

DETROIT

NATIVE SUN

Two sides to a Coin

By Ma'at Seba
SUN COLUMNIST



Throughout history regardless of the culture, the elders were always sought out for their guidance insights and words of wisdom on matters that concerned and impacted their community. Depending on the cultural norms the

elders will consult the spirit realm as well as draw upon their life's experiences, lessons and wisdom to share with the seeker. They would use stories and allegories to resolve problems and create insights and memorable impressions within the hearts and minds of those looking for answers.

Every problem has a solution however it is up to the seeker to find it. When a person has a problem or challenge typically, they mainly focus on the problem only looking at it from one perspective, the negative side to it. However, just like a coin there is always another side; the positive side. With that being said where is the positive side when there's a tragedy? It is up to the seeker to find the gift within the other side. Let's look at some tragedies and see what the other side of the coin could possibly look like:

1) COVID: many lives were lost during the pandemic, but looking at the other side of the coin, many people sought to become more health conscious and began to work towards building their immune system and changing their dietary lifestyle. During the shutdown, it gave people the time and opportunity to pursue their passions and dreams and to attain what they would dream about while they were on the job. Many new businesses were started during that period of time birthing a wave of potential new millionaires.

2) Death of a loved one: looking at the other side of the coin, it can be an oppor-

tunity to build or rebuild family relationships or to become more serious about your health, or to value the time that you spend with loved ones because no one is promised tomorrow, or to prioritize your life and time and take better selfcare. Or, to create an organization or foundation in the name of your loved one to represent their legacy.

3) Ending of a relationship: looking at the other side of the coin, was that relationship a healthy one? If not, embrace the opportunity to create a healthy one by evaluating the role that you played in it, and/or why you are drawn to a certain type of person. It can be a grand opportunity for self-reflection. What lessons did that relationship teach you so you won't carry any fears, negativity or toxicity into your next relationship? It could be the end of a business, work or personal relationship where you learned that you were not respected or valued and so you begin to see your self-worth and to demand your respect.

In the midst of a tragedy it is very difficult to see the potential blessing in a scenario, however if you train yourself to see what positive can be gotten out of any situation, it makes the tragedy easier to cope with. Every painful experience in life gives the hidden gift of a blessing, the challenge is to find it. That won't necessarily make the experience less painful, but it will uncover the possible blessings in it. There is a saying that says: "When one door in life closes another one is opening up but if you keep looking at the closed door you will never see the one that has opened up for you". The door represents a life's tragedy, so instead of focusing so much energy on the tragedy, seek to see the blessing and the lesson in it, and learn to Flip the Coin over because there is always another side.

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The DeMarco Project Speaks

Selina Johnson - Hollywood Golf Institute

By Kim J. Clark Aka Expanding Love
SUN COLUMNIST



This writer is honored to write about Selina Johnson, an African American Golf Legend. In 1980 she founded Hollywood Golf Institute and incorporated it in 1984. The organization came into existence due to a question her daughter asked. In the

1970s, while attending the Hollywood Women's Open, her daughter, Jamila,

"Recognition with her non-profit organization appears in *Forbes*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Crain's Detroit Business*, *Golf Digest*, *USA Today*, *Minority Golf Magazine*, and many other media."

Hollywood encourages every young person to at least learn the fundamentals of golf. Whether or not they stay with the game, discipline learned through golf teaches children self-management and skills necessary to excel in life. The work done with teammates develops positive interpersonal relationships, an essential tool for building business relationships. It is a known fact that business deals are made on the golf course. This skill alone is invaluable.

In addition to the work Selina does with children, she introduced this writer to the game of golf. In the fall of 2019, she began her walk with The DeMarco Project, Veterans Life USA, and The Foundation for Global Literacy. In a collaborative effort, these three Veteran service organizations had come together to host a major fundraiser to benefit



asked, "When is my turn?" Selina supported her daughter's desire to master the game of golf. As a result, her golf students experienced significant tournaments, including the U.S. Open, the PGA Championship, and The Masters. Hence, the golf adventure for urban youth in the Detroit Metropolitan Area began.

Her work did not end when her daughter became an adult. Selina, known in the golf world as "Hollywood," has introduced over 4,000 young people to the game of golf. She is the first African American woman ever to receive the PGA prestigious Card Walker Award for outstanding contributions to growing the game of junior golf. Ms. Johnson is also in the International Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame based in Detroit, Michigan, and the African American Golfers' Hall of Fame "West Palm Beach." Throughout her career as a trailblazer introducing children to golf, she has taught the game at over 100 Detroit public schools.

In the Winter of 2021, Hollywood Golf Institute partnered with Site One Landscape Supply and introduced the first-of-its-kind STEM program. The students collaborated with veteran golfers, engineers, architects, and irrigation specialists learning all aspects of golf course design. The revolutionary program teaches youth there are many opportunities to have a rewarding career in the golf industry. Hollywood told this writer, "I am dedicated to changing the climate of thinking through golf. My vision is for young golfers to see golf from the STEM perspective and learn the front and back office. We must engage the children and introduce the economic opportunities golf affords. Awards she received include The Outstanding Achievement Award from Detroit Mayors Coleman A. Young, Dennis Archer, Kwame Kilpatrick, and Kenneth Cockrel for her commitment to developing youth in Detroit.

Veterans and Veteran families in need.

As our consultant, Selina was an instrumental contributor to the success of the 1st Annual Salute to Our Heroes Golf Tournament at Selfridge Air Force Base in Selfridge Angb, Michigan.

Selina understood our mission and vision. She introduced us to the golf world and several African American golf legends.

To help promote future Salute to Our Heroes Tournaments, Selina reached out to her dear friend Butch Rhodes, a Class "A" PGA member since 1990. Mr. Rhodes is the first Michigan-born African American PGA member. At Selina's request, Mary L. Broadus, founder of Veterans Life USA, and I were guests of Mr. Rhodes at the PGA Merchandise Show 2020. We met many golf legends there, including Lee Elder and American Golf Professional Jim Thorpe.

This writer only wanted to learn the fundamentals of golf in case an extra golfer was needed to play in our tournament. Selina had other plans. Once the nation was given the COVID "all clear with caution," we got back busy in the golf world.

Our walk with Selina has included attending many tournaments and one-on-one conversations with African Americans who have achieved extraordinary accomplishments, such as Maurice Allen, long drive champion. Maurice's longest drive was 515 yards.

Kim is the mother of a Veteran who loved his country and was willing to lay his life down for the freedoms he believed in. She is the Founder and Executive Director of The DeMarco Project, a non-profit organization. Her mission is to save Veteran lives and improve the quality of life for traumatized military service persons and their families. Please like us on Facebook and Instagram at The DeMarco Project 4 Vets. To support this work financially, you can donate via the website www.TheDeMarcoProject.org.

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