



Breakfast for M'Lady



Delta Scholarship Recipients: Jada Boles, Taylor Coleman, Ryonna Birchfield, Daijah Blackburn

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Raising Black Children: A Mothers' Day Reflection

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

...I am my mother's daughter, and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart. They will not let me rest while there's a single Negro boy or girl without a chance to prove his worth.

- Mary McLeod Bethune



In what is, arguably, the most important story in the Hebrew Scriptures, it is women who occupy center stage. They are wise, resourceful, and courageous. They also are able – in the performance of everyday “typical” female tasks – to pull off a quiet “righteous revolution.” It was, what religious scholar Cheryl Kirk-Duggan calls, a “spiritual subversion,” that undermined the violent consequences of a public policy designed to thwart the ability of a minority people to survive and thrive.

In that ancient text in the biblical Book of Exodus, children of a certain race, religion and culture were born under a death sentence, the state having decreed that they be thrown into the river to die. Rather than allowing a racist, classist and patriarchal system to dictate a deadly outcome for her son, however, the mother of the child Moses, along with a cadre of other life-affirming women (we hear nothing from Moses' father after his birth), acted courageously to defy the oppression.

With millions of black children dying physically or psychologically from the disease of “nihilism” as a result of being represented at the top of nearly every negative social and economic statistic, it is critical that we find ways to radically undermine the current systems that contribute to the deaths of so many young people.

How do we protect our children from systemic threats designed to kill their sense of meaning, purpose and intrinsic value and which ultimately destroys black boys and girls themselves?

The actions of these “conscientious objectors” of the past provide several lessons that inform those who are raising black children today or will tomorrow.

First, Moses' mother hid or shielded him. Perhaps the most important task of parenting requires the shielding of children from negativity (from within and without), negative peer pressure and low societal expectations by providing spirituality, education, healthy activities and positive enrichment.

Healthy shielding fosters positive self-esteem and makes children feel good about themselves. Education needs to go beyond what is taught in the schools and include African and African-American culture and discussions on the reality of racial and other discriminations, patriarchy, the criminal justice system and mass incarceration. Parental and community education should also be provided that teaches respect, responsibility and resilience.

Next, this “activist” African mother in antiquity, using ingenuity and sacrifice, crafted a boat from papyrus, pitch and tar with the purpose of giving the

baby Moses an opportunity to survive by “floating on the mainstream” – the same system that was providing a death experience for oppressed minorities.

Black children need to obtain exposure beyond their ordinary experiences. Children who are able to survive systematic oppression intact are those more likely to be involved in activities such as athletics, church, dance classes, music, art or other activities outside of the school classroom.

Of course, there is a cost for the extra curricular activities that keep children safe, so mothers of old used creativity and took up extra work to make participation possible. Black mothers have always gone to work and used ingenuity to make sure that their children could “float and not be consumed by the river” whether it included chopping cotton, cleaning homes, emptying bed pans, preparing meals, waiting tables or manning fast food counters. For certain, we cannot afford to keep losing this many black children to the system without personal sacrifice and hard work.

Third, when Moses could no longer be hidden, his mother placed him in the boat she made (instead of bought), placed it on the river and positioned his sister Miriam to quickly enter the scene when summoned by Pharaoh's daughter to assist in “drawing” (liberating?) the child from the water. And because you can only liberate children that you love, respect and understand (Kunjufu, 2005), Miriam was able to persuade the royal daughter to utilize the baby's own mother to provide daycare and preschool educational services.

... continued on page 10

Community Calendar

April 2-May 14

Braden UMC The Ladies Life Café: A Saturday Bible Study series based on the film War Room; 10 am to noon; to register call 419-386-2700

April 11 – June 20

Mott Mane Mondays: A 5-week series providing participants with resources to aid in the care, styling and maintenance of African-American hair; Light refreshments provided at no charge; Mott Branch Library; Register at ToledoLibrary.org; Topics include 04.11 – Films and Forums, 04.25 – DIY Den, 05.23 – Natural Hair Salon, 06.06 – Expressions of Naturalism (poetry), 06.20 – SWAP & Shop: 419-259-5230 or 419-984-0395

May 2-23

NODA Pathways to Homeownership: 4 week series – every Monday 6 to 8:30 pm; NODA Office; Learn how to navigate the home-buying process: 419-243-3734 ex 44

May 11

Bethlehem Baptist Church Project Homeless 2016: 9 am to 2 pm; Volunteers needed; 30 agencies collaborate to address issues such as health, mental health, addiction, housing, transportation, employment, meals and education: 419-241-9360

City of Toledo Town Hall Meeting: East Toledo Family Center: 6 to 8 pm; Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson invites citizens to hear about and offer input regarding the City's plans and initiatives: 419-245-1895

May 12

S.T.A.R.S. League Annual Meeting: 6 pm; Believe Center; Promoting teamwork and sportsmanship to area youth: 419-265-1651

May 14

NAMIWalks: 10 am; UT Health Education Center; 10 am: www.namiwalks.org
Greater Faith Fellowship Church “Fill a Truck Spring Cleaning:” 9 am to 2 pm; Bring gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, small appliances, etc: 419-350-0734

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We Want A King Like The Other Nations!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There is a remarkable and almost compatible contemporary story in the Bible that may resonate with the current and hostile political climate that we are eyewitnesses to in the US of A.

In the Bible book of First Samuel, the nation of Israel was envious of the surrounding heathen kingdoms in which the people swore allegiance to a king and were thus ruled by an earthly master.

Ostensibly to the on looking Israelites, having a king whom they could see and feel was a better bargain than a God who dwelt in the heavens and spoke via the prophets during that time of their history.

The Israelites were jealous and envious of those kingdom dwellers who had a king and they wanted to be like them and thus eschew the obligations and decrees that God has bestowed upon them by the Ten Commandments and other laws including worship protocols and dietary requirements.

To their way of thinking, if they could jettison this God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they would have more freedoms and could have a say in how they were governed as opposed to the fiat laws of God.

A God that has repeatedly and amply demonstrated his love and care and concern for them but such a covenant-making God set out requirements or demands of them that they believed an earthly king would not do.

They were willing and anxious to exchange the known for the unknown because, to their way of thinking, freedom from God was what other nations had around them and they were influenced by that type of pagan living and lifestyles.

In that Bible story, the exchange between the people who longed for a king and a God who longed for them to be his people, reached a crescendo when God acquiesced to their pleadings and allowed them a king.

That king was named Saul.

On the exterior Saul was eye candy to the people. Big, strong, of a good family and of a good reputation (at least at that time!).

Saul was what you would call today, photogenic. He projected strength and leadership and with him, the Israelites could have a king that they could boast about to the surrounding heathen nations and thus become like them in how they were governed.

So God had his faithful prophet Samuel anoint Saul king of Israel and thus began the ending of the clamor for a king!

What happened?

The honeymoon was soon over and King Saul starting acting like a king from one of the surrounding heathen nations.

He misused his powers of office and miserably failed to honor God and to stay in covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Saul became erratic in his deliberations and actions even to the point of trying to kill David (his heir apparent).

The fatal act that led to the demise and death of King Saul was his arrogance and his flippant attitude towards the things of God.

Saul became rogue and failed to follow godly rule and authority as spoken by the prophet Samuel; and when King Saul got out of his lane and tried to do the works of the priesthood before the altar of God, Samuel read him the riot act...but it was too late for Saul.

He transgressed to the point of no return by when Saul, without permission or the anointing, went into battle, virtually naked without the covering of God's blessing. The battle was tragic and Saul and his soldiers were overwhelmed and Saul intentionally fell upon his sword and forfeited his life.

Now, speed dial to the year 2016. What are the comparisons you say?

I'll be brief and to the point. Ostensibly, America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles of a nation under God and a nation that boasted, "In God We Trust!"

From those principles, Americans have touted religious liberties and individual freedoms being the hallmark of our democracy. Yes, I know the double standard and lies when it came to the freedoms of black people and we being equal and under the fair governance of law but that is for another column.

White America boasted of its goodness and fairness and was a beacon to the world of being a champion of the oppressed and those who yearn for freedom. Why, they even put such a catchy phrase to that effect on the Statute of Liberty.

Millions of immigrants took that slogan at face value and poured into this country and out of the "melting pot" (note: black folks didn't melt so well!) a nation was born and a nation that present day evangelicals boast about being, "A shining city on a hill."

That shine is tarnished and maybe even snuffed out due to this "freedom loving and evangelical" nation gone a "whoring after strange gods."

No stranger god has been a petulant, arrogant, bullying billionaire from the enclaves of New York who claims that he is for the down and out Joe or the angered coal miner or the forgotten tool and die maker.

A man who wears a strange hairdo, an orange tan

and talks with his hands and mouths ugly smears against anyone that he deems a lesser mortal than he.

A man who spouts profanity at a moment's notice and is not above inciting violence but only to disavow it, if the preordained violence materializes.

To many frustrated Americans, he is a king! He speaks their language of despair and he projects "King Saul" strength to a country that believes that maybe its best days are behind it.

This current crop of Americans, a nation unlike those around them, who used to fervidly profess a passion for all things of God and who would engage in national days of prayer and would mock and scold anyone who would so much as open a store on a Sunday are now pleading for a king to lead them to a better and stronger America.

These people are willing to overlook the glaring warts and moral failures of their King, Donald Trump, so long as he delivers on his punch lines and if he does, they have no need for the slow moving God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

=Because now, they can feel and see King Trump and they can get satisfaction that their nation will soon be all powerful again and able to take on any pretenders (Russians or Chinese or ISIS) to their contrived throne.

King Trump gives them political and religious cover when he dutifully mouths certain "Christian phrases and words" and entwines those words in a nationalistic cloth that causes his legion of followers to believe him no matter what he says.

They are willing to forsake their knowledge and history of God in exchange for a true champion of the people who will smite the Goliaths of job grabbing China and evil Muslims hiding under every mosque and marauding Mexicans coming into the country at an alarming rate to murder, steal and rape.

King Trump knows how to rake the racist coals and stir up the thick muck that is so close to the surface of so many disgruntled Americans who see themselves as grasshoppers before giants...but King Trump has promised to slay those giants and that is all they want and need to hear. King Trump repeatedly says, "Just believe me!"

Has God allowed a King Trump to spank and discipline America and to show the paucity of faith that the so called evangelicals had but which they have quickly deserted when King Trump blocked the view of their now lesser god?

Time will tell. Keep watching. This storyline is far from over.

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Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Votes Against Construction Restrictions that Hurt Minority Contractors, Workers

Senate Bill 152 handcuffs local communities, limits economic opportunity for African Americans

Special to The Truth

Ohio House Democratic legislators last week voted against the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 152, saying legislation to ban local hiring standards and restrict project labor agreements (PLAs) for public works projects will handcuff the decision-making authority of local communities and disproportionately harm African-American workers in the state.

"We want people to have opportunity in Ohio, not be locked out of projects. A vote to restrict local hiring is a vote for Kentucky, Indiana and everybody else," said Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) President and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati). "African Americans in Ohio remain unemployed at a rate three times higher than the state average. And even though our residents are paying for local sewer and water construction projects, communities are now being told by the state that they cannot set aside jobs for their own workers. I will not vote for taxation without participation."

Urban Ohio communities use local hiring standards on publicly financed projects as a way to strengthen local workforce participation and, in turn, strengthen local economies. Urban areas typically have higher unemployment rates than the national average, making the decision to hire local even more impactful for improving the job market in urban areas.

"The hiring of qualified local workers for public construction projects is a direct benefit to rebuilding a community and strengthening our working families," said Rep. Kevin Boyce (D-Columbus). "Senate Bill 152 blocks my constituents from gainful employment and apprenticeships, and instead hands these jobs and opportunities to individuals from neighboring states like Indiana, Kentucky or Michigan. I strongly oppose any measure that strips Ohioans of pathways out of unemployment and poverty."

"At a time when we should be promoting career paths that require specialized training and extensive education, this policy is making it harder for those

working Ohioans to maintain good-paying, full-time work that can sustain a family," said Rep. Christie Kuhns (D-Cincinnati). "This bill puts special interests ahead of common sense and puts workers in surrounding states like Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia ahead of Ohioans."

The City of Akron is preparing to undertake \$1.4 billion worth of updates to its sewer system. The city currently has a local hiring target of 30 percent for the major infrastructure improvement project, with that goal increasing to 50 percent by 2018.

"Ohioans deserve a fair shot at good-paying local jobs that can provide economic stability for them and their families," said Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron). "Politicians in Columbus should not be picking winners and losers when it comes to our local infrastructure upgrades. Local communities like Akron deserve the freedom to make decisions that will put people back to work and stabilize our local economy."

Just last month, Ohio transportation officials submitted a waiver asking the federal government to allow the state to pursue local hiring benchmarks for highway construction projects in hopes that it will result in more contracts being awarded to minority-owned companies. Specifically, the state is seeking permission to use criteria similar to what was followed for awarding work for the Opportunity Corridor Project in Cleveland, which maintained a goal of 20 percent participation in the work by minority business enterprises and followed Cleveland hiring rules that require 20 percent of the work be done by city residents.

"The Ohio Department of Transportation disparity report revealed that Ohio practices in passive discrimination – now how are we going to fix it?"



Rep. Michael Ashford

said Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland). "This legislation does not lend itself to fixing the problem – it is only going to exacerbate the economic barriers for minority workers in our state."

"It's fascinating to me that those who so rarely, if ever, actually experience concepts like discrimination, leveling

Voter Engagement Discussion Focuses on Education and Importance of Voting

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dozens gathered to hear guest speaker Derrick Clay, president and CEO of Visions Group, LLC, present information and lead a discussion on integrating community empowerment on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the African America Legacy Project headquarters on Collingwood Blvd.

Clay opened his presentation by outlining milestones achieved by Republican and Democratic Party presidents.

"President Nixon influenced foreign affairs and established the war on drugs. Reagan's economic development was established through tax cuts, and the voter rights act was signed in 1965," said Clay. "Bush senior signed the Americans with Disabilities act, and increased taxes after he promised he won't. Bush junior created the Patriot Act, Homeland Security, and suffered failed FEMA rescue attempts. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, which was the greatest piece of legislation. Carter created the federal energy department,

and transportation regulations for passengers. During Clinton's presidency, 22 million jobs were created, welfare reform occurred and the most alarming rate of African Americans were locked up. Obama established Affordable Care Act, which provides medical coverage for millions of Americans and improved Cuban relations."

Clay encouraged audience participation and accepted audience questions about various topics including: why African Americans should care about the upcoming presidential election, and best practices for voter engagement. "President Obama's campaign provides an example of a well-organized voter campaign. He cleaned up voter registration lists, utilized technology, and looked at transportation concerns," explained Clay.

Clay is a Toledo native and Macomber-Whitney alumnus. He has received recognition by Ebony Magazine as a leader under the age of 30, Business First Magazine as top business

leader under 40, and Smart Business Magazine as one of its Smart Leaders. The group invited Clay to assist in unveiling this organization by sharing his insight into vital issues that are at stake in the Toledo community during the upcoming election cycle.

Visions of Integrating Community Empowerment Socially, also known as Voices, is a group of Toledo young African-American professionals dedicated to giving "voice" to a range of community issues. Their mission is about connecting agents for social change through active engagement to empower and uplift our neighborhoods and community.

"Today's discussion is about voting. It's important to educate voters, not just about local issues but all issues. Periodically we will have different events that impact our community," explained Minister Rashieda Timpson, Voices member who focuses on special interest in community empowerment and health wellness.



Attendees



Robert Smith, African American Legacy Project President



Derrick Clay guest speaker

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Students Earn Youth Jefferson Award – Students In Action

Special to The Truth

St. John's Jesuit High School (SJJ) seniors Ivan Dye of Toledo and Aaron Thompson of Holland are the honored recipients of the Youth Jefferson Award – Students In Action. These two young men who are student leaders have helped shaped the volunteerism culture on their campus and represent the SJJ motto of being men for others.

Students In Action is a student-led program whose sole purpose is the teaching of high school youth to become effective, service-driven leaders.

Leadership Toledo approached the St. John's Jesuit community to ask that we aid in the launching of the Students in Action program. The Christian Service Core Team has done this by selecting two of St. John's Jesuit own to be recipients of a Jefferson award. The selection criteria were based solely on the service a student completes above and beyond what is required at St. John's Jesuit.

Ivan Dye co-founded Books 4 Buddies in 2012. At Fassett Middle School's graduation ceremony in east Toledo, Dye surprised more than 200 students, parents, teachers and community leaders when he greeted

everyone in Chinese. Forty Chinese middle school students were participating in a three-week educational program. Dye read to children there and helped distribute free books.

At Birmingham Terrace, Books/Buddies/Blankets, he was joined by eight international students from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Dye designed a bed saddle for kids who have no place to store books at home.

He was selected as Salutatorian for the Class of 2016 and was the February Maumee Rotary Student of the Month. He has volunteered through the SJJ Daytime Christian Service Program at the Spring Meadows Extended Care Center and at the Goerlich Center working with dementia patients. He did service in Appalachia during spring break.

At Third Baptist Church he is captain of the Junior Usher Board. Dye has been consistently on the honor roll and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is in the Ambassador Society, a student leadership group that works at school events. He was in the Marching, Concert, Pep and Jazz Bands during his early years at SJJ.

He has been involved in cross country all four years and was named to the All Academic Team. He has been on the Track and Field Team for four years. Junior year he was First Team, All TRAC; First Team, All District and First Team, All Region. He was also Track & Field All Academic. He was part of the four-man team that competed in the 4x800m Relay at the New Balance Nationals last June in North Carolina.

He plans to be an architect and will attend Miami University (Ox-

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(L. to r.): Kristina White (Director of Community Impact, Leadership Toledo), Aaron Thompson, Ivan Dye, Bryce Roberts (Leadership Toledo)



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Ways Students Can Use Summer Vacation to Prepare for the Future

Special to The Truth

Is your family thinking about the skills and experience your child needs for college and future success? The majority of college admission officers recommend that students start preparing before or by ninth grade. Yet, more than half of middle level students haven't started prepping for college, according to statistics from the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS).

Experts say that summer is the perfect time for children to get ahead in building skills and experience for the journey to and through college and lifelong success.

"It's never too early to start building your future," says Jonathan Mathis, director of the National Honor Societies. "The down time during the long vacation can be an ideal opportunity to make progress working toward this goal."

As part of "Honor Your Future Now," an NHS and NJHS campaign to encourage students to prepare now for college and success beyond, the National Honor Societies are offering the following advice to families with college-bound students:

- **Don't Wait:** No matter what grade your student is entering in the fall, encourage extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities that foster well-roundedness.
- **Be a Leader:** Encourage participation in leadership programs to learn important skills like resourcefulness, problem-solving and cooperation. Becoming a strong leader early can help your student throughout college and his or her career.
- **Build Character:** Teach your student about the importance of demonstrating high standards of honesty, integrity and showing respect

toward others. Building strong character can serve as the foundation for future success.

- **Give Back:** Suggest joining volunteer projects that your student is passionate about, and emphasize the importance of being active in and giving back to your community.

- **Find a Voice:** It's important for your student to understand his or her role and rights as a citizen. Take advantage of this election year to talk with your child about the political process and why it's critical to get involved.

- **Be There For Your Child:** Getting to and through college can be daunting for students, but teaching the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship can help children prepare for college and beyond. Involved parents can make a lasting positive impact.

- **Understand Finances:** College costs can be overwhelming. It's never too early to start planning. Spend time with your child this summer researching what need-based and merit-based financial aid options are available. Talk to your child about putting some of the money earned through jobs or received as gifts into a savings account, such as the 529 plan.

More tips and resources for parents and students can be found at HonorYourFutureNow.org.

Between the sun and fun of summer, help your child spend time now preparing for college, career and a lifetime of success. It's never too early to begin thinking about a successful future.

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Three Toledo Early College High School Students Advance to National Level in History Day Contest

Special to The Truth

Toledo Early College sophomores Zion Hofmann, Aylin Dominguez and Valentin Ornelas will travel to College Park, MD on June 12, 2016 to compete at the national level of the National History Day (NHD) contest. The three students took top honors in their categories at the state NHD contest that was held at Ohio Wesleyan University on April 30, 2016.

Sophomore Reem Abdel-Khaleq was also recognized as a national alternate. The students were accompanied by their teachers, Mona Al-Hayani and Randy Nissen.

Every freshman and sophomore at Early College is required to create an NHD project; entering the contest is optional. Project categories include exhibits, websites, papers, documentaries and performances. Seventy-five students represented the school at the regional contest at BGSU in April where 24 qualified for the state contest.

Zion Hofmann's project was a website entitled *In For the Long Haul*: The encounter between black and white baseball and the exchange of ideas that led to one interracial baseball league. Aylin Dominguez and Valentin Ornelas worked together on a group documentary titled *Woodstock: Three Days of Peace, Love and Music*. Reem Abdel Khaleq created a website titled *Dawn of the Space Age: The Impact of Sputnik* on educational, technological and scientific exchanges.

"NHD is a year-long interdisciplinary project that involves extensive research, writing and advanced computer skills. It is the best thing we do. Kids learn to think like historians", said Randy Nissen, social studies teacher. "Making it to nationals is not only a breathtaking accomplishment but also a wonderful privilege to meet new people and see other projects done by other competitors", said Dominguez, "I can't wait to give it all I've got with my partner, and hope for the best while wishing luck to other competitors."



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Aylin Dominguez, Zion Hoffman, Valentin Ornelas



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Lifelong Learning Offers Interfaith Dialog

Speakers of Christian, Jewish and Muslim Communities scheduled

Special to The Truth

The Lourdes University Lifelong Learning Program is pleased to offer "Peace, Justice and Violence: Where Does Faith Fit In?" on Wednesday, May 25 at the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. An interfaith dialog with members of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is open to the public; however, reservations are required.

Featured speakers include Father James J. Bacik, Rabbi Alan Sokobin, Th.D., D.D., J.D.; and Dr. S. Amjad Hussain.

A priest of the Diocese of Toledo, Father James J. Bacik is a widely-regarded theologian, writer, lecturer and pastor who served as Campus Minister and Adjunct Professor of Humanities at The University of Toledo for more than 30 years. He holds a doctorate in theology from the University of Oxford in England and currently teaches in the Master of Arts in Theology program at Lourdes University.

Rabbi Alan Sokobin served as rabbi for Congregation Shomer Emunim and Associate Professor of History at The University of Toledo. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in 1955 and holds academic degrees from Syracuse University and the Hebrew Union College.

Surgeon, writer and explorer, Dr. S. Amjad Hussain is an emeritus professor of surgery and humanities at The University of Toledo. He is also an Op-Ed columnist for The Blade. Dr. Hussain has taken on leadership roles in numerous organizations. Among them, he has served as president of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo.

The dialog will be moderated by Sr. Shannon Schrein, OSF, Ph.D., Dean of the Lourdes University Graduate School.

The cost for the event is \$12 per person and includes lunch with the speakers. RSVP at 419-824-3707/419-824-3707 or lifelong@lourdes.edu. Reservations required by May 18.

Perryman... continued from page 2

Reducing the chances of losing our children also requires that we aggressively monitor them as Moses' sister did for him. We cannot allow children to spend unlimited time on the streets and without knowing where they are, who their friends might be and what type of peer influence they are receiving.

The final lesson is this. Prayer is mandatory. Prayer also works.

As a child, I have the vivid memory of my late mother who would get down on her knees in prayer every single night. I am thankful, that when I was too foolish, "grown," or educated to act right, that my "mama" – went to the Lord on my behalf.

I know now, that I did not survive on my own, but in the words of the old hymn:

Somebody Prayed for me.

Had me on THEIR mind.

And TOOK THE TIME to pray for me.

Mothers Day should enable us to search for grateful memories. I am thankful for black mothers everywhere - young and old, single mothers, homeless mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and surrogate or non-biological mothers—who shielded, sacrificed, watched and prayed that black children might live.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdnperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Jefferson Award... continued from page 6

ford).

Aaron Thompson also co-founded Books 4 Buddies in 2012. For the past four years, Thompson has enthusiastically participated in neighborhood outreach programs, meeting target audiences of youth at housing authority complexes like Weiler Homes and Birmingham Terrace. An extrovert with a great sense of humor, Thompson has participated in book giveaways held in conjunction with Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities. He has been an ambassador since the program's inception.

He has served as part of the SJJ Daytime Christian Service Program at Rosary Cathedral, participated in Easter on Campus with a preschoolers and Christmas on Campus with Queen of Apostles and Holy Rosary Schools. He is a familiar face at Titan summer basketball camps. An honor roll student, Thompson is involved in the Spanish Honors Society and the Athletic Club.

Thompson will play basketball for Ashland University where he plans to study Forensic Science. Thompson was Second Team, All TRAC; Second Team, All District and Sports Nightly Player of the Year his senior year. Junior year he was Honorable Mention, All TRAC. In the off season, he has played for the King James Ohio Varsity Basketball Team.


He will be studying neuroscience at Ohio University through the Honors Tutorial College.

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The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) recently partnered with Howard Fleeter & Associates to conduct a Return on Investment (ROI) Study gauging the benefits of taxpayer dollars. The end study found that for every \$1 invested in the Library, nearly \$4 in benefits to the public were returned. The total Return on Investment deriving from the Library's activities was \$3.87 in 2015. This means that for every \$1 spent by TLCPL, area residents received an average of \$3.87 in economic value.

In 2015, TLCPL:

- Circulated 5,761,067 books, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks
- Circulated 583,493 eBooks, digital audiobooks, downloadable movies, and music
- Provided nearly 3.5 million hours of computer and wifi usage to library customers

- Provided 960,524 reference transactions to customers (reference questions answered, databases and reference materials accessed or explained)

- Provided programs and other services to 210,000 people

"We are very proud of the ROI Study, as it demonstrates that we are being fiscally responsible and putting taxpayer dollars to good use," said Clyde Scoles, director.

TLCPL is continually transforming to meet the needs of the communities that it serves – whether it be to provide job search assistance, computer skills training, homework help for students, or entertainment through books and movies, "we are always looking for new ways to engage others and encourage them to visit our Library," Scoles said.

May Open Books Feature Inspiring Authors

This May, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library will host two inspiring authors at Open Book programs:

May 12 - Open Book with Debi Ference
Main Library McMaster Center, 6:30 p.m.

Debi Harmon Ference's life has been anything but boring. She began having seizures when she was 18 months old, but refused to let that stop her. For many years, she hid her condition until a brain surgery in 1995 encouraged her to share her story. *Amazing Debi: My Secret Before & After Brain Surgery for Epilepsy* is the result. The book shares the authors ups and downs of living with Epilepsy as well as the accomplishments she's made post-brain surgery, including being seizure-free for 17 years.

May 21 - Open Book with E.N. Joy
Kent Branch Library, 1 p.m.

E.N. Joy is the author of "New Day Divas," "Still Divas," "Always Divas," and the "Forever Divas" series, coined "Soap Operas in Print." She is an *Essence Magazine* best-selling author, who once wrote secular books under the names Joylynn M. Jossel and JOY. Her children's book, *The Secret Olivia Told Me*, received a Coretta Scott King Honor from the American

Library Association and was acquired by Scholastic Books selling almost 100,000 copies.

Both programs are free and open to the public. For additional information, please call 419.259.5200/419.259.5200

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Edna Brown... continued from page 16

ion show and announcement of the mother of the year. "Today we will honor four ladies for their outstanding academic excellence, and of course the mother of the year. I urge everyone to come back next year and support academic excellence," explained Siner.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, Toledo Alumnae chapter, awarded three scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each. Jada M. Boles, graduating senior of Toledo School of the Arts maintains a 3.7 GPA, plans to attend Point Park University of Marymount Manhattan and pursue a dance major and minor in business. Ryonna Birchfield, graduating senior of Notre Dame Academy, maintains a 3.8 GPA, plans to attend Kent State University and major in business and entrepreneurship. Daijah Blackburn, graduating senior of Rogers High School maintains a 3.8 GPA and plans to attend Spelman College while majoring in economics and communications.

Taylor E.B. Coleman, graduating senior of Central Catholic High School, plans to attend Kent State University and pursue a degree in journalism. She earned the Bobbie Burks Gilmore Book Scholarship for \$500.

The 2016 mother of the year was State Senator Edna Brown, who was surrounded by family and friends during the reading of her bio. Traditionally the announcement is a surprise for one mother in the audience. "It feels extra special, particularly since I didn't know anything about it. My brother told me a few weeks ago that he had purchased tickets for the breakfast, which I have attended on several occasions. I had no idea that I was selected, biggest surprise ever in my life," explained Brown.

Brown was born and raised in Toledo, graduated from Whitney High School and received a bachelor's degree from Mary Manse College. Brown worked for the City of Toledo Natural Resources Department for 32 years, served as Toledo City Council member for six years, Ohio House of Representatives member for eight years, and was sworn into office on January 3, 2011 as the first African-American to represent the city of Toledo in the State Senate. She is a long-time member of Braden United Methodist Church, was married to the late Willie Brown for 40 years, has three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

"The expression on my mom's face was priceless, totally priceless. We kept this secret, and it wasn't easy. She's a wonderful mother, grandmother, and mentor. She instills education into her family and we have taken it to heart," said Kathy Dadzie, Brown's daughter.

The history of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. dates back to 1913 when 22 women on the campus of Howard University chartered the sorority. Currently over 250,000 women are members. Toledo Alumnae chapter was established in

1973.

The 2016-2017 officers: Angela Siner, president; Jacquelyn Jones, PhD, first vice president; Stacy Jackson-Jones, second vice president; Meiuttenun Brown, PhD, corresponding secretary; Jazmeika Spinks, recording secretary; Tonia Pace, PhD, treasurer; Tiffany Hairston, PhD, financial secretary; and Cheryce Burton, assistant financial secretary.

Breakfast committee chairs: Wanda Terrell-Galloway, chairperson; Kaylene Miller, souvenir program; Sandy Strong, door prizes; Trevor Black, decorations; Bessie Mack, publicity; Bonita Johnson, vendors; Cheryce Burton, financial coordinator; ticket committee Sue Fletcher, Billie Lothery, and Sandy Strong; mother of the year committee Billie Lothery, Bessie Mack, and Theresa Wilkins; scholarship committee Cheryce Burton, Stacey Jackson-Jones, and Shannon Tisdale.



Delta Sigma Theta Toledo Alumnae chapter, mother of the year and her family, Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson, Councilmen Larry Sykes and Yvonne Harper



Delta Gems and their advisor



Breakfast Chairman Wanda Terrell-Galloway and Master of Ceremony Charlie Mack



Mother of the year Edna Brown, during her Bio reading



Mother of the year Edna Brown and her brother

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Vote for our Fellow creatures! (Animals are fun)	June 20-24
Vote for Peace!	June 27-July 1
Vote for travel—Trips to be announced	July 5-8
Vote for our Health	July 11-15
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67 Shots: Kent State and the End of American Innocence by Howard Means

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Things can change in an instant.

It only takes a minute to catch a mistake, a blink for disaster to occur, a heartbeat to alter history. When it's over, you wonder how things happened so fast: a second, two shakes of a lamb's tail or, as in the new book by **Howard Means**, just **67 Shots**.

May 4, 1970, was a deadly day in South Vietnam: 24 American soldiers died there in the jungle heat; just average boys, "mostly white, mostly single, mostly volunteers." Mostly under age 20.

It was hot in America, too, that weekend prior: the Lakers played the Knicks for the championship; Muhammad Ali had just been stripped of his boxing title; the Beatles were letting it be; ROTC centers across the nation were under attack; and Richard Nixon had just dropped a verbal bombshell in a "Cambodia speech." Residents of Kent, Ohio, who hated the local college population's burgeoning political activism, complained about out-of-towners who seemed to be goading the students.

Students at Kent State University were likewise restless; frisky at the end of a long cold winter, they flocked to downtown bars to let off steam, and various protest organizations had rallied that weekend. Rumors flew like Frisbees, claiming that the campus' ROTC building would be torched but police and officials didn't appear worried, and didn't seem surprised when it did.

Shortly afterward, students were put under lock-down, and the National Guard took over campus.

There were protests that Saturday night; hundreds of students were tear-gassed, but few thought that Guardsmen actually had live ammunition. Helicopters scanned campus and looked for curfew violators. It was quieter on Sunday, a bit more relaxed, though there were isolated incidences of violence and, despite that there was a ban, an anti-Guard protest rally was scheduled for Monday, May 4 at noon.

At 9:00 a.m. Monday, a meeting was held by officials to discuss looming problems. Early classes were warned to stay away from trouble.

Tear-gas was in the air just before lunch.

At 11:58, some Guardsmen were ordered to form a line.

By 12:24, the first of four students lay dead...

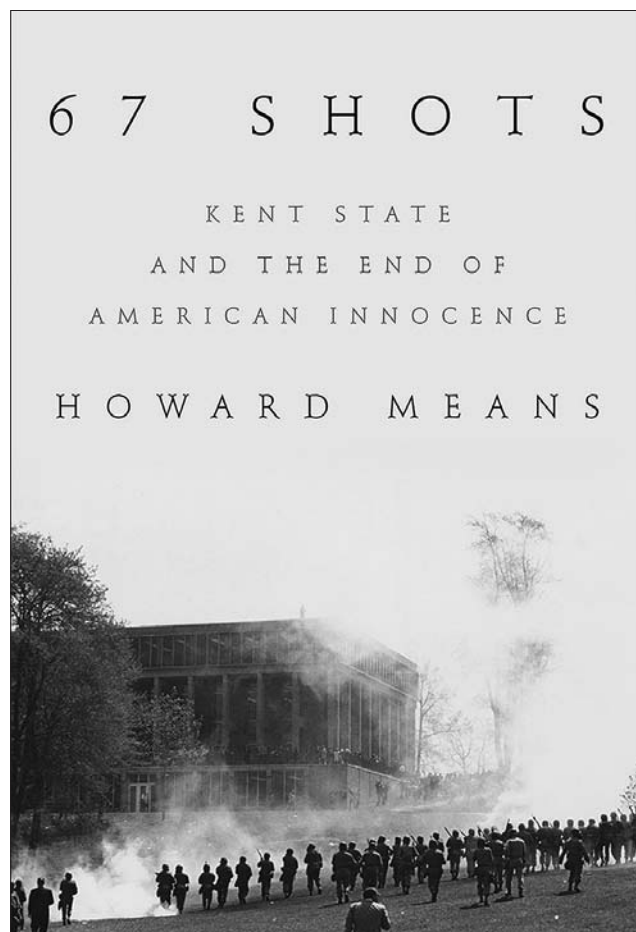
It's hard not to think of a certain iconic picture when you're reading 67 Shots. It's hard not to hear Neil Young in your head, and it's definitely hard not to wince.

Even though we know what happens, there's a sense of dread in the scenes that author Howard Means recreates, which escalate to the breathtaking culmination of this book. That arrives, surprisingly, long before you even get halfway through the pages; Means

c. 2016
Da Capo Press
\$25.99 / \$33.99 Canada
288 pages

then shows how everything changed in just thirteen seconds, how Kent State "unmoored" a nation and a president, and what ramifications came in the aftermath – legally, personally (to those who were there), and historically.

While, of course, anyone can read this book, I think it'll have more meaning to Boomers who remember the before and after of Kent State. *67 Shots* is a sharp account that fills in the blanks and takes you back. For that, you'll want it in a heartbeat.



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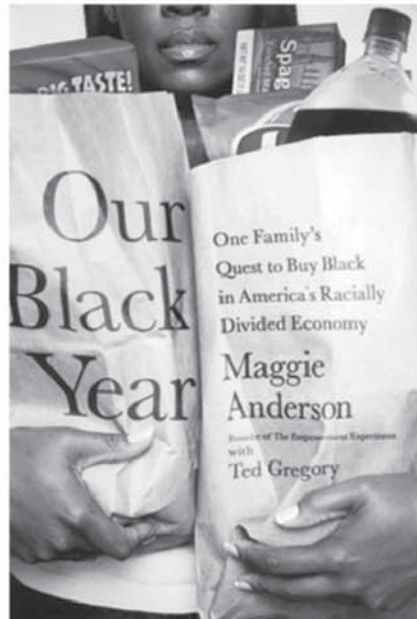
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CLASSIFIEDS

May 11, 2016

Page 15

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THREE DAY FILM FESTIVAL

Toledo, OH – Glass City Film Festival (May 19-21) is looking for volunteers to help us create a fun and welcoming first year festival. The three-day event, held at the Ohio Theatre and Event Center, will feature over 29 new independent films, Q&A's with the filmmakers, interactive panel discussions, Opening Night festivities, and more.

Festival Volunteer Jobs

We are seeking to fill over 60 volunteer positions include box office, concessions, and greeters. Volunteers can help with many different tasks, including setting up the theater, tidying up between screenings, and welcoming filmmakers and patrons. Those interested in cinema, performing arts, or event planning may be interesting in volunteering at the Glass City Film Festival. Volunteers who register to serve two or more shifts may receive a "Fancy Pass" for free access to the entire film festival.

Pre-Festival Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of this event. The film festival was planned and fund-raised entirely with volunteer support from filmmakers, art supporters, and caring people in Toledo. Year-round planning volunteers and internship opportunities are also available for next year's festival. Areas of interest include Marketing, Programming, Operations, Administration, and Design. Participants can gain valuable career-building experience and earn school credit.

Volunteers are also encouraged to help with distributing flyers and posters prior to the event.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Electronic Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, at its office at One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2259 until **10:00 AM** local time on **Wednesday, June 1, 2016** and opened immediately thereafter for the performance of all labor and furnishing of all materials and tools required to complete all work for **Window Replacement at 701 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604**. The estimated construction cost is \$1,350,000.00.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site visit will be conducted at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 in the Lucas County Conference and Learning Center at 711 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Enter between the 701 & 711 Adams Street buildings.

Bid documents, technical specifications and drawings may be downloaded from the Lucas County Website: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/Bids.aspx>. Bidders must register as a vendor via the Lucas County website/PlanetBids in order to bid <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=24980>.

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Pete Gerken



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Saturday May 21st
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Delta's Annual Breakfast for M'Lady Honors State Senator Edna Brown

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated welcomed over 300 attendees to the 38th annual Breakfast for M'Lady on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at The Pinnacle in Maumee.

Wanda Terrell-Galloway, event chairman, opened the program by delivering warm greetings. "Thank you too all of my sorority sisters who helped to make this a success, and I salute our hard working president, Angela Siner. We are definitely Delta proud today in our Delta red."

The features of this program include the scholarship acknowledgements, fashion show, and a raffle. *... continued on page 12*



Mother of the year Edna Brown and her family



Bottom row Stacey Jackson-Jones, Angela Siner, Tonia Pace, PhD, Top row Wanda Terrell-Galloway, Bonita Johnson, Jazmeika Spinks, Sheree Madison-Emerly, Bessie Mack,



Scholarship recipients and their family members

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