

# Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 035

September 10, 2012

## Greetings!

In some ways I feel somewhat bad for those friends of mine (DG and NC) who try to celebrate their birthdays, which happen to be on September 11th. For tomorrow we remember a horrible, terrible, barbaric act that still haunts the national consciousness more than a decade later.

We may not remember each and every name of the 2,977 innocent victims who perished on September 11th, 2001, but we do remember what the attacks represent, and what they did to us as a nation.



The attacks of 9/11 represented a clash of values and world-view, of monstrous evil seeking to oppose its primitive and violent ways by force on the greatest force for good in this world -- American democracy.

And the attacks of 9/11 galvanized a nation to wake up to the reality of Islamic terror and to recognize that there really are forces out there that wish to harm American interests in general and the American people in particular.

Hopefully we shall never forget the lessons of 9/11.

And in the meantime, I wish DG and NC a most splendid birthday!!!

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood

Unsung Heroes That Walk Among Us

There is something peculiar about our human experience I want to bring to your attention.

We tend to imbue people who die with hero status we did not accord them while they were alive. I'm not merely referring to the kind remarks we say at their funerals when we eulogize them. I'm talking about the quasi-cult status we plant on people like **Michael Jackson, Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, John Lennon, and Kurt Cobain**. The kind of stardom such individuals attain after death may or may not be deserved - and frankly, is usually overblown. But it makes many of us look with admiration and longing on the departed.

I would like to suggest that there are people among us today - alive and well - who are worthy of such respect, admiration, and awe. They may or may not acquire such accolades after they die, but they certainly deserve them now.

I am advocating that you open up your radar and allow yourself to perceive the greatness that resides in the unsung heroes that walk among us. I wrote in a past issue (#24) about **Keri Tombazian** of KTWV, 94.7 FM radio. She is one such example - at least to me. But there are many others. And they are in all walks of life.



You see, every field has its practitioners of greatness. Every discipline produces champions who defy norms and stretch the boundaries of what's possible.

And it is critically important that we hone our skills of observation so that we can detect such champions.

Once we detect them, it is important that we avail ourselves to their energy, their knowledge, their know-how, their influence, and their methods. We need to replace the time we spend in the presence of weak, mediocre, or toxic personalities (be it in person or on television) with those who personify excellence.

Doing so will greatly increase the likelihood that we will

leave our mark on the world.

## Bad Week for Democrats

The Democrats got into a bit of an embarrassing situation at their convention last week. After being touted by party faithful as being a party of unity, it was discovered that the national platform of the Democratic Party had deliberately omitted any reference to God (as in the words "God-given rights"). Atheists must have been doing cartwheels. Furthermore, the official party platform also refused to acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Members of the Taliban, Iran's government, and Palestinian terrorist groups must have been overjoyed.

One Democrat with the courage to call out his own party on the matter came forward and issued a last-minute amendment which would reverse the removal of any references to "God" as well as reverse any denials of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. **Ted Strickland**, who was serving as the Chair of the Platform Drafting Committee, boldly stepped forward to try to rescind what was an obviously blatant move towards secular atheism. What was eye-opening was the awkward position it put Convention Chair **Antonio Villaraigosa** in as he attempted to take a vote on the matter. He needed a two-thirds majority vote to approve Strickland's proposed amendment, but he clearly didn't get it -- yet Villaraigosa, after three attempts at the vote, simply declared the amendment approved, and that was that. Opponents of the amendment, which had just been robbed of their voice, were outraged and started booing. You can see the sordid fiasco by [clicking here](#).

In this same column in the last issue (#34) of Uncommon Sense, I focused a bit on Ms. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, the Chair of the Democratic Party. I pointed out that Ms. Wasserman-Schultz lacked credibility in that she refused to even acknowledge that a Super PAC ad which essentially accused Mitt Romney of murder was made up of Democrats.

While I thought Ms. Wasserman-Schultz looked silly in such denials, I didn't at that time consider her a liar -- a word that I am very judicious about using against another person.

But alas, new developments on the political landscape make it impossible to avoid the charge. The person Mr.

Obama entrusts with leading his party simply could not be transparent and truthful in her interview with CNN Reporter Brianna Keilar, by simply refusing to acknowledge that anything unusual took



place with the above-mentioned voting fiasco. She refused to answer the question as to how the omissions occurred in the first place, she insisted the clash of voices in the voting of the amendment did not involve any discord of any kind, she insisted the vote achieved "absolutely two-thirds" approval, and she also insisted that the change in the language of the platform (from an absence of God to an acknowledgement of God, and a denial of Jerusalem as Israel's capital to an affirmation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital) was not a change in language at all, causing Anderson Cooper of CNN to conclude that she was living in an "alternate universe" (all of which you can see by [clicking here.](#))

Finally, if all this were not bad enough, Wasserman-Schultz was caught in yet another bold-face lie, wherein she told an audience of Democrats at the convention that the U.S. Ambassador from Israel, Michael Oren, stated that Republican policy is dangerous to Israel. Ambassador Oren contradicted that claim, insisting he never said any such thing. When Wasserman-Schultz was confronted by the news media about the matter, she blamed Republicans, claiming a conservative publication misquoted her.

All of that sounded plausible, until an actual tape recording surfaced which had Wasserman-Schultz saying the very thing she insists she never said. You can view all of this by [clicking here.](#)

Not a good week for the Democrats.

## Shameless Plug

Readers of *Uncommon Sense* sound off:

"I loved this most recent issue (#34), and I can't wait to see the movie, *2016: Obama's America*. I actually heard about it yesterday. I do try to read all your newsletters. They are so interesting, informative, educational, eye opening, kind, and inspiring. I just love them, keep them

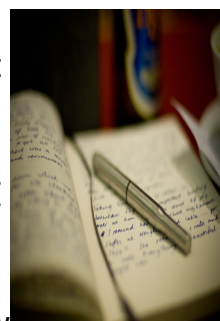
coming." Dawn T., Santa Clarita, CA

"Appreciate very much the articles you send from time to time. They contain a wealth of knowledge and I truly have great respect for the tireless work you do as an inspirational educator. I have shared the recent issue (#32) with some of my colleagues at work, and I'm confident it will benefit them a great deal." Meashed L., Moorpark, CA

"I wanted you to know that I read most of your issues of *Uncommon Sense* with expectation because I learn something every time and I feel like I am adding some intelligence to my "second language", English. Thank you and keep your good work!" Hiromi A. Castaic, CA

## From Ara's Journal

One thing is becoming clearer to me and that is that our moods seem to change, just as the weather does. Thus, when I find myself in what Churchill referred to as a "black dog" mood (i.e., sullen, down, sad) I have to remind myself that just as the current weather outside won't remain that way forever, neither will the mood I am now experiencing.



Conversely, when I feel positive, spirited, and "on," I have to temper that optimism with the realization that "black dog" may be lurking around a nearby corner.

Even so, I plan to relish, even celebrate, the good moments I have, while I have them. And I intend to remember the non-permanence of the dark days I have ahead of me.

I guess that is the sign of an optimist.

## The World of Words

### Building Your Power of Expression

Sanctimonius, adj.

**Pronunciation:** ,sa ng (k)tə'mōnēəs

**Meaning:** This is an incendiary word (see issue #34) and used in a derogatory sense of



identifying someone who makes a great show of supposed moral superiority.

**Usage:**

- *What happened to all the sanctimonious talk about putting his family first?*
- *They resented his sanctimonious comments about immorality in America.*
- *If he thinks he's beginning to sound sanctimonious, he'll suddenly shut down during the conversation.*

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Subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" is now complete and has been sent out. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: [www.aranorwood.com](http://www.aranorwood.com)

**Sincerely,**

Ara Norwood  
Leadership Development Systems