchard's path, no doubt thinking about his own musical future.

Blanchard's response was warm and thoughtful. The interaction seemed so natural. Later, I wondered how much of that was attributable to growing up in New Orleans, where music connects generations. At summer music camps, Blanchard became friends with the Marsalis brothers, born to one of the city's best-known

musical families. He toured with jazz legends Lionel Hampton and Art Blakey, learning music and life lessons from both of them.

Not that long ago, generational intermingling was part of daily life across America. It wasn't just parents and their kids living together; other family members were nearby, often next door or down the street.

Growing up in Milwaukee, I lived only a few miles from my grandparents. Every Friday evening, my family would join them for dinner. My uncles and aunts were there, too.

To this day, I have fond memories of those gatherings; I learned many lessons that I've carried forward.

With proximity came storytelling, connection and a sense of place and history. Wisdom was passed from generation to generation. Today's digital interactions — while capable of bringing people together across the miles — just aren't the same, as we experienced during the pandemic.

It is indeed a time of generational silos: The Silent Genera-

tion, Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y (millennials), Gen Z. We pride ourselves on doing our own thing. And too often, we don't embrace or find ourselves in circles across generations. It's contributed to a lack of understanding, if not disdain.

But there's an interesting counter-trend under way: a sharp growth in multigenerational living. In an analysis of census data from 1971-2021, Pew Research Center found that the number of people living in multigenerational family households has quadrupled over the past five decades. Nearly 1 in 5 of us lives with extended family — some 60 million households in all.

The report described the social forces that are bringing generations together. One is the rapid growth in the U.S. of Asian and Hispanic populations; they are more likely than White Americans to live with extended family, especially if they are immigrants. Then there are practical considerations, like the cost of living here.

Home construction company Lennar is seizing the opportunity

to bring generations together under one roof. Their Next Gen homes feature a private suite offering a separate entrance, kitchenette, living area, bedroom or multi-use room, and bathroom — "all the essentials multigenerational families need to work, learn, create or have a sense of privacy and independence."

But even with that promise (of privacy and independence), I have to believe that multigenerational living isn't as easy today as it was in my Milwaukee days.

A couple of months ago, NPR aired a series about young people moving back with their parents during the pandemic.

Reporter Claire Murashima told the story of Monica Lee, a 28-year-old Korean American entrepreneur now living with her sister, parents and 97-year-old grandmother.

Before the pandemic, Lee worked a PR job in China. She described it as very corporate, with long hours and good pay. She lived with roommates.

Now, Lee feels like a teenager again, despite running her own

business with 12 employees. Lee told Murashima, "On my way out the door, I have to let my parents know where I'm going and then answer all their questions of, who are you meeting? What time will you be home? 'I don't know' is not an acceptable answer."

In a similar way, multigenerationalism presents challenges for workplaces. Different work styles and points of view can contribute to miscommunication and negative interactions, often chalked up as "a generational thing."

But it doesn't have to be that way. Just as diversity in race and gender enriches our workplaces — and our lives — so, too, does diversity in age. Each of us has something to learn from the older generation, as well as lessons to share with those who are younger.

Just ask Terence Blanchard.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit [ncronline.com](http://ncronline.com)

## HIKERS • Lot will have 209 spaces, space for portable restrooms, trash, recycling

FROM B1

The report noted that thousands of visitors hike in the area each year, which includes a network of trails within Poway and San Diego and the unincorporated areas of the county. Popularity of the trails and the iconic Potato Chip Rock grew over the years with frequent mentions on social media, turning the site into a destination for locals and out-of-town tourists alike.

The rock can be reached from the Poway side of Mount Woodson, where there is plenty of parking at Lake Poway. However, many hikers approach the rock from the Ramona side because the hike is shorter and easier. At busy times on weekends, the line of cars parked along SR 67 can stretch for more than half a mile.

The popularity of the Mount Woodson hiking trails, including the nearby Fry Koegel Trail and Potato Chip Rock, has led to conflicts with neighbors, including residents of the 189-home Mount Woodson Homeowners Association, which abuts the county parcel.

A number of the homeowners and their attorney spoke at Wednesday's meeting, particularly regarding hikers who go off-trail and trespass into the homeowners association property.

"We do support the parking lot. Everyone out there understands the problem with parking on 67 and how dangerous that is," said attorney Andrea Contreras. What the homeowners don't want, she said, is for the problem to get worse once the parking lot is built.

"For some time, errant hikers have wandered off the trail area and into the (homeowners association) community. Unfortunately, some



HOWARD LIPIN FOR THE U-T

On busy days, the line of cars parked along State Route 67 near the Mount Woodson trailhead can stretch back for half a mile.

hikers dispose of trash in the homeowners' yards, make unnecessary noise, throw rocks into swimming pools, and cause other disturbances to the homeowners," Contreras wrote in a letter to the Board of Su-

pervisors.

Anderson said he shares the concerns of neighbors, but said the problem can be addressed through more effective signage, guiding hikers to authorized trails and away

from areas that are off-limits. County staff was directed to work with residents and deal with any issues that arise.

The parking lot project may result in more people using the trails,

Anderson said, but it could prove to be a boost to neighbors and their property values if hikers stick to authorized routes.

Tash is a freelance writer.

## POLICE

FROM B1

across the county have implemented similar and other types of programs as recruitment and retention tool.

Last year, the San Diego City Council approved reinstating two incentives: paying sworn officers up to \$4,000 to attract police recruits or officers and providing \$15,000 hiring bonuses. Chula Vista police offers \$25,000 hiring

bonuses, plus \$5,000 toward moving expenses; Oceanside gives \$22,000 hiring bonuses; San Diego County sheriff offers \$20,000 hiring bonuses and up to \$15,000 in moving expenses; and La Mesa gives \$15,000.

National City has one vacancy, but more are expected, said Police Chief Jose Tellez. The department anticipates seeing anywhere between four and seven retirements, he said.

The incentive program is

not an "end-all solution" to issues the profession is facing in regard to attracting and retaining a workforce, said Tellez. But "it really only allows us to remain in the conversation. (It) puts us on equal footing with other agencies," he added.

National City has offered a similar hiring bonus for dispatchers, but has not for police officer laterals until now, Tellez said.

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## SMOLENS

FROM B1

It was first out of the box because it should have been an easy win.

That's what McCarthy thought, apparently. Right after the November election, he said border security, crime and fighting inflation would be immediate priorities.

"The first thing you'll see is a bill to control the border," McCarthy told CNN, when asked for specifics about his party's immigration plans.

The inability to get unity on a border bill does not bode well for the GOP majority on other issues. House Republicans can only afford to lose four of their votes to pass legislation without Democratic support. Keep in mind that the turmoil was over a bill that, at best, sends a message. As written, it stood no chance in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Gonzales, whose district includes a large stretch of territory along the U.S.-Mexico border, thought the bill sent the wrong message. So did Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, R-Fla., who said she would vote against it. That left the bill with a possible two-vote margin, but news reports said other Republicans were uncomfortable with the measure.

The bill, HR 29, is being carried by Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, and co-sponsored by nearly 60 Republicans. The legislation would allow the Homeland Security secretary to bar all undocumented migrants from coming into the country at any place in order to "achieve operational control" of the border.

The bill allows state attorneys general to sue the federal government if they don't think the secretary is following through properly.

What operational control means apparently would be up to the Homeland Security secretary, who currently



GREGORY BULL AP

Migrants in Arizona wait to be processed to seek asylum after crossing the border into the U.S. Jan. 6.

is Alejandro Mayorkas — a Cabinet member some Republicans say they want to impeach. Regardless of who the secretary is, that person will be an appointee of President Joe Biden — at least until January 2025, or longer if Biden is re-elected. The Washington Post reported that the bill "rattled dozens of House Republicans" who were concerned it would prevent migrants and unaccompanied children fleeing violence from seeking asylum in the United States — a tenet of the country's immigration laws.

"We can't allow the Republican Party to be hijacked," Gonzales said. "Trying to ban legitimate asylum claims — one, it's not Christian, and two, to me, it's very anti-American. So a lot is at stake."

Under pressure, McCarthy took the bill off the fast track to the House floor. What happens next is not certain, but it's clear amendments will be offered to alter the asylum provisions along with potential other changes.

On the political front, Republicans such as Gonzales suggested that the bill as is, or one that solely focuses on enforcement, might hurt the GOP in next year's election. Gonzales and other Republicans are pursuing a wide spectrum of immigration policies, from increased enforcement to aid for border communities to facilitating legal status for certain mi-

grants, such as those commonly referred to as "Dreamers" — immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

Some of the rhetoric has been over the top and more typical of disagreements between Republicans and Democrats than an intra-party dispute.

"Border security is national security," said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., according to the Post. "And if they want to explain to their constituents why they're not interested in a secure border and a more secure nation, then God bless them."

No matter how the bill may be amended, history is against it. Congress has been unable for decades to agree on big changes to the troubled U.S. immigration system, even though both parties have placed a priority on passing their version of reform. Proposals with substantial bipartisan support also have failed over the years.

Biden offered a sweeping immigration plan on his first day in office. Like others before it, the proposal went nowhere.

### Tweet of the Week

Goes to Laurence Darmiento (@ldarmiento) of the Los Angeles Times.

"Shoot. I just checked my garage and somehow I have an old box with classified documents."

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DON BOOMER FOR THE U-T

Dan Rios worked for decades as a photographer for the Times-Advocate and the North County Times newspapers.

## PHOTOS

FROM B1

the Escondido Historical Society and Cal State San Marcos library are recruiting volunteers who might be able to recognize some of the historical photos from 1968 to 2001.

The Cal State San Marcos library is working on scanning 11,000 photographic images and posting them on the Flickr digital media platform, where community members can add comments on the who, what, when and where of these

photographs.

The project began last July, and the first batch of images was uploaded to Flickr in August. The project is scheduled to end June 1. To date, 4,480 images have been digitized, 2,477 have been uploaded to Flickr and 905 images have been commented on.

The cost of scanning the images is funded by Cal State San Marcos' Community Engaged Scholarship initiative to document "the forces, events and people that have influenced the region's evolution."

With the community input, the library will update its records, making Rios' images valuable to future generations, including researchers, students, faculty, genealogists and lifelong learners.

To participate, community members should create a Flickr account. For more information, visit the Dan Rios Photo Identification Project at [archives.csusm.edu/identifying-rios-photographs](http://archives.csusm.edu/identifying-rios-photographs).

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