



Volume 44, No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 12, 2017

A Pair of ACES



Scott Students Abdul Rafiq Lartey and Birama Ndiaye

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A Withered Tree and Overturned Tables

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

The TruthContributor

Man is terribly selfish, and will take his chances for keeping things as they are in his favor rather than yield to any sacrifice of his position as an exploiter and self-styled superior of his victims.

- Carter G. Woodson



Passion or Holy Week, for the Church, is the time between Palm Sunday and Easter. For me, the most memorable events of the week are when Jesus caused a leafy but fruitless fig tree to wither followed by his demonstrative cleansing of the Temple.

The Temple a/k/a "House of Prayer" was the center of religious power but had become, instead, a center for institutional abuse and exploitation.

Despite its unrivaled historical influence upon black people and black culture, the black church - seen by many as the heartbeat of the black community, should take heed.

The Problem?

The sexism and heterosexism espoused by dying mainstream churches as well as the moral and ethical lapses of church leaders does not bode well for the future of the black church. Younger generations are increasingly seeking guidance and support elsewhere and many do not view the institutional black church as relevant to their contemporary needs.

Like the Jesus of Holy Week who found an abundant supply of foliage but no fruit on the fig tree, 21st century seekers are hungry. They are starving for solutions for their perplexing circumstances and answers to their problems.

They no longer come to church merely to watch faith leaders Whip/Nae Nae or to see how many cartwheels/somersaults worshipers can perform down the aisles. Instead, they want to know whether their church or its leadership can make a positive difference in their lives. They also want to know if faith leaders and the church can change the current course of events and make things better or if they will challenge the system that is oppressing them.

However, congregations too often discover that the church and its leaders have out-Pharaohed Pharaoh to become a black version of an anti-black institutional center of power that also exploits and abuses black lives.

The Response?

Jesus' response to the Temple's institutional exploitation and abuse was what biblical scholar Wilda Gafney calls "snatching wigs and

overturning tables." Gafney defines this as a holy and disruptive response to violence against black lives. Snatching wigs and overturning tables, she says, is the "practice of exposing that which poseurs and perpetrators want to keep hidden under the cosmetic veneer of respectability." Often it is our religious institutions and leaders that perpetuate and reinforce structural oppression that needs to be "turned over and dismantled."

Also, faith leaders can - and should - offer a new symbolic center to the community by shifting the church from its trendy institutional emphasis based on a "legitimacy of materialism" to a moral and socio-political focus that centers around wholeness, wellness and healing.

After all, as my seminary professor Andrew Sung Park has written, "The primary reason of Jesus' coming into the world was to bring good news to the afflicted and the sinned-against." We are quick to offer forgiveness to the abusers and exploiters but slow to emphasize prayer and ministry for the healing and restoration of the victims of exploitation.

In any event, my take away from the events of Holy Week is that: Now is the time to stand up to exploitative and abusive power. Even if, by snatching wigs and overturning of tables, our actions lead to our own crucifixion.

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

Community Calendar

April 14

St James The Armory COGIC Good Friday Service: Noon to 1 pm: 419-867-8143

April 17

Junction Coalition Monthly Community Meeting: Fredrick Douglass Community Association; 6 pm

April 21-22

Calvary MBC Women's Ministry 20th Spring Retreat: "Be still and know that I am God;" Holiday Inn and Suites in Lima: 419-787-9635

April 22

Jazz Appreciation Month Celebration at Kent Branch Library: "Celebrating Women in Jazz;" 1 pm; Pete Ford Trio, Jim Gottron Quartet, Galen Bundy Combo, Dan Welch Quartet: 419-531-9933 or 419-259-5340

April 23

True Vine 3rd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Jerome Graham; 4 pm; "Where He leads me, I will follow;" Guest Rev. John Roberts and Indiana Avenue MBC: 419-539-9104

April 27

YWCA's Stand Against Racism Summit: 9 am to 1 pm - Main Branch Library; 5 to 7:30 pm - Cherry Street Mission's Life Revitalization Center; Keynote speaker Candi Castleberry Singleton; Topics include - social deterrents, education, economics, juvenile justice, employment, health disparities: 419-241-3235 or mgarner@ywcawno.org

April 29

Hip Hop "Extreme Mission" 2017: Presented by New Leaf Group and Positive Force Dance; Scott High School; 3:30 to 5 pm; Boys only with adult male; Grades 6-12; Guest speaker Maurice Claret --- 5 to 7 pm - boys and girls; Grades 6-12; Guest speakers James Jackson of Owens and John Hicklin

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Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Megan Davis - Columnist

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Lucas County Children Services Recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month

"Wear Blue Day," Child Memorial Scheduled to Engage Community

Special to The Truth

Lucas County Children Services is announcing its activities to raise awareness that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

On April 12, LCCS is once again encouraging Lucas County residents to join in Ohio's "Wear Blue" day to combat child abuse. Now in its sixth year, "Wear Blue" urges people from all walks of life to wear blue on this day to show their support for keeping kids safe from abuse or neglect. LCCS is asking people to post photos of themselves wearing blue on April 12 on the agency's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/LucasCountyChildrenServices>, by tweeting their photo using the hashtag #WearBlue or emailing images to information@co.lucas.oh.us.

Between April 2016 and April 2017, nine children died in Lucas County as a result of physical abuse, neglect, or community violence. LCCS will remember these youth at its annual memorial on April 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the agency's offices at 705 Adams St., Toledo. This solemn ceremony will include comments from Randy Oostra, president and CEO of ProMedica Health System, music from the Whitmer High School string quartet, and a presentation of the colors from the Springfield High School ROTC program. The public is encouraged to attend.

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

In 2016, LCCS received 4,564 referrals for suspected child abuse or neglect, up one percent from 2015. These reports involved 6,822 alleged child victims, and led to us confirm that 1,465 children were maltreated in 2016, up 37 percent from the previous year. Forty-three percent of them were five years old or younger. The most referrals (867) came from the 43605 zip code, but the highest rate of referrals came from the 43604 zip code, where more than 121 of every 1,000 children was the subject of a report of suspected abuse or neglect. Substance abuse was an identified problem for 56 percent of new cases opened for ongoing services in 2016; 62 percent of those cases involved heroin or opiate abuse. Mental health accounted for 37 percent of cases opened.

About Lucas County Children Services

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.

Senators Brown and Gardner Announce Funding for UT Campus Infrastructure Improvements

University of Toledo to receive \$2.1 million for equipment for Campus Infrastructure Project

Special to The Truth

This week, Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) and Senator Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) announced that the State Controlling Board has released \$2.1 million to the University of Toledo for equipment for the Campus Infrastructure Improvements project.

According to the request, the funding will go toward investing in the addition of cooling towers for the two existing chillers in the South Chilled Water Plant as well as a new chiller for the North Chilled Water Plant, both on the Main Campus. Adding cooling towers to the South Plant and a chiller upgrade at the North will make them more dependable and will encourage effective energy utilization. Plant modifications will also reduce maintenance costs across Main Campus.

"I'm pleased that the University of Toledo received funding for the Campus Infrastructure Improvements project," said Brown. "These are necessary upgrades that will benefit the university's students and staff while also producing a desirable fiscal outcome."

Brown, who is the Senate Minority Whip, received agreement from Gardner, who is Senate Majority Floor leader.

"We must continue to support basic infrastructure assistance for our higher education institutions," Gardner said. "These funds help us protect the public's investment in these facilities."



Edna Brown

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The Truth Examines Despicable Lending Practices – Part 5 – Rent to Own Furniture and Appliance Stores

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Need a TV? Need a TV in a hurry?

You've got options these days. In a just a few minutes you can be at one of several Walmarts in the area and pick up a 24" Samsung for only \$127.99.

Or is a 24 inch screen too small? What you really want – not need, but want – is a big screen TV. OK, keep looking around in Walmart and you can get a 55" Phillips 4K Ultra HD Smart LED TV for a very reasonable \$448.00.

You don't have \$448? No problem. Just get the smaller one now, for such a low price. Sit a little closer to the screen for a few months until you have the \$448 and can splurge on the bigger one. Pass the smaller one along to a friend or a relative for about \$50.

No good, eh? Gotta have that big screen immediately and your credit isn't so good? There are certainly a lot of alternatives in the area – rent to own furniture and appliance stores where you can get that big screen immediately.

For example, you can walk into one of about a dozen Rent-A-Centers in the area and find that same big screen Phillips – the very same model – and you can walk out of the store today with it – bad credit or no credit, notwithstanding. And for only \$28.99 per week. And you don't have to squint at a tiny 24" screen.

The good news is that after only 72 weeks, you will own your big screen. The bad news, the very bad news, is that you will have paid a total of \$2,261.22 over that time or more than five times what it

would have cost you at Walmart.

Who would make such a deal? There are 15 Rent-A-Centers and a half dozen Aaron's Lease to Own shops in the area – to name the big companies – so somebody out there is making such deals. In fact millions of people around the nation are availing themselves of these deals annually.

The Truth has thus far examined payday lenders, housing scams and auto predators, all of which can wreak havoc in a person or family's life. Rent to own businesses are not quite on that level simply because of the difference between want and need.

There are times when one needs some extra money, when one needs a place to live or when one needs to buy a car to get to work.

One hardly ever needs a certain bedroom set or living room suite. And, truth be told, one may want but never, ever needs a 55" Phillips 4K Ultra HD Smart LED TV. However, all that wanting and satisfying those wants in such financially harmful ways such as renting unnecessary items from a rent to own shop eventually creates needs – such as the need for a loan from a payday lender to keep afloat an unsustainable lifestyle.

Bill (not his real name) is all too familiar with the process. Bill worked at an Aaron's Lease to Own for several years while he was attending college. Part of Bill's duties during that time involved collecting money from clients – and collecting the furniture and appliances when they wouldn't or couldn't pay the weekly or monthly rental fee.

Bill observed his store management make hundreds, if not thousands, of arrangements with people who obviously could not afford such luxury items. The store would lease a television set, for example, and as it happened so often, within a couple of months the client would find that the \$110 to \$120 monthly price tag was a lot more difficult to make than he had anticipated.

The store's truck would be sent to the residence to pick up the television which would be sent out the next day to a new client's home. The store would keep the same merchandise moving in and out of residences, says Bill, collecting a few months' payments here and there.

It was ultimately to the store's benefit, says Bill, that people couldn't keep up with their payments because the store was often able to keep collecting rental fees on the merchandise without ever giving it up.

Our local Rent-A-Centers know their clientele. In their promotional piece for the 55" Phillips, they list the cash price as \$1,299 – a bold move considering that's almost three times the price that the competition charges. Clearly they know that virtually no one wanders into their stores to pay cash for any item, but attaching such a





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Lending Practices... continued from page 4

price tag to the Phillips makes the 78 weekly payment total seem less outrageous.

Charles (not his real name) knows all about the pitfalls of impulse buying ... or renting as the case may be. After a divorce, Charles found himself starting all over again, in an apartment with just a few pieces of furniture borrowed from friends. He felt he needed to fill up the living room immediately, so he went to a Rent-A-Center and quickly obtained a big screen TV and a set of living room furniture. Charles held onto the items for four months before he realized that there was no way he could keep up the payments much longer into the future.

After having paid about \$250 for four months of big screen football games and lots of sleepless nights, Charles had the merchandise returned before he wasted more money. A year of sitting in his living room in a chair watching a 24" screen finally paid off when he was able to started paying cash for room furniture. He was pretty used to the 24" screen by then.

Lisa (not her real name) was not quite so lucky. Lisa graduated from college 10 years ago and immediately got a good-paying job in the medical field. She was, in her own words, "smart, competent, hard-working and totally ignorant about how to manage my finances."

Having no credit and wanting immediate gratification, Lisa found

her way to a rent-to-own store and got enough furniture to fill her one bedroom apartment. That moment of insanity led to others such as a loan from an auto dealership at an outrageous interest rate. Within a few years, Lisa was deep in debt and her no-credit status had deteriorated into a bad-credit situation. She is now working with a financial counselor to correct that situation.

Unlike the predators we have examined previously – the payday lenders, the mortgage lenders, the auto dealers – rent-to-own stores won't, by themselves, destroy an individual's financial situation. Fall behind in the payments and the store will simply grab their merchandise – there's no contractual obligation to continue paying them once that occurs.

However, as with those other lenders, rent-to-own operations prey on large number of persons, particular those of low-to-moderate incomes, and make their lives immeasurably worse while raking in enormous profits that do not stay in the communities they that they harm.

Meanwhile, if you are looking for a Sony Home Audio System with Bluetooth, Rent-A-Center has a deal for you! For only \$24.99 per week you can take it home right now. If you complete the 52 weekly payments – a total of \$1,299 – you will own it. Or, you can select the 90 days same-as-cash option and pay a mere \$779 for the system.

Of course, you can also go to Walmart and pay \$248 and save yourself a bundle. Just depends on how much you need a Sony Home Audio System with Bluetooth.

Fill Your Home on a Budget Without Visiting a Rent-to-Own Store

By First Federal Bank

Special to The Truth

A new couch, a shiny refrigerator, a big screen TV - all for a low monthly payment. It seems too good to be true; and in most cases, it is. Furnishing your home can be expensive, but with these few tips you can create your home sweet home without breaking the bank.

Ask around – If your friends or family are also preparing to purchase furniture, their old items will need a place to go. Throwing furniture away, or donating it to charity, can be a hassle for them but an opportunity for you to score furniture for cheap.

Check out garage sales and flea markets – With a sharp eye, you may find a diamond in the rough. Before purchasing a second-hand item, ask yourself these questions first – Is the item in good working condition? Can I refresh this to match my style with paint, new fabric or hardware? If you answered yes to both, go ahead and take the deal. Remember, you can always respectfully negotiate.

Take your time – Furnishing an entire home is expensive. We recom-

mend prioritizing what rooms you would like to fill first. This will give you time to catch seasonal sales. For example, you can find deals on small furniture items at mega stores like Target and Walmart around September as they try to sell dorm room essentials from their sales floor.

Resist the urge to match – While a matching living room set looks nice in a show room, you can make an eclectic mix of furniture look stunning too. Tie different pieces together with a common color or pattern. For tips on how to do this check out Pinterest.com.

Get more bang for your buck – By using a rewards debit or credit card you can earn points on the furniture and décor you are buying and then redeem it for more purchases for your home.

It may take some extra work to find the right deals, but nothing will help you relax in your home more than recalling all of your bargains. For more advice on budgeting and lending alternatives go to First-Fed.com or visit your nearest First Federal Bank branch.

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A Pair of Scott High School Students Have Come up ACES

By Linda Nelson

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In the middle of international tensions, global divisions and an impending re-structured immigration law, the American Cultural Exchange Service's (ACES), secondary program serves as an undercurrent for international reconciliation, global diplomacy and cultural understanding.

Through its efforts, the nonprofit organization – which operates through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the U.S. Department of State – and the generosity of local families who open their homes to international high school students, provide life altering experiences and far reaching effects.

Tracee Ellis, local international coordinator for ACES, said that students from more than 65 countries around the world are courted, every academic year, to come to the United States and experience life and culture.

"One of our primary initiatives for diplomacy is secondary exchange," said Ellis. "If we are going to have peace in the world, we have to understand one another. We have to teach our children diplomacy and respect and they have to be knowledgeable about international relationships and how we are dependent on one another for success."



Tracee Ellis

For Abdul Rafiq

Lartey and Birama Ndiaye the program is personal.

Lartey, 17, and Ndiaye, 15, were chosen to participate in this year's program. They described the experience of leaving their homes, their families and their friends for a nine-month opportunity to come to Toledo, attend Scott High School and become immersed in the American culture.

"This experience has changed my life," said Lartey who said he heard about the program in Ghana. "People from outside of the school came in to educate us on how to live moral lives on campus, because we were boarding students," he said. "One person in the group was an [ACES] alumnus who told us that it was a very good program and that we would get the chance to come to America, experience American culture and study abroad for one year."

Lartey said he was initially skeptical about the opportunity. "I personally thought that it wasn't possible because I didn't think that it was something that existed for someone to buy you a plane ticket and you could go outside of the country and stay in another country and study there for free and have a close family," he said. "I didn't believe it."

Lartey said that he remained doubtful throughout the process including the testing, the interviewing and even the receipt of his passport. "I didn't believe it until I got on the airplane," he said.

"I always dreamed of coming to America, and I wanted to come here because of the movies I watched on TV. It was like a dream," he said. But he soon discovered that life in the Toledo would be a far cry from the movies he'd seen on television.

"The people [here] are totally different, Lartey said. "In Ghana I was with the people that I grew up with. We slept in the same school and we knew each other. It was more of a bonding [experience] than it is here. When I got here I was confused. I had sleepless nights," he said. "And when my host mother took me places like, the mall, I still couldn't believe it. It took me about three months to settle into this environment."

And with just a couple of months left before he returns to Africa, Lartey said he has made many friends and has had several positive experiences that have strengthened, and inspired him. He has perfected his English, taken broadcasting classes and participated in public speaking events.

"My English has improved vastly, and so has my broadcasting skills," he said. "I was not so much of an outspoken person when I came here." But he is now comfortable speaking in front of crowds and sharing information about ACES.

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Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Marcy Kaptur Takes Read to Succeed Campaign to Toledo Public Library

Special to The Truth

As part of her new education initiative, "Read to Succeed," Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur met with preschool children, parents and media on Friday, March 31 at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library.

Kaptur (OH-09) is inviting parents, grandparents, caring adults, and youth from across Northern Ohio to participate in the "Read to Succeed" challenge. "Read to Succeed" is an initiative to encourage children and adults to read together and in doing so, the community is ensuring that youth are prepared to read.

Experts say that a child should be well on her way to knowing 4,000 words by kindergarten, and the "Read to Succeed" initiative will serve as a resource for communities to make sure the children in this region begin their reading adventure as early as possible.

"Reading is a very important part of our lives, and our children's success in school depends on it," said Kaptur. "Taking just 20 minutes each day to read with children can have an important impact on academic success. This short time spent reading together will expose children to 1.8 million words every year, which will help prepare them to advance. Join us in the challenge and you can help ensure our children are prepared to read, as they discover the magic in books."

On Kaptur's website – www.kaptur.house.gov – there is a list of words that parents or guardians may reference in their efforts to build a 4,000 word vocabulary for children approaching kindergarten.



ACES... continued from page 6

And in June, he will leave behind the values that he brought from Ghana and hopefully a deeper appreciation of Ghanaian music. "I tried my best," Lartey said. "I went to the extent of going to a Christian church with my host family, even though I'm a Muslim. I participated in all of the family events. And I participated in household responsibilities. I did the dishes and ironed my host family's clothes, and I had talks with my host brother about parental respect. When I go back home I hope they will remember me and say 'Oh if Rafiq were here he would have been doing the dishes. I hope that I remind them of a person that they will always remember.'"

And he will carry to Ghana all of the lessons he's learned through training and teaching and relationships that have inspired him. "I want people to know how much I've learned from here, because a lot of things I've learned here people don't know in my country," said Lartey.

He plans on using those newly acquired leadership skills to help his community. "I want to be able to teach them that community service matters and why you should value your community and your culture and how you should be able to relate to one another around the world," he said.

"Our country has a lot of economic problems. If I go back there and educate people that we all have to contribute to the progress of the country, I feel like we could solve our problems by ourselves. Nobody is going to do anything for us, but it's the responsibility of each and every one of us. There are a lot of things I want to do. Those are just a few things."

And even though Birama Ndiaye and Lartey didn't meet until they arrived in Toledo, they share similar stories. Ndiaye, who described his home country of Senegal as a "beautiful country with a diverse culture, said that

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Rafiq Abdul Lartey and Birama Ndiaye



Library Deputy Director Jason Kucsma, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Library Director Clyde Scoles



“Classical Music Filled the Air” - Local Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists

By Barbara Tucker

Special to The Truth

On Sunday, March 26, 2017 classical music filled the air as the Toledo Club and the Maumee Bay Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.) joined in a partnership to sponsor the Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists. The program was held at the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists is the signature program of the NANBPWC, Inc. established in 1982 under the leadership of Past National President Mary E. Singletary. The purpose is to provide a competitive arena for talented young vocal artists of Africa-American heritage to showcase and demonstrate their artistic abilities in classical vocal performance as well as assist them with music scholarships. Scholarships are awarded on the National Level as follows: \$2000.00 for first place, \$1000.00 for second place, \$500.00 for third place and \$300.00 for remaining contestants.

This year's competition presented Autum Cochran-Jordan, a soprano who is a junior studying Vocal Performance with a minor in Entrepreneurship at Bowling Green State University. Her voice teacher is Professor Myra Merritt. Also competing was Taylor Hillary Boykins, who has a master's degree from Peabody Conservatory of John Hopkins University. Her voice teacher is Denyce Graves-Montgomery.

Cochran-Jordan and Boykins performed selections from a repertoire consisting of an aria from a major opera, an oratorio cantata, a German Lied, a French melodie and a Negro spiritual or work by an African-American composer. Cochran-Jordan's accompanist was Xi Li, born in China, who is now a sophomore majoring in Piano Performance at Bowling Green State University. Accompanying Boykins was Stanley J. Zydek, a staff accompanist (specializing in voice) at Oakland University.

The interlude entertainment was provided by Tyler Mathis from the Positive Force Christian School of Dance. Sheila Johnson, artistic director, is her instructor.

The two contestants were adjudicated by Joan Simonis, PhD; Patricia McCauley and Preston Wilson, who are recognized in the Toledo area for their music expertise. After being adjudicated and certified as qualified, the winner will advance to the 52nd North Central District Conference Vocal Arts Competition to be held on May 19, 2017 at the Toledo Radisson Hotel.

If successful there, she will represent the North Central District of the NANBPWC, Inc. at the National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas in July 2017. This year's winner was Taylor Hillary Boykins. The Toledo Club and the Maumee Bay Club are proud to have her represent us.

The steering committee was composed of the following members from the two collaborating clubs.

The Maumee Bay Club was represented by President Linda Collins, 1st

Vice President Pattie Poston and 2nd Vice President Trevor Black.

The Toledo Club was represented by Barbara Tucker, chairperson; Denise Black-Poon, president; BJ Tucker, 1st vice president; Frances Collins, PhD, 2nd vice president; Sarah Burkes and Mirona Harris. Toledo Youth Club members Kevon Snodgrass, Jada and Jordan Collins and Carrington Kynard from the Maumee Bay Youth Club served as escorts for the contestants, accompanists and as program participants.

The Maumee Bay Club and the Toledo Club both actively perform services to benefit the community under the umbrella of the national program mandates: LETS: Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Technology and Service that includes the areas of Health, Education, Employment, and Economic Development. Also mandated are Founders' Day, Vocal Arts and Women's History. In addition, they now implement special national projects: Get Ready! Stay Ready!, S.A.F.E. Encounters, Triple the P.I.N.K., Heart, Think Health and Domestic Violence on Lock Down.



Barbara Tucker, Chairperson, Linda Collins, Maumee Bay Club President, Autum Cochran-Jordan, Contestant, Deborah Carlisle, Toledo Club Member, Taylor Hillary Boykins, Winner and Denise Black-Poon, Toledo Club President



Contestants, Accompanists, Adjudicators, Members of Toledo Club and Toledo Youth Club, Maumee Bay Club and Maumee Bay Youth Club



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Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Navarre Elementary First Annual Holds Career Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"We want our students to be college and career ready," said Katherine Taylor, principal of Navarre Elementary School explaining why she was inspired to organize the school's first Career Day.

On Friday, April 1, Taylor and her staff brought in more than a dozen guest speakers who addressed the Navarre students on a wide range of career options.

The Toledo Public Schools mantra of educating students to be "college and career ready," said Taylor led her to fashion a program that would get Navarre students to start thinking about "what is it you think you do well?"

Seventh and eighth grade students had the opportunity to listen to McDonald's owner Jon Harris, Beirut Chef Eli Abou Rjeily, Bail Bondsman Tina Butts, Toledo Police Officer Matthew Kozlaker and Marshall Adams, aircraft mechanic. In addition seventh and eighth graders also learned about the opportunities they would have with TPS in preparing for careers from Khalfani Rice of the adult education department.



Tina Butts



Katherine Taylor



Seventh and eighth graders

Fifth and sixth grade students heard from Avery Cooper, social worker; Ann Bondy, massage therapist; Annie Bratton of the U.S. Air Force; Penny Cline, identity and access engineer and Fireman Matt Tabb.

Even the third and fourth grade students were exposed to some career information from Paramedic Lt. Zakariya Reed.



Officer Kozlaker

Book Signing/Art Show

Join us at The Truth Art Gallery for a book signing and art exhibition by author/painter Gabriela Orza on April 22, 2017. Vivid colors and bold images in her paintings and a wealth of information and pleasing imagery for children in her book will fascinate visitors from the hours of 1 to 4 p.m.

In addition to Orza's art, visitors will be treated to a variety of works by local artists.

Join us on Saturday, April 22 – 1811 Adams Street. In the UpTown district – next to Poco Loco!

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Teach Your Children about Money this Financial Literacy Month

Special to The Truth

April is Financial Literacy Month, an ideal time to think about the lessons your children are learning about money. Setting a good financial example is just the start. Parents should also actively engage children on the topic. These lessons can help put kids and teens on the right path towards a financially responsible adulthood.

How Money Works

Now that many consumers use credit or debit cards, buy things online and even purchase movies on their televisions and mobile devices, children may not realize when you are actually spending money and that money is needed to buy things.

Take time to explain to them that products and services have different prices. They also need to learn that money can be spent only once, and that after buying something, a person needs to earn more money in order to buy something else. Play "grocery store" or other games that involve buying and selling items. Take turns being the cashier and the customer.

Saving for a Goal

Teach your children that some things cost more money than they may have now, and that saving means putting some money aside a bit at a time until you have enough to buy what you want. Kids can learn to keep money in a safe place and practice their math skills by keeping track of the amount saved for future spending.

To maximize the benefits your child receives for saving money, you may want to consider a Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) or custodial bank account. Those offered by Ally Bank Member FDIC, for example, earn a competitive rate of interest with no monthly maintenance fee. Plus, there's no minimum balance to open the account. When opening such an account, use this as an opportunity to discuss interest and other basic banking concepts.

The Importance of Self-Control

Help your children learn the difference between needs and wants or wishes. Explain that although everyone really wants things like toys and electronics,

you have to pay for needs - things like food, shelter and heat - before you can buy items that are wants. Help your children come up with a plan to save and spend their own money that takes into account their wants and needs.

Making Spending Decisions

The next time you need to make a big purchase, talk it through with your child. Explain how you weigh the pros and cons. Show how taking time to ask questions, learn about different choices, and compare what's good and bad about each choice helps you reach good decisions.

"Financial literacy ideally begins in childhood. Even young children should learn about basic concepts like saving for a goal and spending only what you can afford," says Jacqueline Howard, director of Corporate Citizenship at Ally Financial.

There are many resources to help you talk to your kids about money and finances. Parents can download a free ebook from Ally Bank about the basics of money to share with their children at allywalletwise.com or visit fdic.gov/moneysmart for resources for all ages.

This April, take the time to boost your children's financial literacy and enforce the concept of smart money management.

Courtesy StatePoint

Swahili Classes Offered

The Toledo Kwanzaa House will offer a basic conversational Swahili class beginning Saturday April 15, 2017 for five consecutive weeks each Saturday from 11 am -noon at the Frederick Douglass Community Association, 1001 Indiana Ave. Toledo, Ohio. Tuition is free.

The cost of instructional materials, including text and CD's is \$30. Scholarships are available for high school and/or college students. Instructors are Msimbi and Rahwae Shuman. For more info contact Diane Gordon @ 419 410 -8022 or Rahwae Shuman @ 419 902-8904.

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Toledo Teen Named Ohio Youth of the Year by Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Keyaunte Jones set to receive college scholarship and vie for regional title this summer

Special to The Truth

Selected among 11 outstanding youth, Keyaunte Jones has been named the Ohio Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.

Now in its 70th year, the Youth of the Year program honors our nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures and encourages all kids to lead, succeed and inspire. As the Ohio Youth of the Year, Jones will serve as an ambassador for all teens in the state, will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and will go on to vie for the regional Youth of the Year and ultimately the national title.

Jones will graduate this May from St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy where he is a member of the Christian service, meal delivery and academic tutoring programs. He is also a member of the Ambassador Society and the baseball team. This fall, he will attend Grambling State University where he will pursue a degree in biology and play baseball.

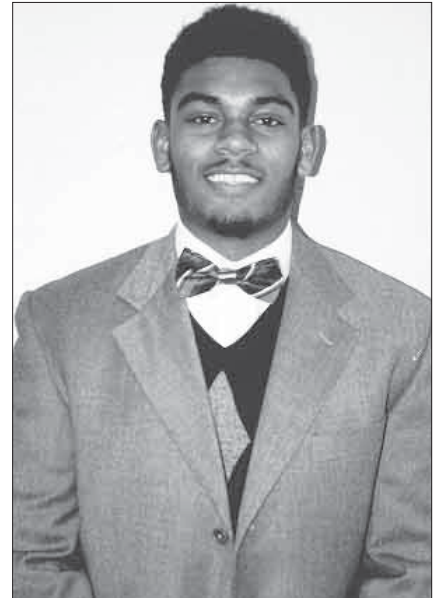
As a Keystone Club member and a Junior Staff, Jones spends a lot of time at the Club yet still serves as a program volunteer whenever and wherever he is needed. He is also currently in the development stages of a baseball skills clinic for Boys & Girls Club members. During his nine years as a Club member, he is most proud of the lasting friendships he has made and how Club staff have helped him grow into a mature young man. He also takes pride in being selected twice by his peers to receive the Camp Big Silver Sagamore Award for embodying true leadership and the Islander Award for determination.

"Keyaunte and all Youth of the Year nominees are living proof that Boys & Girls Clubs across the country are inspiring and enabling young people to achieve great futures," said Jim Clark, president and CEO, BGCA. "Being named Youth of the Year is a lifelong honor. As the 2017 Youth of the Year, Keyaunte will serve as a spokesperson for our young people, sharing his inspiring story and leading the way to transform communities for the better."

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by Disney, who has supported the youth advocacy organization for more than 50 years, empowering young people to reach their full potential and providing youth with access to the tools they need to build the great futures they imagine.

Toyota, the Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, is dedicated to inspiring the next generations of engineers, thinkers and leaders who will help drive the American economy. Additional support is provided by University of Phoenix, a committed partner who has worked with Boys & Girls Clubs of America on many Academic Success initiatives, and the Taco Bell Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier partner for teen empowerment.

This summer, Jones will join other state winners



Keyaunte Jones

to vie for the Midwest regional title. If named the regional winner, he will be awarded an additional \$10,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$40,000.

Six youth, including five regional winners and a military youth winner, will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2017, to compete for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of \$25,000, renewable for four years up to \$100,000 and will have the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit www.youthoftheyear.org.

ACES... continued from page 7

his road to here was easier for him to believe. But he also went through an adjustment period once he got to the U.S. He described the process, "My English teacher talked about the program and said that everyone could apply," said Ndiaye.

He said that his father's previous enrollment at Virginia Tech and reassurance that "you can do everything if you can put your heart in it," gave him the confidence to believe that it was possible. "It was like a dream for me to come here," Ndiaye said. "Even before I took the exam, I went home and told my mom, 'I'm going to the U.S.'"

He arrived in September which meant he wouldn't have a break between school sessions, but that seemed to be the easy part. "The most challenging was leaving my country, and changing my whole life to come to a new land," he said. "I wasn't sure how my host family was going to be or how the people were going to be. It was very hard."

Also hard for Ndiaye was the process of learning English as a second language to his native French and adjusting to the Ohio climate. "I used to wear shorts and short-sleeved shirts back home and when I came in September I always wore shorts and they would ask me 'why are you wearing shorts? It's cold.'"

And like Lartey, Ndiaye has also adjusted to new surroundings and quickly took in stride a full school schedule and multiple extracurricular activities. "I love sports," Ndiaye said about his participation in soccer, basketball, track and bowling. And he also found time to join the band.

And also like Lartey, Ndiaye has gained wisdom and a sense of community activism from those around him which he plans to take home to Senegal.

"When I go back home I want to work for my

...continued on page 12

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Kurt Young Announces Candidacy for City Council

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Attorney Kurt Young, one of four persons endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party for City Council, announced his candidacy on Wednesday, April 5, at the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum on Robinwood Street in the Old West End.

"In times of need, you step up and serve your community," said Young in his opening remarks. "We need to ensure that we have community development right here in our own neighborhoods."

Young is the owner of The Law Offices of Kurt M. Young, LLC, which has been helping working families in Toledo for 13 years and is located in UpTown. Kurt's wife of 18 years, Cheri Holdridge, is a spiritual care coordinator for Heartland Hospice. His daughter is headed to The Ohio State University next year while his son will be starting Toledo Technology Academy.

A first-time candidate, Young has been endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party, the Lucas County Young Democrats, the University of Toledo College Democrats and Sheet Metal Workers Local 33.

Young listed three major issues that his campaign will focus on: "First, we need to fight to create jobs – good paying jobs .. then we need to work on our infrastructure – I will work with anyone willing to help us ... and

third, I will help to create more safe, livable neighborhood like this [Old West End neighborhood]."

Young held his announcement at the Arboretum, three houses down from his house on Robinwood where he and his family have lived for 18 years. The Arboretum is the former site of St. Luke's Hospital and is a result of a concerted effort by the neighborhood residents to revitalize that section of the Old West End.



Young announces candidacy



Kurt Young and wife Cheri Holdridge

ACES... continued from page 6

home country and help them a lot with the government," Ndiaye said. "I want to promote working together. I want to promote learning the English language. It is the key to opening a lot of doors for the future. I see my government and they are way back in technology, finance, education, and politics. We need more. We don't have enough. We don't have enough food. But we have a lot of different ways to work on that. Sometimes people wait for someone to lead them. I say why wait for someone to change things. Be the change you want to see."

And while it's clear that the young men's time spent in the U.S. has had a resounding influence on their lives, the experience would not have been possible without the families that provided a safe, loving place to virtual strangers. Tracee Ellis pointed out the importance of host family participation for the success of the program.

"Our families are volunteers that take these students into their homes," said Ellis. "Sometimes it's challenging, and sometimes it's not, because in the American culture we aren't always globally competent and don't understand the importance of the exchange experience."

Ellis who remembers her first experience as a host, 15 years ago, praised families who are able to look beyond the challenges of hosting and focus on the bigger goal to help ACES accomplish its mission of diplomacy.

"This is a life changing experience not only for the student but for them," Ellis said. "Focus on what the experience does for the foreign students and for the American students. When they go to school with them and do activities and play sports, it teaches them about the world, which is something that we have to leave in their hands. They are the future leaders. And even though we have a lot of conflict in the world, and we have a lot of controversy, we have to somehow teach our children to break through that and to understand one another. That is the main reason. So the experience of hosting brings that right to the forefront in your life. I don't regret any of it and I keep on doing it and I encourage other families to do it."

Lartey and Ndiaye said they are grateful for the families who opened their doors to them. "I want to say thank you to my family for accepting me," said Ndiaye.

And Lartey emphasized, "I wouldn't have been able to experience this or been able to give this part of me to America if someone hadn't hosted me. America has gotten some part of me because someone was willing to host me."

When they return home, the two plan on revisiting the foods they have missed so much while here – mangos plucked right off the tree and fish and rice with African spices. And once there they say that they will miss the foods they have now become accustomed to – mac and cheese and burgers.

For more information on becoming an international host family for ACES, contact Tracee Ellis at 419.450.0631, email her at Traceeellis.goglobal@aol.com or go to the ACES website: Explorettheworld.org.

<h2>6TH ANNUAL BUSINESS & HEALTH EXPO</h2> <p>SAVE THE DATE – SPRING 2017</p> <p>WHEN: Saturday, April 29th 10:00am - 4:00pm</p> <p>WHERE: Indiana Ave MB Church The Stephenson - Roberts Fellowship Hall 640 Indiana Ave. Toledo, OH 43604</p> <p> </p>	<p>FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Come enjoy free health screenings, exclusive shopping, and networking opportunities.</p> <p>SPONSORSHIP & VENDING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE NOW!!</p> <p>Sponsors</p> <p>Toledo Family Pharmacy The Leona Group, L.L.C. The Dr. Sam Show Lance Self-Taylor Hyundai of Toledo The Truth Newspaper Mercy Health Paramount Dental Center of NW Ohio Orion Institute Toledo Convention & Visitors Bureau OMG Productions – Tracy Roberts Tyrell L. Betts Productions Adventurous Travels</p> <p>CONTACT Ms. Donnetta Carter Phone: (419) 367-9765 E-mail: donnetta_c@msn.com</p>
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The President's Kitchen Cabinet by Adrian Miller

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Eight courses.

You seriously doubted if the food was ever going to stop coming, though you hoped it wouldn't: you'd tasted all your favorite dishes, and then some. It was a meal fit for a king or queen. Or maybe a president, and in *The President's Kitchen Cabinet* by Adrian Miller, you'll read about First Family feasts.

Last year, while they were on the campaign trail, you might've noticed that presidential candidates often enjoyed small-town American cuisine. Their willingness to sample, says Miller, proves that politicians are just like us, a likeness that stops at the White House doors. Presidents, as you know, have staff and many presidential families have dined on the efforts of African Americans in the White House kitchen.

Early accounts of the first Executive Mansion kitchen indicate the enormity of cooking for the president, even then: it was the size of a small house at 43 feet long, 26 feet wide, with fireplaces at either end. Slaves who toiled there lived in the White House basement or attic and were fed the same food the presidential family received.

George Washington, says Miller, hired white women to cook for him at the beginning of his presidency but later "summoned Hercules," his Mount Vernon slave, to Philadelphia, making Hercules the first enslaved White House cook.

Thomas Jefferson made sure his enslaved cook, James Hemings, was trained in French cuisine. John Smeades, an accomplished baker who

c. 2017
The University of North
Carolina Press
\$30.00 / \$49.00 Canada
261 pages

"ran the kitchen" for William Taft, repeatedly ruined the president's diet with pie; according to long-time White House maid, Lillian Rogers Parks, the Tafts irritated staff by bringing "any number of guests home... without advance warning."

Eisenhower's chief usher, Howell Crim, struggled once with a request because he didn't "know what yoghurt was." When his wife was away, Abraham Lincoln's staff had to remind the president to eat. Franklin Roosevelt's cooks were tasked with a special diet for his dog, Fala.

William T. Crump, who served as steward in the Garfield White House became the de facto press secretary when the president was shot. And Teddy Roosevelt avoided a sticky situation with help from his steward, Henry Pinckney...

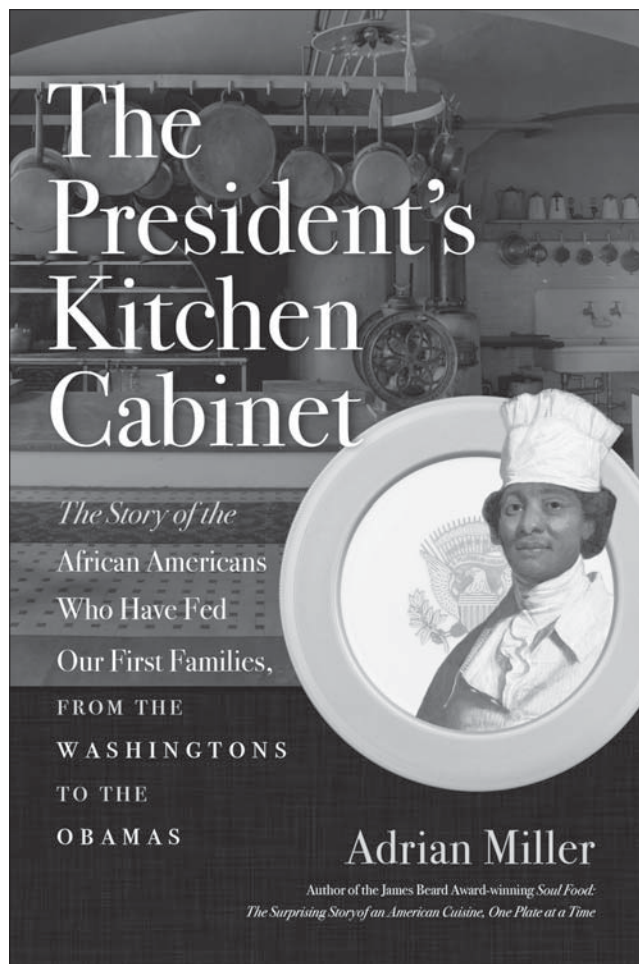
They, of course, weren't the only African Americans to work in the White House kitchen. Though author Adrian Miller found 150 people by name, he says there were many who toiled unnamed. In *The President's Kitchen Cabinet*, he explains.

While this may seem like a dry subject, Miller makes it lively through quick, interesting and sometimes humorous vignettes that dash back and forth through history. It might also have been confusing – official titles changed through the years – but he keeps readers on track with a good variety of tales, just enough relevant back story, pictures, and (bonus!) recipes you can try.

Surprisingly, this book is quite browse-able and so, whether it'll sit with your cookbooks or on a shelf with other history tomes, it's a book you'll savor in more ways than one. This little bit of history is purely tasty and *The President's Kitchen Cabinet* is a book you'll enjoy, of course.

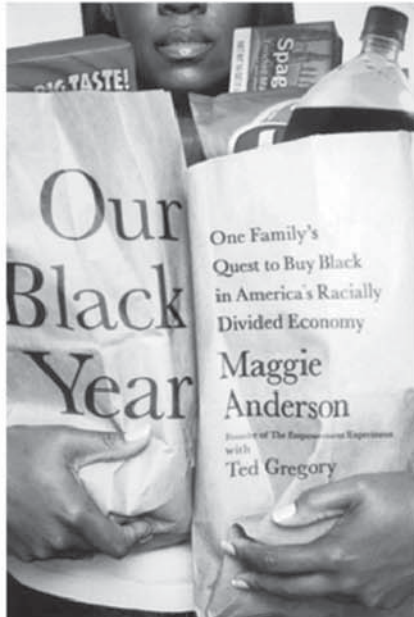


President's Kitchen Cabinet author



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Page 15

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY17-65, (Project # 5001-17-1845) for Research Laboratory Renovations for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$90.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Mike Schulte of BHDP Architecture at 614-486-1960. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 105, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$1,075,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$380,000.00; Plumbing: \$165,000.00; Fire Protection: \$40,000.00; HVAC: \$250,000.00; Electrical: \$240,000.00.

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF OWNER SELECTION FOR PROJECT- BASED VOUCHER

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) provides public notice of the selection of an owner to provide housing under the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Program. The selection was made in accordance to the LMHA Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. LMHA selected a proposal previously selected based on a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit competition

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Project Type: New Construction

REGISTERED NURSE

Part-time opportunities available on day 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.

BILLING CLERK FULL-TIME

Full-time (40 hours per week/five day schedule) opportunities exist for a billing clerk. Duties will include inputting client data into client databases, verifying client's insurance information, providing assistance to clients applying for Medicaid, processing and submitting insurance claims as well as researching and reprocessing any denials, reviewing client billing statements and answering any billing questions clients may have.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Ohio's Medicaid program and CPT and ICD 10 Codes. Must be proficient in computer use and software applications such as Crystal Reporting, Excel and MS Word. Must have prior experience using electronic billings systems and experience with electronic health records. Certified Out-patient Coder/Certified Physician Coder certification required. Excellent customer service skills are necessary.

Unison Health
2310 Jefferson Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604
Fax: 419-936-7574

Visit our website: unisonhealth.org

EOE

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SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted April 3-7, 2017 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment facilities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age requirement and an annual income requirement of no more than \$21,350.00 for one person or \$24,400.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden apartments offer one bedroom, private patios, with individually controlled thermostats for heat and air conditioning.

Abundant Life #1 offers bathtubs, while Abundant Life #2 offers walk-in showers and pull cords for emergencies.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous facilities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



YWCA Receives Donations From Franklin Family Trust and Milestones Honorees

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio held a reception on Tuesday, April 4 in honor of the late Kathryn Franklin, longtime supporter of the Association and the first African American to serve as a board member. The celebration also was an acknowledgement of a donation to the local YWCA on behalf of the Franklin family trust.

Kathryn Franklin, wife of the late Judge Robert V. Franklin, was praised by several speakers who spoke of her mentorship, her generosity and her ability to get things done.

"Her wonderful work touched the lives of many in the community," said YWCA Northwest Ohio CEO Lisa McDuffie, who assumed her leadership role when Franklin was on the board.

"She was a no-nonsense lady, but she got the job done," said Laneta Goings, director of Books 4 Buddies and 2015 Milestones honoree. Goings also delivered comments from Joan Coleman, 1999 Milestones honoree and longtime Toledo resident who now resides in Virginia in retirement. Coleman described Franklin as "the kindest, smartest, most humble person I've ever known."

The Franklin family trust, administered by Kathryn and Robert's son Gary, donated \$28,200 to the local YWCA. In addition to that gift, the trust led the Association to work with Adrienne Green to develop a Women to Women Campaign, soliciting gifts from past Milestones awardees, and raise additional funds for the Y.

Green, a 2016 Milestones honoree, helped raise an additional amount of more than \$90,000.

The YWCA has dedicated a resource library on the building's second floor to Kathryn Franklin, a lasting tribute to a woman who "was admired by all,"

as described by Billie Johnson, executive director of the Area Office on Aging and a 2003 Milestones honoree.

Also present at the commemoration – in addition to the numerous women, particularly past Milestones honorees – was Gary Franklin who also had high words of praise for his mother. "She liked to get things done but she didn't like to talk about it," he said.



Lisa McDuffie, Gary Franklin, Adrienne Green

2017 Opening Day is Thursday, April 13



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- Alexis Road Meijer
- Franklin Park Mall
- Miracle Mile
- Southland



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Rides are only \$1.25 per person—60¢ for seniors 65+ and persons with disabilities—each way, payable when boarding the bus. Children under age 6 are free (limit two children per paid adult). No game ticket is required to use Game Shuttle service.

Return trips leave 20 minutes after the end of the game on the first base side of Fifth Third Field; when post-game fireworks are featured, return bus trips leave 20 minutes after the fireworks.

Visit TARTA.com or call 419.243.7433 for more information.

