



Volume 43, No. 4

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

February 15, 2017

# Wendi R. Huntley



CEO, Connecting Kids to Meals

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# Rhythms of Love and Intimacy

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

The Truth Contributor

*We love because it's the only true adventure.*

- Langston Hughes



Valentine's Day is a reminder that regular romance and intimacy are necessary for a healthy marriage or relationship. Designating quality time to spend together as a couple is essential in order to keep the relationship fresh.

This year, my wife Willetta and I decided to cook a special meal together. For her, "Intimacy is a closeness you can't adequately do at a restaurant. The experience of doing the actual chopping, seasoning and cooking the food together itself is romantic for me. The conversation is different and we even get to listen to our own special music. No restaurant can do that for us and I enjoy the intimacy of just the two of us alone," she says.

Yet, an evening of romance, for busy couples especially, requires that it be planned with purpose and detail from start to finish. We would have to make several choices.

## The Menu:

Our demanding schedules dictated a simple menu that would also be elegant and delicious. Willetta had a taste for steak and I wanted seafood. We settled on both prime cut porterhouse steaks and Alaskan king crab with twice-baked potatoes and a classic wedge salad. Sparkling white Sangria would top off the meal.

I was assigned to shop for the ingredients. It's important to have a relationship with a good butcher, an established seafood supplier and a well-stocked gourmet shop. Anderson's, at least for now, is my place of choice for unique spices and specialty cheeses. For seafood, it is Rohr's Fish Company. Rohr's, unlike most fish sellers, receives fresh shipments daily from North American suppliers and does not sell the problematic farm-raised seafood items that come from locations such as South America or Asia. Sautter's Food Center in Sylvania is one of the best local sources for prime cuts of beef but Meijer stores also provide high quality and fresh meats.

For dessert, nothing says love better than chocolate and strawberries. We decided to go with chocolate and strawberry ice cream rather than traditional candies or fruit.

## Atmosphere:

Creating the atmosphere for love involves responding to each other's preferences, a process that is fun for me and also appreciated by my wife.

"A lot of what I perceive to be intimacy and romance," I tell her, "is trying to please you by not having you feel that everything around the house has to be done entirely by you without help from me or my getting

involved."

Willetta affirms my esteem by responding, "I think what resonates with me is when you go out to look for something nice for the table. Men don't generally understand what that means to women."

So, what color scheme would best create the mood for romance for our date?

"I think I would like a pretty pink and white table for Valentine's Day," Willetta maintains. But I am not feeling the pink. I prefer gold. So, we eventually decide upon a red and gold with an off-white tablecloth so as to not look "too Christmasy."

With tableware already in the china cabinet, we must order a centerpiece of fresh flowers to make the table complete. I call Keith Brooks of Hafner Florists, perhaps the best floral designer in the area, inform him of the color scheme and leave the rest to his creativity.

Next, however, because it can make or break the entire date, we focus on selecting the right music to play throughout our special time together.

Music, first of all, sets the mood for the cooking task. "Just like in the movie *Car Wash*, when they turned the music off, the employees wouldn't or couldn't work. When the music was on, they really got those cars through the process. That's what music is about," says Willetta.

"And music takes me back to special moments in the past," she adds. "When Staci was born, for instance, we were listening to a lot of jazz, Donald Byrd's "Butterfly," Grover Washington, Jr.'s "Winelight" and George

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## Community Calendar

### February 19

Indiana Avenue MBC 71st Church Anniversary: Speaker Rev. Jerry Boose of Second Baptist; 4 pm; "Make yourselves ready, busy doing the work of the Lord, for He is soon to return"

### February 22

Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 7 pm; Guests Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC Congregation

### February 23-26

Restoration Free Ministries Fifth Church Anniversary and Dedication Service: Thur-Sat - 7 pm nightly; Sun - 4 pm

### February 25

St. Stephen's Black History Month Celebration: 4 pm; Guests - the UT Gospel Choir  
NAACP ACT-SO Meeting: 1 to 3 pm; Accepting applications for this year's ACT-SO competitions; Lunch provided; Kent Branch Library

### February 26

Indiana Avenue MBC 71st Church Anniversary: Speaker Rev. WL Perryman of Jerusalem Baptist; 4 pm; "Make yourselves ready, busy doing the work of the Lord, for He is soon to return"  
Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 4 pm; Guests Rev. Bobby Wilborn and Charity Baptist Congregation

### March 1

Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 7 pm; Guests Rev. Cordell Jenkins and Abundant Life Ministries

### March 4

Successful Christian Singles Event: Noon; End Time Christian Fellowship; Speaker Monica Lamb of Columbus: [www.endtimechristianfellowship.org](http://www.endtimechristianfellowship.org)

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# Confession Is Good for the (Political) Soul

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

As many of you may know, in some past issues, I have written about the odd nature of our collective minority city council members (five of them) and the current black mayor not "coming together" to issue a paper on the stratagems that they could offer to help boost the positive economics of the black community in Toledo.

My thinking on this issue of collective economics and political power is that if a city has a majority minority on council and the mayor's office is occupied by a black chieftain, then surely something good can come of this other than keeping the streets paved and rounding up stray dogs.

I mean, when you obtain any political power and it does not morph into attempts at economic empowerment, then you must question the usefulness of such a majority minority on a urban city council board.

I know....I know....the first thing that comes to mind is that this is a white majority-populated city and for the mayor and/or the five minority council persons to strike a deal that seemingly only benefits the minority community, there would be detractors and editorials by The Blade condemning such a grab of power.

My response...? So!?

If minority mayors and minority members of a city council do not at least raise the ante regarding their exercise of political power, why even have them? (Note: nothing personal...they seemingly are all good people).

If you are at or near the levers of political powers and you do not want to yank the lever and generate at least some heat that you are not going to simply occupy a council seat for the purposes of keeping the city lights on, what is your function and purpose on council or being a mayor?

Understand also, that such economic planning that seemingly benefits only certain precincts or zip codes will benefit all precincts and zip codes because when you heal the injured arm, the shoulder and the foot and the neck are also happy, happy!

Take another look at it this way: If you run for mayor or a council slot, I presume that you are running as a servant for the people and to make sure that the economic pie is equitably shared by all; and the parts or areas where your constituents reside would be supportive of any help in order to reach economic parity with the other sharers of the pie.

Now, some may run for a mayor's job for the thrill of being called, "Da Mayor" and the perks and privileges that attend thereto. Some may run for a seat on council because of the perception that you wield power to determine who gets what and how much.

No one runs simply to be a servant because, if so, I think that they would also disavow any thought of compensation for their sacrifice of time since those salaries could be donated to charitable causes.

So, now we have established that the mayor and the council members are not in their respective positions for the fun of it but to both make money and ostensibly render valuable services to the electorate.

Furthermore, if the mayor and the five minority council members do not see themselves in the vanguard of aggressively modeling behavior that indicates a desire to improve the least of the least, then why run for political office?

Since there has been no response to my last column on this issue, I, tongue in cheek, though maybe that the mayor and the five minority council members were seeking guidance on what imponderables are stopping them from modeling such behavior.

So, in that light, I want to present the following confessions that they can answer in the privacy of their own closet and maybe the answers will clue them in to see just why they are in those positions (or...should not be in those positions).

The political headiness of running for office for the sheer exuberance of being called a politico is old hat and a tired chestnut. When you run for a political slot, I would hope that you are running with an agenda that says that if I can not move along a progressive agenda to benefit the least of the least, I need to get off the political gravy train.

Here are those confessions:

## CONFESSION ONE:

I am fearful to step out of my political comfort zone because:

- (a) I am beholden big time to the political bosses and I must follow their commands.
- (b) I never really learned what it means to be a progressive politician for urban city dwellers.
- (c) I like where I am and what I do, thank you very much.

## CONFESSIO TWO:

I don't work well in groups because:

- (a) I am a loner and do not want to submit to a group movement.
- (b) I am suspect of the hidden motives of other members of the group.
- (c) I never really gave much thought to it and don't want to think about it now.

## CONFESSION THREE:

I am not really versed in such matters as collective economics because:

- (a) I have not taken the time to read up on such matters where politics and economics blend together for empowerment.
- (b) This is new to me and I'd rather not be involved in such radical stuff.
- (c) When someone else starts this off, I will then look at it, but not now.

## CONFESSION FOUR:

I don't think Toledoans are ready for such a movement because:

- (a) It has never been done before...at least I think it hasn't been done before.
- (b) No one would follow me if I stepped out and engaged in such discussions with my fellow council members and the mayor.

... continued on page 12



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# MLK as a Symbol of Our Unity after 2016 Election and 2017 Inauguration!

By Colins Imoh

Guest Column

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"Our Lives Begin to End the Day We Become Silent About Things That Matter"

I was having a conversation with a friend a few days ago with respect to attending Martin Luther King (MLK) events. I felt the events of the past few weeks with respect to the 2016 election and 2017 inauguration and protests call for somber reflections about who we are as a people and the state of the nation.

His reply was a little bit worrying. He stated that MLK day is a black holiday for black people. It is a means of integration and sense of belonging for people of color.

I was speechless. One would have felt after more than 30 years since the enactment of the holiday that the importance of the day could have been appreciated by all. That a lot feel differently is worrying.

Many acknowledge that there is a deep awareness of the need for racial equality that has not happened as fast or smoothly as most people could have envisaged. We also need to respect the humanity in all.

These might reinforce the need for possession and claim of ownership of MLK by a group. It might also lead to the idea that this is tokenism to compensate a people. We might appreciate the relativity with respect to the concept, but there are certain facts that cannot be disputed.

MLK is a black man, there is no doubt about that, and MLK Day is the first national holiday to honor a black American. But it does not make his day a black holiday.

He advocated for an inclusive society; it was not restricted to people of color. His was a call for a country to honor all citizens irrespective of cultural or color identity. The spirit of his action lives in each of us.

The movement he led brought peace, hope and healing to a country. It was universal. It was a call to uphold the founding principle of America: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, which among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We should celebrate a person who makes us whole again. His color or orientations are immaterial to the principles and lessons he brought to a nation. It is his life and what he stand for that we are celebrating.

MLK is not a black holiday: it is not a compensation for people of color; it is a truly national holiday that should be celebrated by all irrespective of orientations, creed, color or race. There is a lot we can learn from the life of MLK: virtue of courage, tolerance, reconciliation, dignity, humility, selfless service and truth.

In a time of uncertainty, he brought peace to a troubled nation. In the aftermath of the election and inauguration, this is a time for the nation to listen to MLK as he advocates: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

The healing from the recent divisive election can begin when we listen to MLK. He once said we need to make a decision if we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness."

Where we stand in this respect will make a lot of difference. We should take the stand of light shining on a path of wholeness after the bitterness of the 2016 elections.

I attended the MLK events at Savage Arena in 2016 and 2017, and most of the keynote speakers were people of color. The attendance seemed to have been more than 70 percent people of color. This situation reinforces the concept that certain people take MLK day more serious than others.

Maybe this is correct; possibly it is a little oversight in the planning. I enjoyed that last celebration, there was a dance performance by people of color and there was an orchestra performance by predominately white youth.

I was wondering if an event can be planned that is truly national and

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Colins Imoh



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# Wendi Huntley: Connecting More and More Kids to Meals

By Linda Nelson

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Wendi Huntley, interim CEO of Connecting Kids to Meals, wants to provide the assurance of a next meal to kids and the hope for better opportunities for families through community awareness, a recent name change and the creation of a partnership project with Cherry Street Mission Ministries.

"There are around 30,000 kids in Lucas County who are food insecure," Huntley says. "What this means is that a lot of kids don't know where their next meal is coming from."

The numbers, gathered from health assessment records, public school statistics and other agencies, represent what Huntley describes as a "sad indictment for our community."

"Food, clothing and shelter are basic needs that kids shouldn't have to worry about," Huntley says. "And teachers tell us that when these kids leave school they don't eat again until they come back the next day."

But Huntley is determined to improve conditions throughout the community for kids and their families. "Our job is to provide solutions," she says. "We're talking about future doctors, lawyers, teachers, homemakers, engineers, mayors and politicians. When we talk about who these children are today we also have to talk about who they are going to be."

Huntley, who has been with Connecting Kids to Meals since 2006, replaced Patrick Howard as interim CEO in March 2016. She is a Toledo native, and attended Nathan Hale, and the now closed Ladyfield Elementary School. After graduating from Notre Dame Academy, Huntley enrolled at Bowling Green State University to study English education.

She earned a law degree from the former Ohio State University College of Law, which is now The Michael E. Moritz College of Law, in Columbus, Ohio after a push from her mom, Sylvia Huntley, PhD, former director of Toledo Head Start and BGSU professor, and her dad, a retired postal supervisor. "They set high expectations for us, so it was pretty much 'you can be a doctor or a lawyer,'" she said.

Huntley chose law believing that this career was more aligned with her personality and skillset. "I don't necessarily like to argue, but I like to talk," she says.

Huntley was 22 when she joined Bricker and Eckler, a Columbus-based law firm, and there she practiced corporate law, litigation and sports and entertainment law for 12 years.

Huntley says that while in Columbus she also had the opportunity to work with Children's Hunger Alliance as director of Development overseeing 18 counties.

An illness in her family led her back to Toledo, and eventually to her current position with Connecting Kids to Meals.

"It was a privilege to return," she says. "But I didn't want to go to another law firm." Instead Huntley found people and organizations whose work was similar to the interest of Children's Hunger Alliance and the purpose

of feeding kids.

As CEO of Connecting Kids to Meals, Huntley's job now is to develop strategic plans and a direction for the organization, while making sure that her staff of six full-time employees has the essential tools to accomplish objectives.

Part of the organization's continuing commitment for growth and development is demonstrated in a name change from Feed Lucas County Children to Connecting Kids to Meals, and Huntley says she wants people to not only remember the history, but to also begin to think differently about what this organization has to offer.

"So many things have changed in the last 15 years," Huntley says. "Our new name speaks volumes about what we can do and how we can connect with kids and their families. We had to look at the value associated with making that transition. We didn't take it lightly."

Other ways of furthering the organization's involvement and reach is through partnerships. Connecting Kids to Meals has formed an alliance with Cherry Street Mission Ministries to expand their current kitchen area, located inside of the Life Revitalization Center at 1500 Monroe St., into a larger space. The massive new kitchen, which has a May 1 completion date, will have the capacity to feed more than 1 million children and adults, and address the issue of household hunger.

"This collaboration is important, because Cherry Street Mission Ministries addresses feeding and job training for adults and we provide meals to children," Huntley said. "We want to position the organization so that we will have maximum impact and effectiveness. A meal is not the answer," Huntley emphasizes. "Providing a meal is just the beginning of the answer. We have to look at the meal as a way to leverage resources and access the needs of families in order for them to be able to pull themselves out of poverty."

According to Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals currently has 152 partner sites that help the organization provide meals for kids. These sites include: all area library branches, and the Boys and Girls Club, along with a

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Wendi Huntley

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# Movement for Black Lives Responds to Confirmation of Jeff Sessions

*Organizations United in Opposition to Sessions? Confirmation, Citing Racist Past, Voter Suppression and Heightened Surveillance as Indicator for What's to Come for Black People*

Last week, the United States Senate confirmed Sen. Jeff Sessions as the next U.S. Attorney General with a near-party line vote of 52-47. For decades, Sessions has used the power of his office to intimidate and marginalize black voters. His record of being indifferent to criminal violations of civil rights laws and supporting racist and oppressive legislation make him unfit to serve as the head of the U.S. Department of Justice. At times in his career, Sessions has even questioned the necessity of the very laws he is now charged with enforcing: federal civil rights laws, protection from discrimination, hate crimes and more. In response to his confirmation, the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), a coalition of more than 30 organizations committed to the fight for equity and justice for black people, released the following statement:

"The appointment of Jefferson Sessions is a terrifying affirmation of what many of us already knew, that the federal government, and the Department of Justice specifically, will be used as weapons against our communities under this administration. From the threat to defund the Civil Rights Division, to the appointment of an Attorney General whose racism has been called out by his colleagues, it is clear the federal government will do nothing to end the state-sanctioned killing of our people by police, the theft of our votes, the continued criminalization of our children or from the persecution of LGBTQ people," said Marbre Stahly-Butts, director of partnerships with Law for Black Lives and member of the M4BL Policy Table. "The confirmation of Sessions is a shameful step away from the very principles his office was created to uphold and protect. Despite his confirmation, we are still committed to fighting for equitable treatment under the law for all people."

"Now, at a time when the FBI has sweeping surveillance powers, we must buckle down and prepare for increased criminalization while try-

ing to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially our Muslim and Immigrant communities being targeted by Trump's administration. Our people are still living with the residuals of the FBI's aggressive targeting and criminalization of activists and freedom movements of the 1960's and 70s, with many victims of COINTELPRO and similar law enforcement initiatives still behind bars and living in exile," said Ash-Lee Henderson, co-executive director of the Highlander Research & Education Center, and member of the M4BL Policy Table.

"Sessions will undoubtedly pursue the agenda of white supremacists and vigilantes of generations past and present, and will have the power and tools of the federal government at his disposal. However, we will continue doing what we've always done; we will resist, fight and build our communities with dignity and a vision for the future that includes thriving communities for our people, and freedom from systemic racism and oppression for all people."

## Social Security Column

*Social Security Celebrates Black History Month*

By Phil Walton, Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

Throughout the month of February, we honor African Americans by celebrating Black History Month. Created in 1926, this event coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14. African-American communities have celebrated these birthdays together for over a century.

Honoring our shared history and reflecting on the past is one way we can remember that in America, we believe in freedom and democracy for all. Another shared belief is that we all deserve a comfortable retirement, free of economic hardship. This is part of securing today and tomorrow. Social Security has the tools to help you plan for your retirement and to apply for benefits online. We also provide disability benefits to individuals with medical conditions that prevent them from working. If the disabled individual has dependent family members, they can also receive payments.

If you or anyone you know is disabled, they may qualify for disability benefits. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled before reaching full retirement age. You can see if you meet our strict definition of disabled and apply for disability benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html). Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. And Social Security pays more benefits to children than any other federal program. You can learn more about Social Security survivors benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors).

Honoring each other begins with fair and equal treatment. Social Security guarantees that, if you pay into the system, you will have the same benefits as everyone else according to your earnings record. This Black History Month, we want to make sure our diverse nation is covered and that no one is left out of the benefits they deserve. We are with you through life's journey. Get to know your Social Security. Visit us at <https://www.ssa.gov/people/africanamericans/>.

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*Predatory Lenders and How They Harm Our Community • Predatory Lenders and How They Harm Our Community*

# Predatory Lenders: The Truth Examines Despicable Lending Practices – Part 1

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"It was a nightmare," recalls Deborah (not her real name) of her recent years in debt – crushing, mind-numbing debt. A young single woman in Toledo with a reasonably well-paying job, Deborah admits she wanted too much too fast and started her slide into debt by running up purchases on the credit cards that college students have such easy access to.

That debt damaged her credit score so badly that in order to purchase a car to replace her battered heap, she had to go to a "buy here, pay here" auto lot. In order to purchase the appliances she wanted, she had to go to a one of the rent-to-own establishments that charged her twice what a department store would have.

The exorbitant interest on the auto loan and the furniture were more than Deborah's salary could bear so she sought out a pay day lender to ease her financial burdens. The small loan she obtained was not enough to provide relief, especially since the interest on it was 10 percent – for 30 days. It was inevitable that she would obtain a larger loan at another pay day lender to pay off the first pay day lender and the rent-to-own furniture store and the auto loan.

Every other Friday, Deborah would go to her bank and cash her pay check. Then she would make her rounds – to the "buy here, pay here" auto lot, then to the furniture rental store, then to the first pay day lender and onto the second lender.

Self-discipline finally kicked in and Deborah set out to reverse her fortunes. She cut up the credit cards and forced herself to undergo a year of frugality. She wasted not a penny – no restaurants, no bars, no concerts, no new clothes. She gave up her unnecessary appliances and even changed her diet. Ramen noodles, it seems, became a staple in most nightly menus.

It was a long year, but it worked for Deborah. Unfortunately, Deborah's method is not the everyday prescription for success. Most folks lack Deborah's discipline. It is people's lack of discipline that enables predatory lenders thrive in today's economy. Here in Ohio, which has the highest payday loan prices in the nation, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts report of December 2016 with a typical annual percentage rate (APR) of 591 percent, they thrive particularly well.

Predatory lending, by definition, benefits the lender and ignores or impedes the borrower's ability to repay the debt. Such lenders often try to take advantage of a borrower's lack of understanding about loans, terms or finances.

For some people, particularly those of low to moderate incomes (LMI), the daily struggle of dealing with a limited or fixed income sometimes necessitates reaching out for help. More often than not, the help they reach for comes from entities whose only reason for existence is profit not assistance.

A local man named George (not his real name) discovered, much to his chagrin, that such lenders were more interested in making a profit than in helping clients. Recently, George found himself in need of instant financial assistance. Fortunately, or unfortunately as it happened, he owned the title to his vehicle. He needed \$2,000 so he went to a company called Title Max, which specializes in loans for car owners.

Title Max has about 1,200 locations in 18 states and over the years has taken a beating from the federal government because of the company's lending practices. The company has been fined millions of dollars for such practices but not enough to force it out of business.

George took his truck title into a Title Max location, met with some really nice people, walked out with the \$2,000 he needed.

The bad news? Title Max charged George 201.75 percent interest annually or \$331.55 per month. The really bad news? George had to pay off the entire principal with the accumulated interest before the debt could be discharged. The loan contract that George signed ensured that Title Max keep collecting that \$331.55 per month, every month, even if George could pay any portion of the original \$2,000 borrowed.

George, of course, had anticipated being able to pay back \$2,331.55 after the first month. He soon found that his goal of paying back the loan immediately were unrealistic. After only two months, he's paid \$662.10 in interest and sees no way in which he can get out from under without seeking additional financial help.

Then there is Ralph, who is still living his financial nightmare ... with a mortgage company. Or a number of mortgage companies as it turns out.

Ralph and his wife purchased a home in 1987 for \$15,000. The mortgage company that originally financed the house failed and his mortgage was picked up by another company, then another. Three decades later, Ralph has paid over \$50,000 to a variety of mortgage companies and still owes \$19,000 on the house he bought for \$15,000.

## The Truth's Series on Predatory Lending

*Over the course of the next two months, The Sojourner's Truth will be presenting a multi-part series on predatory lenders and the impact such predators have on the community especially on those of low to moderate income.*

*This series will consist of a look at five categories of businesses that prey on the community: pay day lenders; housing lenders; auto title and dealers; rent to own furniture and appliance shops and the "fixits." The "fixits" are those who present themselves as credit repairers for a sum of money who then leave their clients worse off than before.*

*We have interviewed – and will continue to do so – those who have been victimized by such predators, those who have done the preying, attorneys to understand the legal ramifications and those mainstream lenders who have explained alternatives to the predators.*

*Our series on these predatory practices will start with our look at pay day lenders on March 1 and will follow on every other week thereafter.*

... continued on page 10



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# Local Delta Chapter Workshop Focuses on Health Awareness

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The ladies of Toledo's chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated organized a day of cancer awareness and resources at Mercy Senior Wellness Center on February 4, 2017.

The chapter's Physical and Mental Health Committee collaborated with Susan G Komen Northwest Ohio and the YWCA Northwest Ohio EncorePlus to present "Cheers to your Health, a celebration of World Cancer Awareness Day." The program included panelists were cancer survivors Bessie Mack and Toledo City Councilman Larry Sykes, and also medical profes-



... continued on page 9

Audience



Dr Houston Johnson



Bessie Mack



Larry Sykes, Deb Ross, Bessie Mack, Tanya Baldwin, Dr. Houston Johnson



Councilman Larry Sykes



Delta members

## Notice of Public Hearings February 15 and 16



The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority will hold three public hearings:

- **12:30 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Authority's Administration offices, 1127 W Central Ave, Toledo OH 43610, and;**
- **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Sylvania Branch Library, 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560;**

for the purpose of discussing with the public, information on service modifications of various routes to be effective March 19, 2017. The site is accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Interpretive services for the hearing-impaired and Limited English Proficient person/s will be provided upon a 48-hour advanced request notice. Individuals wishing to comment in person on the proposed changes should be present.

### Proposed Service Changes:

- Introduce experimental route **6** King Road/City of Sylvania, to replace **2C** name, routing, and schedule adjustments. Modification in routing with timepoints of Franklin Park Mall, Flower Hospital, Lourdes University, Meijer, and Wal-Mart (map available at TARTA.com)
- Schedule adjustments to route **3** on all trips; no longer interlining with route **2C/6** King Road/City of Sylvania
- Schedule adjustments to **10L**
- Discontinue route **7** due to low ridership and new route **20M** service
- Discontinue route **42** due to low ridership, Berdan ramp closure and increase service from routes **26D/L** and **17B/E**
- Schedule adjustments for other routes **5, 10, 11/12/13/14, 15A/E, 17E/B, 22F, 24/T, 27H/N, 28/30, 34, 43, and 44X**



Comments may also be made by writing to James K. Gee, General Manager, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, PO Box 792, Toledo OH 43697-0792. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, to be included as part of the official record for final route adjustments and implementation purposes.

1127 W Central Ave is accessible via TARTA 20M/T and 20/24; 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560 is accessible via TARTA 2C and 1/4 Sylvania Call-A-Ride.



# TUSA Fights for Gun Safety

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA) held a community house meeting on Tuesday, February 7 at Friendship Baptist Church to focus on the issue of gun safety/violence. The Toledo Police Department partnered with the organization to bring the message of safety to the community.

"This is not a Second Amendment issue," said George Kral, chief, Toledo Police Department. "This is all about responsibility. You want a gun? Keep it safe." Kral and his half dozen officers in attendance brought along an assortment of gun locks that they immediately made available to those in attendance.

The evening session was opened by Art Walker and the prayer was offered by Friendship's pastor, Bishop Duane Tisdale. Former Toledo Police Department Sergeant Earl Barry then spoke of the need "to engage the community in trying to deal with the problem" of gun violence. Barry, who retired in 2009 after 36 years of service, spoke of an incident early in his career with TPD when he answered a call regarding a young child who had been shot.

"Gun safety is not new," said Barry. "Back in the '70's when I came on the force it was a problem. We have to step back – and take a look at this problem."

"Being a safe community or a welcoming community means that no person should die because of improper storage or use of a gun," said Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson. "The reality is people have guns and guns are lethal. We are sitting here in a country where people feel they need a gun but the most important part of [social justice] is that people are allowed to live."

TUSA, a collaboration of faith-based institutions that advocate for social justice, was founded in March 1992. The mission is to enable people

of faith to work powerfully and effectively together to redress injustice in the Toledo community. Congregations that are interested in membership should contact, lead organizer Marcia Dinkins at [womenforchange@gmail.com](mailto:womenforchange@gmail.com).

There are nine values upheld by TUSA member congregations: the members of all segments of the community should be heard and valued; that people themselves have the power to determine their future and have a responsibility to speak up and demand justice for all; God is first and we seek divine guidance for all our actions, human beings are created in the image of God and therefore deserve to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect; we value the diversity of our multi-lingual, multi-cultural communities; display the highest level of integrity in all of our activities and actions; and uphold moral and ethical standards in our congregations and in public life.



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson



Earl Barry

## Delta Chapter...continued from page 8

sionals Dr. Houston Johnson, MD, Tanya Baldwin and Deb Ross.

In addition to the two collaboration partners, community agency African American Cancer Survivor Group, and American Cancer Society were present with information tables and resources for attendees.

Cancer survivor Sykes opened the panel discussion by sharing his emotional journey through diagnosis and treatment, "I was angry and almost lost my religion. I was out of work for 45 days. There is a lift after cancer. African Americans, especially males, should not wait until it's life threatening. Preventive care and appointments are important."

Thirty-seven-year cancer survivor and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority member Mack shared the surgical options that were available during her journey. "My case was considered unusual, because

I was 27 years old in the 1980s. I had a lot of questions, and asked 'why me?' I thought I was a good person. I was encouraged not to talk about it and keep things to myself. Back then you didn't talk about treatment options, the doctors took my breasts. I didn't make that decision, but I'm glad that decision was made for me. I'm thankful because I'm here today. I won't let my breasts define who I am. The Lord has kept me each and every day."

Baldwin works in family medicine and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority member encouraged attendees to seek a family physician and live healthier lives. "You need a primary care physician. When you're young, you feel it's not necessary, but you need to visit at least once per year. We, as African Americans, have to get over mistrust and fear of doctors. Soul food is deli-

cious, but be mindful of what you put in your body."

Immediately following the panelist, members of the committee urged attendees to make a verbal commitment to become advocates of cancer awareness before chapter President Angela Siner closed the program. "I want to thank you for coming out to celebrate cancer awareness international day. Cheers to your health."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated was chartered in 1913 on the campus of Howard University. In 1937, the first chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Toledo was formed by seven young women, and Toledo Alumnae Chapter was chartered on February 12, 1972. The sorority also has chapters locally on the campuses of the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.



JANUARY 1 -  
FEBRUARY 28

**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**

## This winter, don't hibernate...recreate.

Find adventure outdoors this winter, shed some pounds and meet new people with Winter Quest. Metroparks new winter series kicks off New Year's Eve and continues through February with a variety of options to enjoy the season.

Visit [MetroparksToledo.com](http://MetroparksToledo.com) and look for Winter Quest on the Home page. Check out the group programs and suggested activities to do with your family. Then download a form to keep track of your participation. You can enter weekly drawings to win prizes, including gift certificates and a Winter Quest beanie.

Some of the Winter Quest programs and activities:

- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Campfire cooking
- Preschool story time
- Overnight at Oak Openings Lodge
- Trail hikes
- Behind the scenes tour of the Manor House
- Homesteading at the Johlin Cabin
- Cross-country skiing
- Ice fishing basics
- Full moon walk
- Photography exhibit
- Music
- Fat-tire bike race
- Orienteering

*Predatory Lenders and How They Harm Our Community • Predatory Lenders and How They Harm Our Community**Predatory Lenders.. continued from page 7*

The irony of the way that predatory lenders operate is that they often do business with, and therefore take advantage of, people who can least afford the services they offer. A federally insured and regulated bank or credit union will offer qualified borrowers – those with good credit histories – loans with low interest rates because there is very little risk attached.

The better the borrower's credit score, the lower the interest. That means low interest rates for loans to finance the purchase of a home, an auto, a boat, a remodeling project, a college education. Higher interest rates are typically imposed on qualified borrowers with lower credit scores. The same federally-insured financial institutions will turn away unqualified would-be borrowers in to limit their risk. Such borrowers might have been able to afford a loan with a low interest rate, but there is risk, because of past performance, for the lender.

Now come the operators who are prepared to deal with high risks – the pay day lenders, the predatory mortgage lenders, the “buy here, pay here” auto dealers, the rent-to-own furniture stores. Interest rates of these lenders can be three to four times those of a federally-insured financial institution, or of a mainstream retailer, in a best case scenario. In a worst case scenario, and the state of Ohio is the worst case in the nation as far as pay day lenders is concerned, the interest rate may be in excess of a hundred times that of a regulated financial institution.

Yes, that's 100 times and Ohio is the worst. Its typical annual percentage rate is 591 percent for payday lenders.

“I found myself in a place where I wasn't making the money I had been making,” says David (not his real name).

David, 65 years old, lived with his mother until her death about six years ago. Her Social Security income along with his wages kept the two afloat. David has been employed for years in a job that pays him above minimum wage level but below living wage level. Upon his mother's death, the Social Security income stopped, shortly after that, his earnings at work decreased due to a lack of work.

For David, assuming that banks and credit unions would be unrespon-

sive to his needs, the logical choice was to seek help with a pay day lender.

He went to one such lender to obtain a small amount of funds - \$200 which needed to be repaid in the amount of \$220 after 30 days – and then to another to fill the gap left between what he originally needed and what the first lender had given. He received \$500 from a second lender and \$640 from a third lender. From one lender to the next David went, covering the payment of one loan by taking out another. In a very short while it became “overwhelming.”

David also needed to buy a car, at about this same time. He needed to take out an auto loan to do so. He was only able to obtain financing at a lot that charged him 10.85 percent interest in a used vehicle. His weekly payments were \$90. “They charged too much to start with,” says David.

While the car lot was not one that did its own extravagant financing, it had limited his options by steering him to the bank of its choice rather than to one which might have offered more favorable terms.

Soon, as luck would have it, David found himself in need of a washer/dryer. He obtained one at a Rent-A-Center at a rate of \$42 every two weeks which in the end would cost him twice as much had he been able to pay cash at a mainstream department store.

David spent several years dodging bullets and dealing with the stress. “They literally tore me up,” he recalls.

David's employer finally questioned him about his obvious discomfort. After hearing of the state of his employee's financial situation, the employer, who also happens to be a lawyer, took control of David's finances. He lent him money, sent letters to creditors, re-negotiated contracts, moved the auto loan to Toledo Urban Federal Credit union for about half the original interest rate, paid off the Rent-A-Center and eventually pulled David back from the brink of disaster.

The pay day lenders, the predatory mortgage companies, the auto dealers or title lenders and the rent-to-own companies give only minimal lip-service to being in business to help their clients. Very little pretense with such companies.

On the other hand, of course, there are those companies who do pretend to be in the service of others and will therefore vow to those in need of credit repair that they can fix what's wrong and in short order, too. So, toss some money at them and trust that they will do as promised.

The problem with virtually all of these companies is that they want to increase a person's debt before they will lessen, or pretend to lessen, that debt.

Title IV of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, prohibits untrue or misleading representations and requires certain affirmative disclosures in the offering or sale of “credit repair” services. The Act bars companies offering credit repair services from demanding advance payment, requires that credit repair contracts be in writing, and gives consumers certain contract cancellation rights.

So we made a preliminary inquiry of a company called Credit Repair USA. They have signs strewn about the area on street corners offering credit repair services for \$269. When we inquired, we were told that the fees were not for “actual credit repair.” The upfront cost would be for processing charges and personnel fees.

For too many, especially those of low to moderate income, especially those in minority communities, especially those who are not knowledgeable about how to manage their finances or how to find honest brokers to assist them in times of need, their communities are awash with predators who are all too willing to loot and plunder and invest their ill-gotten profits in areas far from those communities that produced them.

In the words of Toledo City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD, whose office will be soon introducing legislation designed to rein in pay day lenders, such operators are “a carbuncle on the behind of our community.”

More on pay day lenders in our March 1 issue – two weeks hence.

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### **Black Lives Matter Scholarship Banquet**

Saturday, February 25 at the Frederick Douglass Community Association; Noon; 419-973-0248

# Banks, Credit Unions, Cash Advance Agencies - Which One Do I Choose?

With so many choices for financial institutions (ie. banks, credit unions, cash advance agencies, etc.) it can become difficult to understand which will best meet your needs.

"Each institution has its own list of benefits. Working for banks has provided very rewarding experiences," said Reginald Temple, vice president, director of Community Development at First Federal Bank. "The key difference amongst financial institutions is the relationship that is created when working with a bank or credit union."

Cash advance agencies allow consumers to cover short-term bills and protect credit reports in times of financial emergencies. These businesses specialize in providing quick financing and often lack of other financial services such as checking or savings accounts.

"Establishing a relationship with a bank or credit union can help individuals that are still learning how to manage their finances

avoid becoming dependent on cash advance services. By taking the time to learn about an individual's financial needs, bank employees can recommend a wide variety of lending and financial management products," said Temple.

Interest rates and fees for payday loans are typically higher than a standard bank loan. Failure to pay a loan in full by the contracted time may result in doubled fees. Most banks and credit unions have more options for borrowers such as products designed for first-time borrowers, those with no down payments and individuals that earn low to moderate income. If nothing else, a financial institution can provide guidance for managing finances, saving for the future and avoiding financial pitfalls.

Before signing to apply for a loan it is important to educate yourself. For guidance on managing your finances you can contact First Federal Bank at 1-877-367-8178 and ask to speak with a local lending expert.

*Wendi Huntley... continued from page 5*

clude: all area library branches, and the Boys and Girls Club, along with a variety of churches and other organizations throughout the community and a recent partnership with a site in Bowling Green.

But there are still some challenges such as transportation and ease of access that Huntley and her team continue to face as they move forward. "My biggest frustration is that I know that there are more kids out there who are hungry and we can't reach them," she said. "Right now we are only reaching 10,000 of the 30,000 kids that are hungry in Lucas County. All of the partners even together are only reaching the tip of the iceberg."

She referred to public school statistics as the markers for improvement. "Over 80 percent of Toledo Public School students qualify for free or reduced meals," Huntley says. "These numbers drop only slightly for Washington Local, which reports that 60 percent of its students meet these qualifications. While Springfield, Sylvania, and Rossford schools and some of the other districts are ticking very close to 50 percent of kids who qualify for these programs."

And although Huntley has a huge plan for where she wants Connecting Kids to Meals to go next, she says that she wants the underlying structures of the organization to be solid.

"In two years we have grown from about 80 sites to 104 sites, and our afterschool program has grown from 8 to 28 locations," Huntley explains. "This is a significant improvement, but it takes time to build a strong foundation. "We have to make sure that our systems and procedures are running in an excellent way so that we can build stronger." Huntley says that as they continue to grow, they must also continue to maintain adequate FDA requirements, develop nutritious menus for the kids and strengthen their purchasing power in order to keep costs down.

Huntley credits the dedication of the people she works with for some of the growth and success that they've experienced over the years, but she also welcomes community involvement.

Come out to support us at one of our fundraising events," Huntley says. "Join our mailing list. Like us and follow us on social media." We want to hear from you and get your feedback." Huntley adds that there are also volunteer opportunities during the summer. We need

people to deliver meals, or stuff some envelopes. Visit our website, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved."

"We provide 5000 nutritious meals a day to kids, and we have worked tirelessly to reposition this organization," she says. "I'm like a heat-seeking missile. If I hear that there are hungry kids out there, we've got to figure out how to get meals to them."

Huntley says she and her staff will continue to move forward in order to create a better life for kids. "In three years I want to be able to access and provide greater solutions in our communities through increased capacity and more sites," she says.

And she says that she hasn't overlooked the organization's strategic position on Monroe St., or the reformation that is underway in downtown Toledo. "We are a part of this new downtown revitalization era. We can't let the revitalization happen without us. We need to be prepared to play a role."

For more information about Connecting Kids to Meals contact them at (419)720-1106 or visit their website: <http://www.connectingkidstomeals.org/>

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*MLK... continued from page 4*

integrated. Can young people, irrespective of ethnic or race, come together and plan an event together? It is good to perform separately, but it's better if they work together and perform jointly.

The success of the civil right movement was based on all working to make it a success. It was not the black group working separately, the white group working separately; no, it was collective and complementary. I feel this is the spirit lacking in our preparations for MLK day.

We take the easy route of inviting diverse groups to participate and perform. The difficulty is in having a harmonious group working together to perform together. I believe that is the key to achieving the dream of MLK. The dream where we work together in a common purpose for the good of the community.

As we plan for the MLK 2018, let us be more integrated with our approach. Let groups work together to produce a common or joint performance instead of separate performances. Let all embrace the life and work of MLK!

Chris Lebron, writing in the New York Time opinion page to mark MLK in 2015, stated: "When you celebrate Dr. King, what are you cheering? Do you cheer the greatness of a man who fully knew his journey's destination was insecure? The greatness of a man who paid the ultimate price so that my son could vote and sit in class alongside your children? If so, I am happy to join you. Do you celebrate his struggle as a resounding success that ushered in a new age of race relations? Do you intend to show appreciation for the notion that he helped us move past a difficult moment in American history? If so, then I cannot join you. And I fear that I observe the tendency to celebrate not so much the man but the hope that claiming him for all Americans exculpates us from the sins of inhumanity that is racial marginalization."

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

Duke's music. So I just think music is one of the best gifts that God has given us. It evokes emotion. Music can change your mood. It's all about the senses. Your taste, smell, hearing all of those senses are heightened, not just physically, but also emotionally," she maintains."

Our selection of the playlist went like this:

Me: "What would you like on the playlist?"

Willettta: "Well, it's Valentine's Day, so I definitely think of ballads. Stevie Wonder has to be on the list. And Heat Wave's "Always and Forever" is one of your favorites. But selections by Luther, Marvin Gaye and Jeffrey Osborne, should be included also."

Me: "What about The Isleys? Early in our marriage and about the time that Tracee was born, we kept songs like "Voyage to Atlantis" and "For the Love of You" in heavy rotation. So that definitely brings back memories."

Willettta: "Yes, yes, yes!"

Finally, The Meal:

The biggest challenge, for a novice like me, has been to learn the nuanced rhythms of my wife's culinary skills so that we could dance together in the kitchen without my stepping on her toes, so to speak.

She requires fresh herbs and spices and deplores ingredients such as processed garlic or commercial seasoning mixes. Willettta also has little patience for my numerous requests for explanations of her choices of in-

gredients and techniques. At times she gently, but firmly gets me back in rhythm in the kitchen.

"In the process of cooking," she maintains, "You have to be focused on the food itself. It's not a science project. If I am stirring gravy and it's browning quickly, I don't have time, then, to stop and talk or explain why. You've got to hurry up and get me some water because if you don't, the gravy is gonna be too dark or ruined. So, it's not only about the love, it's also that we are creating an art form, and as a couple, we don't limit it to the process but we want a great product also."

So, having made a purposeful choice to make romance and intimacy a priority in our marriage, we came together to spend quality time on Valentine's Day. We planned the evening. We developed a menu, created a mood for romance, and stood next to each other cutting and sautéing vegetables. We both gave and took in order to bond together and cook a wonderful wonderful meal.

So now, let's sit down, relax and enjoy our creation and see where the adventure finally takes us.

"Wait. That's the doorbell. Can you get it?"

"Who is it?"

It's the kids and our grand daughter. For, they seem to have a knack for showing up just when the work is done and the food is ready!

"Oh well. I love you, Honey!"

"I love you too, Boo!"



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*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

(c) Not sure if I could get the voters in my precincts to follow me. At least, I haven't tried to do so.

**CONFESSION FIVE:**

This radical "talk" will not work in Toledo because:

- (a) Toledoans will not respond to this...at least I think they won't.
- (b) I did not sign up for this type of activism, so count me out!
- (c) I am fearful of back lash from the media and I need this job to float my bottom line.
- (d) This will not work because I don't see myself as a "black" mayor or a "black" city council person...so there!

Here's to honest answers and introspection!

Contact Lave Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

# Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America by Michael Eric Dyson

Special to The Truth

I know what you're thinking.

You've said that before, to a furrowed brow, a mischievous smile, a child who's about to do something sneaky. You can see it in the eyes, the body language, the tone of voice, and you know just what they're thinking. But until you've read *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson, you might not really have a clue.

You watch the news, you read the paper, and you know that things aren't going well in our country. Much of it, says Dyson, can be blamed on race, and the fixes he believes are needed are most eloquently said in a sermon.

Racism, he says is "poison." For black people, that's not a possibility, it's a fact. It's seen in courtrooms and streets, colleges and workplaces, neighborhoods and prisons. It means that black parents must specifically remind their children how to act around police officers, an everyday caution that white people rarely need to worry about, but "that can mean the difference between life and death for [African Americans]."

Most white people, he says, are racist, even if they don't mean to be. Some of them don't even know they're racist; or they'll deny it, until they read a book like this one with truths laid bare. African Americans know that un-overt, deeply-buried kind of racism and they discuss it with one another but rarely with whites; most whites don't know or don't think about it because they weren't taught it. Instead, it's a legacy of skin color, passed down for centuries.

White people have an advantage, says Dyson, by merely being white. "White privilege" opens doors. It doesn't worry about dying in a police encounter. White privilege offers higher-paying jobs and nicer homes. It enjoys "a way of life that comes at the direct expense of other folk

who are denied the privileges you take for granted."

So what can be done?

"Beloved," says Dyson, the first step is to wake up to the advantages of being white, realize the wrongness of it, and admit it. Demand justice for injustices. And be open and willing to be R.E.S.P.O.N.S.I.V.E.

Got a comfortable chair to relax in? If not, then get one. *Tears We Cannot Stop* is going to keep you there.

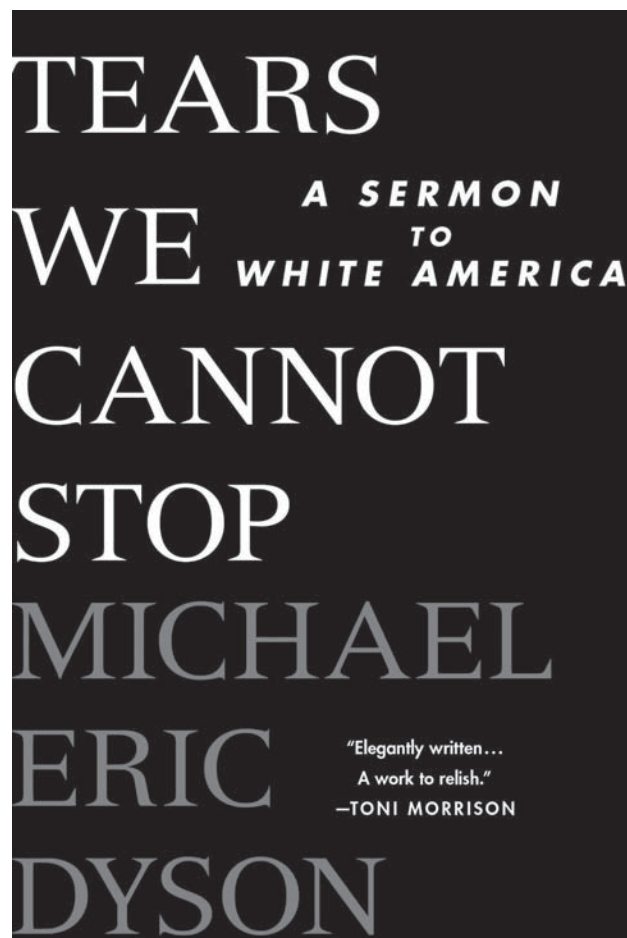
Yes, there's controversy in what author Michael Eric Dyson states, but it will also open a lot of eyes. To get readers there, Dyson chides as deftly as he uses outrage and sorrow, but his point never wavers: we will not fix this country until we get to the root of racism and that *must start* with the education of, and mind-set-change within, white America. He offers ideas here on how that can happen, as well as musings on cultural assimilation, racial epithets, and the re-writing of history.

At just 228 pages, this might seem like a small, quick read, though it's anything but. Instead, be ready to pause nearly every other sentence, absorb what is said, and prepare for action. *Tears We Cannot Stop* is meant to change your thinking.

c. 2017  
St. Martin's Press  
\$24.99 / \$34.99 Canada  
228 pages



Michael Eric Dyson, photo courtesy Nina Subin



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http://www.opusradio.com/shows/  
one\_community\_show  
Call 419-246-1550

**HarlemLanesRadio.com**  
6pm - 10pm Mon - Fri  
Call in 914-997-0341

**On The Edge Talk/Radio Show**  
Sunday Afternoon 3pm - 5pm  
http://radio.com/kyrie1973  
Call in 347-327-9987

**"THE PRAISE BREAK"**  
The Praise Break  
Evangelist Marka Daniels 2pm - 6pm Mon - Sat.  
Call 419-213-0008

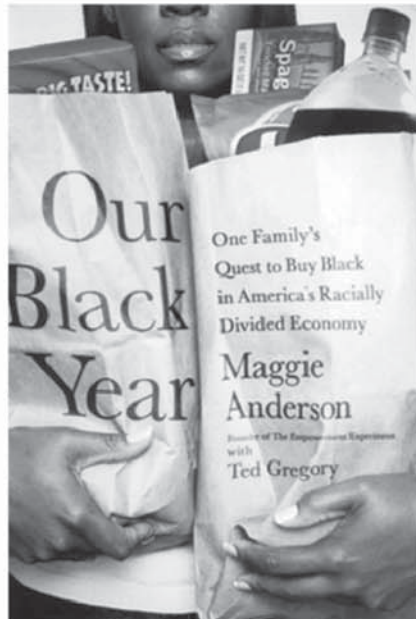




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419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462  
Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Retirement Parties, Board Game Tournaments, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive priority bookings, church and organizational bookings welcomed

Free Wi-Fi, Light refreshments available, Safe and secured lighted parking. Accommodations for parties up to 45.

Standard booking fee for Profit and Non-profit, Event Planner available upon request

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**CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH** Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

**Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

When: Every 4th Sunday  
Time: 11:00 am  
Where: Crusaders for Christ Church  
930 Woodville Rd.  
Toledo, Ohio

Evangelist: Tashia Reynolds

Bishop Joseph Marshall Jr., Pastor  
Evangelist: Calbert Marshall, First Lady

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed

Free Wi-Fi

**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**



# CLASSIFIEDS

February 15, 2017

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## NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

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\*Now Accepting Applications for 1 and  
2 Bedroom Apartment Homes\*

Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available.



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## MT. NEBO CHURCH DINNER SALE

Sunday, February 19 at 1:30 pm. Dinners  
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Two bedroom apartments for rent – plus  
Move-In Special.

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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Lucas County Land Bank is seeking qualified and efficient lawn maintenance contractors for the upcoming season. If your company specializes in grass-cutting at a large volume, we want you to apply!

Deadline to return Request for Qualification applications is March 13, 2017 at Noon to the Land Bank's office, One Government Center, Suite 580, Toledo, Ohio, 43604. A mandatory contractor informational meeting will be held on February 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at One Government Center, 1st Floor Conference Room. Complete details and the Request for Qualifications application can be found at the Land Bank's website at [www.LucasCountyLandBank.org](http://www.LucasCountyLandBank.org) or by visiting the Land Bank's office.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a community organization whose mission is to return vacant and abandoned properties to productive use. MBE/WBE/EDGE contractors in the Toledo region are encouraged to apply.

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Unison Behavioral Health Group is seeking a Housing Development Manager. This position researches and procures grants or other funding sources for anticipated projects, assists with feasibility studies, works with finance on the development of budgets, serves as the subject matter expert for the agency on community based housing and capacity within the community as well as HUD regulations, and provides guidance to staff on housing. Qualified candidates must have five years of experience in community based housing, HUD, grant research and procurement and project management. Bachelor's degree in business administration, finance or related field required, Master's degree preferred.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Unison Health  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Visit our website: [unisonbhg.org](http://unisonbhg.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Manager of Modernization; Administrative Assistant. For complete details, visit [www.lucasmha.org/Employment](http://www.lucasmha.org/Employment). **Deadline: 02/26/17.** This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Full and part-time opportunities on various shifts available for experienced Licensed Practical Nurses to assist within an adult 16 bed sub-acute detoxification unit. Typical duties would include client observation, medication administration, drug screens and performing EKGs. Administrative duties such as referral coordination, client case closures, program discharges, initiation of prior authorizations and other duties as assigned.

Qualified candidates must possess current Ohio licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse with Meds, current CPR and First Aide certification. At least one year of experience working in an acute care setting required. Additional experience in a psychiatric setting preferred. Position requires ability to work weekends and alternate shifts at times as needed.

## REGISTERED NURSE

Full and part-time opportunities available on various shifts for experienced nurses to provide client care within a 16-bed sub-acute detoxification unit. Selected candidates will perform duties such as induction of medications, drug screens, performing EKG & ERGs, completing CIWA and COWS assessments, reviewing OARRS for prescription-filled verification and preparing prior authorizations.

Qualified candidates must possess current Ohio RN license, CPR and First Aide certification. At least three years of experience in a critical care setting required. Psychiatric nursing experience preferred. Position requires ability to work weekends and alternate shifts at times as needed.

## AOD THERAPIST

Full and part-time therapists to work on various shifts providing services within an adult 16-bed sub-acute detoxification unit. Therapists will provide individual and group counseling, complete diagnostic assessments and perform case management. Services provided by therapist will encompass all 12-core functions of a chemical dependency counselor.

Candidate must possess a Master's Degree and have a minimum of two years' experience working with adults with mental health and substance abuse issues. Must have either a mental health license (LISW, LPCC, LSW, LPC) or a chemical dependency license (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC). Dual licensure preferred. Current CPR and First Aid required. Previous experience within a residential, MAT, or detoxification unit preferred. Position requires ability to work weekends and alternate shifts at times as needed.

Unison Health  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Visit our website: [unisonbhg.org](http://unisonbhg.org)

EOE

# Community Opens Its Hearts to the Muslim Community

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



*Rev. Cedric Brock, Imam Shamsuddin Waheed, S. Maseeh Rehman*

"We are here for a moment of encouragement," said Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) as he opened an event featuring an outpouring of support for the Toledo-area Muslim community.

The IMA-sponsored event also brought together community leaders and elected officials to express their support for fellow citizens and their anguish over attempts by the current presidential administration to ban Muslim entry to the country.

"The mere presence of [everyone here] is the proof that we live in the best part of this great country," said S. Maseeh Rehman, welcoming the crowd of about 50 people to the Grape Leaf Diner at the corner of Angola and McCord. "Home is not where you are born, home is where you belong."

Anticipating the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court's striking down the travel ban last Friday that the administration had ordered for travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries, Rehman called the ban unconstitutional and counterproductive.

"With your help, with your love, we can fight this discrimination," he told an appreciative audience.

Several of the speakers were pointed in their disparaging remarks about the current administration and its attempts to enforce a Muslim ban. "How could we fail?" asked Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. "I say as we look around the room – I stand with you and it's not too much when we are working together. The current [administration's] policies are between ignorance and cruelty."

"God will stop our president for being such an evil man," said Toledo City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD.

Noting that many of the same people had gathered together in the same

room a year ago to express solidarity, Imam Shamsuddin Waheed of Toledo's Masjid Islamic Center observed that those gathered on that day a year ago could not have foreseen the devastation of current events.

However, he added, "we will not let religion, or race, or class divide us."

Islamic Center Trustee Naveed Ahmed spoke of the affinity of the Muslim community for the black community. "We owe a great debt of gratitude to the African-American community," said Ahmed. "We are walking in your shoes." Ahmed also spoke of the optimism each community should maintain. "We shouldn't be disheartened, this is the same country that elected Barack Obama."

"We are coming together in a united front," said Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. "This is just the beginning, let's keep it going."



*Councilwoman Cecelia Adams speaks*



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