

Congressperson:

"I carry no weapon; the Lord will [p]reserve me without weapons, I feel safe even in the midst of my enemies; for the truth is powerful and will prevail."

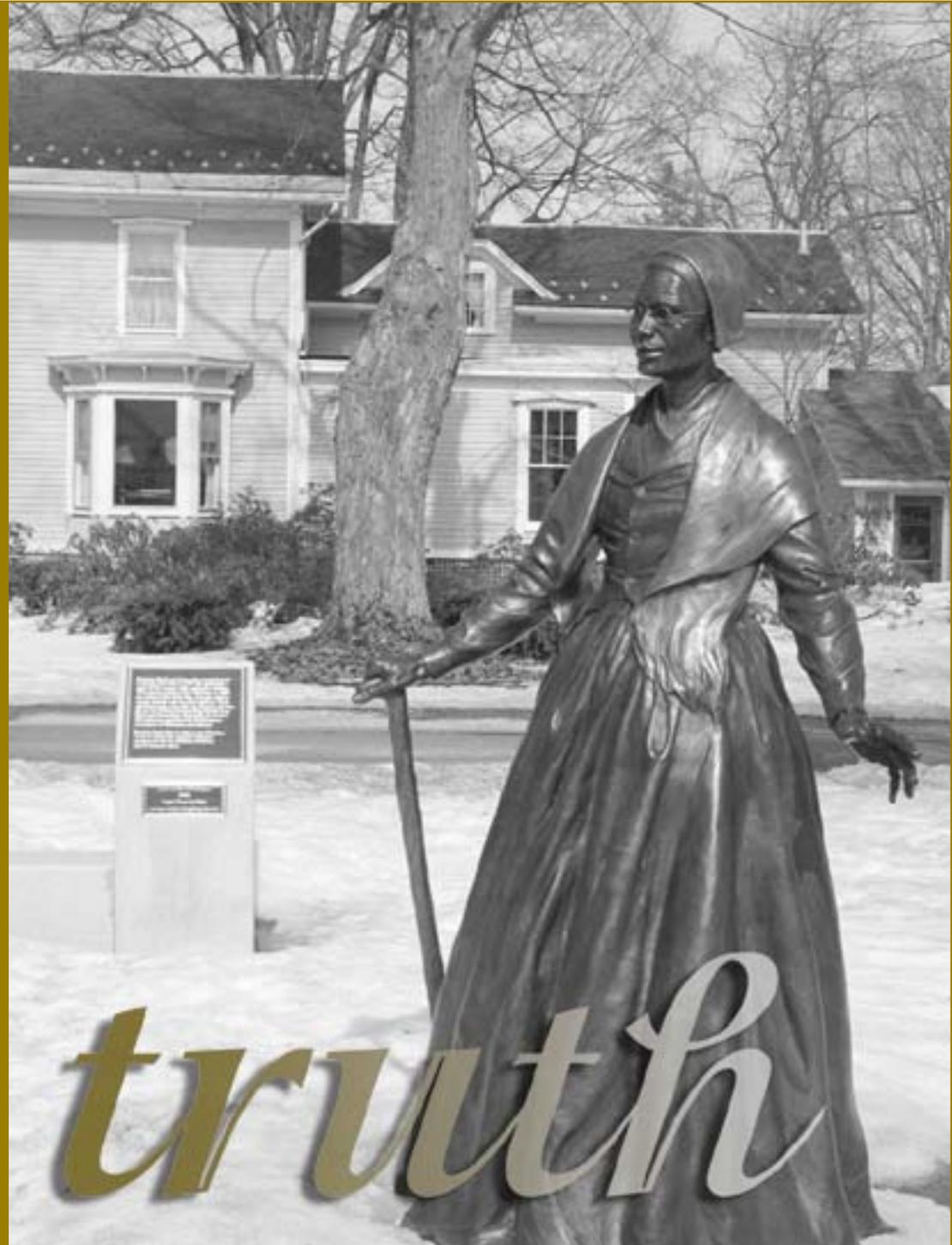
—Sojourner Truth (1777–1883), former slave, preacher and advocate for social reforms including abolition and women's suffrage.
(see October 4–6)

take action!

The US Army School of the Americas (SOA), based in Fort Benning, Georgia, trains Latin American soldiers in combat and counter-insurgency. Graduates, responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America include notorious dictators Manuel Noriega of Panama and Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia. Write your Congressperson and urge them to close the SOA. For more info: www.soawatch.org. Call AFSC (413.584.8975) if you need your Congressperson's address.

Photo by Steve Strimer

The Sojourner Truth statue, located in Florence, on the corner of Pine and Park Streets.



👉 Honor the National Day of Mourning by educating someone about the truth of Thanksgiving

👉 Vote, and encourage your friends, colleagues and neighbors to vote by helping organize a carpool to the voting booths.

👉 Talk to a veteran about his/her experience of war.

👉 Engage someone in a conversation about the Kerner report (See November 30). Are we still “two nations, separate and unequal?”

n N o O v V i E e M m B b E r R e

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	All Saint's Day (Catholic) Los Días de Los Muertos (spanning October 31 to November 2) Segaki, Japanese Zen Buddhist <i>All of these holidays honor the spirit of the ancestors.</i>	ELECTION DAY In the 2000 election in Florida, tens of thousands of African American voters were illegally disenfranchised. This year, a major supplier of voting machines will be Diebold, whose chief executive has been quoted to say that he is “committed to helping” the Bush 2004 presidential campaign.	(1979) 25th Anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre. As the Klu Klux Klan paraded across the South through the spring and summer of 1979, civil rights activists marched to protest the Klan's racist violence. In Greensboro, a march and educational conference was planned for Saturday, November 3, 1979. They never occurred. Minutes before the march was to begin, with police withdrawn from the area, a caravan of Klan and Nazis drove into Greensboro's Morningside Homes and opened fire on the crowd, killing five and wounding eleven others. Information: 413.584.1074 www.gjf.org		(During 1995) The Discrimination Prevention Project of Franklin County is founded to respond to and prevent discrimination of every form. Information: La Wanza Lett-Brewington, 413.863.8107	The European Dissent, a white and anti-racist group, based in Greenfield, is a discussion and action group for whites in Franklin county who are willing to work to undo racism. Information: Sharon, shen10@crocker.com
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Currently more than one-third of the U.S. armed forces are people of color, yet only approximately 15% of officers are people of color. People of color also see combat at a disproportionately higher rate than their white counterparts.	Birthdays, Kazuhito Haga (1980) participant in the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage, co-founder of the Prison Book Project	Harriet Tubman, African American Underground Railroad Conductor, brought hundreds to freedom and as a scout for the Union Army, but never received her Veteran's pension.	Veteran's Day Shoshana Johnson, who is African American, served in the second Iraq war with Jessica Lynch. Like Jessica, she was held as a prisoner of war. She sustained wounds in both legs and will only receive 30% disability benefit for her injuries while Lynch receives 80%.	Deepawali—Diwali (Hindu). The festival ends. Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'i) begins at sundown on November 11. Celebration of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh (1817–1892), regarded as the most recent in the line of messengers of God.	Thirty-two cents of every tax dollar paid by WMA residents this year went directly to the military or to pay for military-related debt. Only three cents of every dollar supported veterans' services. (Source: National Priorities Project) Eid Al-Fitr (Muslim). Begins at sundown.	
Eid Al-Fitr (Muslim). The feast/festival expressing happiness in having completed the Ramadan fast celebrated on the first day of the month of Shawwal. On the day of Eid early morning prayers are performed and the day is celebrated with visiting family members and friends.	<i>“You'll never find yourself until you face the truth.”</i> —Pearl Bailey (1918–1990), performer, UN Special Ambassador	The Department of Mental Health's Cultural Diversity Committee will give a presentation on perspectives of mental illness in Mexico, Colombia, and El Salvador. Information: 413.587.6200	<i>“Believe nothing just because a so-called wise person said it. Believe nothing just because a belief is generally held. Believe nothing just because it is said in ancient books. Believe nothing just because it is said to be of divine origin. Believe nothing just because someone else believes it. Believe only what you yourself test and judge to be true.”</i> —Buddha (paraphrased)	17	18	19
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 21	<i>“Truth could move multitudes with untutored language.”</i> —Carter G. Woodson, (1875–1950), African American historian, scholar, founder of Negro History Week in 1926, which became Black History Month	Truth about Thanksgiving The fall feast of 1621 happened in October and was not a “thanksgiving” feast, but a harvest festival. The Wampanoag Natives, who had taught the settlers to hunt, fish, raise crops, and use native plants, provided most of the food for the three-day gathering. One of the first Thanksgiving celebrations celebrated by Europeans was in November, 1623. Wampanoag sources say that the feast celebrated the safe return of settlers from the massacre of 600 Pequots in Mystic, CT.	Since 1970, members of the Native American and allied communities have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. It is a day of remembrance, spiritual connection and protest. Info: 617.773.0406.	No Shopping Day. Today, the U.S. represents less than 5% of the world's population, but uses 40% of her resources.	(1776) The Declaration of Independence signed. Half of the signers are slave owners. Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Patrick Henry (“Give me liberty or give me death”) are among those founding fathers who did not free their slaves.	
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Nuestras Raices is a grassroots organization that promotes economic, human and community development in Holyoke, Massachusetts through projects relating to food and agriculture. Get involved. Info: 413.535.1789 www.nuestras-raices.org	(During 1646) The Massachusetts Bay Colony declares two Africans free and orders their return to Africa at public expense.	(1968) The Kerner Report is released by a federal government commission, which investigated the urban riots that had recently occurred in Harlem, Watts, Chicago, Newark and Detroit. The report warned that the United States was “moving toward two societies, one black, one white...separate and unequal.”	Getting sensitive to language Many common phrases we use are religiously biased. Some of these are flagrantly derogatory. We reference places and objects of religious significance in ways that trivialize the deep meaning these hold for observers of the faith. “Jew down” (to bargain for a lower price), implies that Jews are cheapskates. “Towel head” (to refer to Muslims, Hindus, or others who might wear turbans), mocks this traditional dress and dishonors the beliefs it represents. References to “Mecca” when we don't mean the religious shrine diminish the spiritual meaning of Mecca for Muslims.			
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