



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 50, No. 1

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 11, 2018

I Dream Astonishes!



Photos courtesy Bob Lubell & Stevie Grand Lubell-Studio

TOMY KAYE'S

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NOW Is the Time

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

The Truth Contributor

We should not permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities.

- Booker T. Washington



If ever there was a time for political engagement, it is right now. The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death along with the concurrent Black Lives Matter, Me Too, and Never Again or March for Our Lives movements signal the coming together of several reactants with the potential to produce explosive change.

There also exists a rare and timely opportunity to shift the power dynamic in the Ohio Legislature and office of the Governor, should we turn out in sizable numbers for the May 8 primary and the early voting which begins April 10. To do so, will fittingly honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, who, along with many others of the civil rights movement, were martyrs for the right of all to have access to the ballot.

I caught up with the "hardest-working man in politics," Michael Ashford, the endorsed Democratic Party candidate for Ohio Senate District 11. We discussed his current campaign and the importance of taking advantage of this rare opportunity for change.

Perryman: It's great to speak with you. What are you trying to accomplish through your candidacy for Ohio Senate District 11?

Ashford: Well, I'm mission driven to continue to be a voice for our community and for the entire Lucas County as a state senator. I've been a voice in Columbus for the last seven years and I've worked hard on behalf of northwest Ohio because we are sometimes forgotten in making sure that we get our fair share of tax dollars, our fair share of money for infrastructure or for people to understand how important it is for us to take care of our seniors and for kids, their ability to go to college, and also to address our high energy costs which we really need to lower some of our energy bills. So there's a lot of work in the State of Ohio and I continue to be fortunate to have people who support that mission and to continue to move forward.

Perryman: As state rep, what have you been able to accomplish over the past seven years from a tangible aspect?

Ashford: Well, let me just say that's a great question, because I think that the local media does not do a very good job of telling the story of our local state reps' activity in Columbus, and people in northwest Ohio always complain about well, 'we see Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland and Columbus get their fair share, but not us.' It's because the media sends people down there to talk about what is coming out of Columbus and what is being allocated, what laws are being voted on. So what I have done is to make sure that I've also communicated my outcomes to my residents and constituents in House District 48 when I first went down there, now House District 44. I've been

as visible as possible.

I've currently sent out 3100 emails. I've sent out 500 newsletters. I'm on radio station WMIX, the Mix 95.7, every morning to talk about the issues in Columbus that affect our community as well as just getting out and going to all of the community events.

So when you talk about tangible things, let's talk about the fact that people sometimes say 'well what have you brought back for the black community?' And I say I've been a big supporter of a couple things that affect people working here.

One is that they look at my track record and say, 'well the University of Toledo (UT) gets a lot of money from the capital projects,' and I say they sure do, but you have to understand there are a lot of people of color that work at UT. There are two unions, Communications Workers of America (CWA) and American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) that have a large black representation. There are custodians, professors; there are administrative people that live in our community and work at UT. This is the same for public education. When you look at the money I bring back here as a supporter and advocate of public education, you must also look at the people of color who work there. They are teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, bus drivers or custodians. So I have made sure that the people of our community have reaped the benefits of capital

... continued on page 3

Community Calendar

April 17

2nd Annual Edward Drummond Libbey Day: The Libbey House at 2008 Scottwood; 4:30 to 6 pm; City proclamation, award presentation, tours of the historic house: 419-699-8215

April 17-20

Ohio North First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Women's Convention Crusade 2018: Rock of Praise Church; Guest speakers: April 17 - Mother Thelma Giles Butts, Jurisdictional Supervisor, April 18 - Bishop Pat McKinstry, Worship Center, April 19 - Lady Karen Clark Sheard, Greater Emmanuel Institutional COGIC, Detroit, Mi., April 20 - Bishop Edward T. Cook, New Life COGIC, Toledo, Oh.

April 27-28

Calvary MBC Women's Ministry 21st Women's Retreat: Holiday Inn in Lima on Leonard Road: 419-531-9443 or 419-865-0019

May 2 & 6

United MBC 15th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration: Pastor Robert and First Lady Anita Bass; May 2 - Pastor Robert Lyons and Greater St. Mary's MBC at 6:30 pm; May 6 - 10:45 am service with guest Pastor Dana Darby of Detroit and 5 pm service with guests Pastor Floyd Smith and Calvary MBC congregation: 419-242-1455

May 5

The Toledo Plant Exchange, in its 14th year, begins with plant drop-off from 8:30 to 10 in the parking garage of Main Library downtown. Bring labeled, weed-free plants and gently used gardening paraphernalia. There will be informational booths and experts to answer questions. Plant giveaway begins at 10 and continues until about 10:45. Attendees will receive five free plants, while those who bring items to share will receive more. Enter the garage from Adams off of 11th street, and drive to the garage's far end. It's a collaboration of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, OSU Extension Lucas County Master Gardener Volunteers, and community gardeners. FREE. Facebook and 419-578-678

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Perryman... continued from page 2

have made sure that the people of our community have reaped the benefits of capital projects. And sometimes it goes unnoticed that people who are connected to the state dollars are getting jobs or retaining jobs.

Over the past seven years I've been able to bring back \$90 million, which went into some of those areas as well as for ODOT and local engineers. A lot of people work with the local engineers, repairing our roads and our highways. Even if you work downtown in or around COSI, the zoo, the art museum, Valentine Theatre, which are all in my district. We keep people working through making sure that we support the infrastructure and being able to provide service.

Perryman: How would you describe the makeup of your constituency in Senate District 11?

Ashford: I think it will probably be 68 percent white and probably 30 percent plus African Americans and others.

Perryman: Will that present a challenge for you?

Ashford: Oh, absolutely not. I think what happens is that people want to know exactly what you do for them, and you have to remember that race has never been an issue in this county. When I say countywide, we had Bill Copeland, who served as a long-time county commissioner and race was never a factor. We have currently Phil Copeland. We've had Edna Brown who was the first African-American woman state senator. We've had three different African-American mayors, so they want to look at your character, they want to look at your track record, they want to make sure that you continue to make sure that you're a voice for northwest Ohio.

Perryman: You are also the ranking member of the Ohio Representatives' Public Utilities committee, a very important assignment right?

Ashford: Yes, let me tell you about the importance of public utilities. Public Utilities is probably the second most important committee out there right behind finance. It deals with every energy company out there from whether or not you're a gas company, whether or not you're a nuclear plant, whether or not you're a coal plant or an electrical plant. And, more importantly, it deals with the safety issues, it deals with economic development, it deals with also how do we make sure that our customers throughout the state are getting a fair price. So that's very important we make sure that homes are being kept safe through low energy costs.

I've worked with First Energy, Toledo Edison, I've worked with Columbia Gas and with Duke Energy just about everybody else out there in the industry, to make sure that the Democratic voices are heard and that everything is fair and balanced.

Perryman: So what is your message in this contest?

Ashford: This is what my message is and my opponent has a different theme, but my message is very clear. People want resources to return here from Columbus and want me to address the infrastructure to make sure that we create and retain jobs in northwest Ohio, especially in my community. I want to make sure that we look out for our seniors and just recently I was able to make sure that the Area Office of Aging received like \$225,000 to help low-income seniors complete repairs in their homes. So people will see that I was a big advocate for things like that.

This year, I have also sponsored House Bill 123 and it's a payday lending

bill, and believe it or not in our community, one in five people in our community are affected by predatory payday lending, that negatively affects their ability to move ahead financially, and so that bill will make sure that instead of somebody going in for an emergency loan and getting \$300, they don't have to end up paying back almost \$1000 or almost 590 percent on a \$300 loan, so that's very crucial.

Perryman: How do you differentiate your candidacy from your opponent in the May primary, Teresa Fedor?

Ashford: Well, my message is totally different. My message deals with a variety of issues that affect everybody's household. The number one priority that people want is can you get us money to help our infrastructure? Yes. What will you do about economic development and retention of jobs? How will you address and support our seniors? How are you going to make sure our kids can go to college without leaving a whole lot of debt? What about public education? How do we address the opiate crisis?

My platform is just not one or two issues, my platform addresses almost every household in Lucas County, so that's how my platform differs from my opponent's. It crosses every gender, every household, every ethnic makeup, every background out there, that's what it touches, all of those households.

Perryman: Okay, in the event that you do not prevail in the contest, where do you go from here?

Ashford: Well, you know what? That's a good question and it's not a difficult question. Most people who go into any type of campaign, at least 99 percent of them, go in with the fact that they want to win. They go in with the idea that they are going to work hard, they've got great volunteers, they're knocking on doors, they're making phone calls, and they have a political strategy that they want to follow. I don't think I've found anybody yet that says you know I'm going into this to lose. So I haven't even thought about losing. My overall strategy is to give 110 percent and move forward with that. And here's the other part, you've got to stay positive because if you don't, it will affect your volunteers and ultimately your entire campaign.

Perryman: Right, so you just leave it all out on the field.

Ashford: Yeah, give it your all and leave it there.

Perryman: Thank you much!

Ashford: All right man.

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

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Civil Rights Leaders: Fight to Save 2020 Census Just Beginning

Special to The Truth

Last week, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, hosted a telephone press briefing to discuss U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's decision to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census.

Civil rights leaders and census experts from diverse communities discussed why adding the citizenship question was the wrong decision, and how it is likely to jeopardize a fair and accurate census.

"While it would be tremendously easy to litigate Ross's memo line-by-line, we cannot lose sight of the big picture: Ross is simply trying to shrink-wrap a respectable label on a bottle filled with Trump's poisonous partisan agenda. In fact, existing Census Bureau research already documents the growing reluctance of survey respondents to take part in any Census Bureau surveys – all due to the "climate of fear" created by the Trump Administration's hostile policies and rhetoric," **Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights** said. "The civil rights community is speaking with a clear, united voice: this decision is wrong for our communities, our democracy, and our country, and we will fight to overturn it."

Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund said, "In yet another assault on immigrants, Latinos and the 2020 Census, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Trump Administration today chose to put politics above the interests of the American people. By deciding to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census at the 11th hour, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has further undermined the integrity of one of the most preeminent scientific agencies in the world, further jeopardizing the accuracy of the 2020 Census and wasting millions of taxpayer dollars in the process. The stakes are too high for a failed 2020 Census, and we will not sit idly by as those with malice intentions seek to thwart a fair and accurate count of immigrants, Latinos and all Americans. The fight has just begun, and we will not stop

until we have exhausted all avenues to provide the Census Bureau with the fix and certainty it needs to tackle its most ambitious task yet, counting the largest American population in history."

"The citizenship question and similar policies by this administration seek to leave minority communities undercounted, under-represented, and under-protected. The Commerce Department has shirked its responsibility of ensuring that all questions are properly tested and lead to accurate data. This decision compromises the integrity and accuracy of the 2020 Census," said **John C. Yang, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC**.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States. The Leadership Conference works to build an America as good as its ideals. For more information on The Leadership Conference and its 200-plus member organizations, visit www.civilrights.org.

NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. To learn more about NALEO Educational Fund's work on Census issues, visit www.naleo.org/census2020 or text CENSUS to 97779 to opt in and subscribe to the organization's Get-Out-The-Count SMS Campaign (standard messaging rates apply).

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC has a mission to advance the civil and human rights for Asian Americans and to build and promote a fair and equitable society for all.

Ohioans Preparing for Retirement Urged to Evaluate Insurance

COLUMBUS — Ohio Department of Insurance Director Jillian Froment is urging Ohioans preparing for retirement to evaluate their insurance needs and the associated costs as part of National Retirement Planning Week, April 9-13.

"For the many Ohioans transitioning into retirement, a thorough insurance evaluation is a big part of retirement preparedness," Froment said. "I encourage Ohioans who have not reexamined their insurance – from health to life to auto to home – to think about it under the retirement lens."

Froment said a coverage review should include:

- Careful evaluation of health insurance when deciding to retire early and shopping for Medicare, including drug coverage and supplemental insurance.
- Adjusting home and auto costs by putting insurance in line with a possible different lifestyle.
- Considering adjustments to life insurance levels and determining if an annuity is a good fit.
- Planning for potential long-term care and how to pay for it.

More insurance information is available on the Ohio Department of Insurance website at www.insurance.ohio.gov. Ohioans can call the department at 1-800-686-1526 with insurance questions and 1-800-686-1578 if they are Medicare specific.

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Kucinich Blasts Tawa, Tells Toledo Not to Give Away Water Assets

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich visited Toledo's Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church last Thursday, April 5, and shared his thoughts on the proposed regional water agreement in the recently released Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a group of several dozen invitees, including members of the clergy, city council members and community activists.

"This [proposal] opens the door for the wholesale theft of the assets of the people of Toledo," Kucinich said as he opened his remarks.

In 1977, 31-year-old Dennis Kucinich, the newly-elected mayor of Cleveland – a city on the verge of financial ruin, faced a decision that would define both his political future and the fiscal well being of the residents of Cleveland. Bankers offered him the opportunity to take Cleveland Municipal Power off his hands and move it into the private sector. Privatization would help the City overcome its financial shortfall in the short run but it would also, he knew, elevate utility rates for those residents to an unacceptable level. He said no and fought to reject the sale.

Cleveland continued its downward slide into bankruptcy. Kucinich lost his bid for re-election in 1979 and what might have been a political career for the ages was in ruins. Kucinich wandered the political wilderness for the next 15 years until 1994, when he moved back to Cleveland and won a seat in the Ohio State Senate. In 1996, he won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives where he served for four terms. In 1998, Cleveland City Council honored him for having had the "courage and foresight" to stand up to the banks, saving the city an estimated \$195 million between 1985 and 1995.

Given his history, publicly-owned utilities are something of a passion for the candidate.

"You have a regional water system and you have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on it recently," he said of the current 10-year, \$500 million repair and upgrade to the Toledo water plant. "Why does Toledo have to give up their assets?"

Kucinich then ticked off his concerns about the proposed Toledo Area Water Authority (TAWA) as outlined in the MOU which was developed by an area working group led by consultant Eric Rothstein who was hired by the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce.

He dismissed the proposed TAWA structure that would grant wholesale prices to business clients while assigning retail prices to households. Such an arrangement, said Kucinich, would mean that household rates will be increased in order "to subsidize business interests." Furthermore, he noted, "nothing in the language [of the MOU] stops the privatization" of the water plant. "It is axiomatic that when you privatize something that belongs to the public, the rates are going to go up."

He raised the issue of the proposed language and its ambivalence about whether the sewer system and storm water system are going to be merely given away as part of the deal in light of those two systems considerable value.

He was troubled by the transition costs as spelled out in the MOU which es-

entially means that "Toledo will provide the money that TAWA would use to pay for the system."

He questioned the fact that the MOU "contemplates building a separate water system," a move he called probably unnecessary and certainly expensive for Toledoans. Moreover, he said, a second intake system in Lake Erie would not have any health benefits with respect to the algae blooms that shut down production in 2014.

He objected to the fact that Toledo, as proposed in the MOU, would have only two of the seven representatives on the TAWA board, calling such an arrangement "taxation without representation." He particularly took issue with the fact that such a board would meet only four times a year meaning that there would be "no accountability and no transparency" from this group of out-of-touch unelected officials.

He also took issue with the fact that some would believe that Toledo needs this type of regionalism to ensure economic growth.

"Water is the future," said the former mayor of Cleveland. Toledo, he observed, is in the enviable position of being one of the leading cities in the country when it comes to access to water. Why give away that advantage and ensure higher rates in the bargain?

Thursday's information session was organized by former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, who is part of the Protect Our Water (P.O.W.) group and Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

The City of Toledo has proposed placing the Memorandum of Understanding on the ballot in November for the voters of Toledo to express their approval, or disapproval. A series of six town hall meetings has concluded during which residents were given the opportunity to hear from City representatives and consultant Rothstein on the benefits of the MOU and to pose questions of their elected officials. Meanwhile Rothstein and the area representatives are at work on another MOU that would omit Toledo from the regional pact should such an arrangement become necessary.



Gary Kucinich



Audience





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Call and Response

Hello All,

I am a 20 year old young citizen of Toledo, Ohio. I am studying Business Management at the University of Toledo. I live in a community that is less than a mile away from the in progressively developing downtown and a mile from the educational anchor institution to which I attend. Our community is one that is plagued with governmental financial disinvestment but more importantly a community that suffers not in silence but through a lack of local support and understanding (cultural competence).

I am writing due to the increased police presence within our community of Junction and Dorr. I am thankful to have officers that want to protect and serve however I don't understand why the officers that patrol our community don't know us or attempt to build relationships with us (community members who live in the area). On Friday, April 6, 2018 when returning home after work I was stopped in my driveway. The officer approached my car and informed me that I had driven left-to-center on Junction and ask for my ID. This time there was another car of police officers that joined him they asked the officer "if he was good". I provided my id to the officer and wondered why the officer was not concern about the increase activity of illegal drugs being sold in our community. This is not the first time this has happen in the past four months. My brother was stop while pulling into our driveway after returning from work in January and in February one of our community members was stopped on Indiana and told that the officers could not read the license plate and asked if anyone in the car had a warrant. This was after a monthly community meeting and Restorative Justice class for youth held at the Frederick Douglass Center.

I placed a call to our Chief Kral because I believe he cares for our community but understanding that he can't answer all calls therefore I am reaching our via email as it is vitally important to improve community and police interaction during a time where most young African-American communities and youth fear our public service Officers. I asked my mother to send this email in order to keep her informed as the Junction Coalition, Community lead (Alicia Smith) but I wanted to reach out as a former employee of the City of Toledo and strong supporter of the Toledo Police and the former Summer Funfest Coordinator and Brains and Bodies.

If at all possible I would like to work with our

community officers and a team of young men in our community to ensure that there isn't lack of knowledge regarding who we are and how we live and survive in our communities. There needs to be more conversations that help to protect communities from racism, disinvestment and fear. Thank you, for your commitment to excellence and protecting our families from harm. Please feel free to reach to to me via cell, which is provided below. I have asked my mother to provide this email to any and all leaders that are willing to support the growth and well being of our community. As a voter and law abiding citizen, I only want what is humane and fair for ALL of us.

Sincerely,
Joseph Smith

Joe,

Thank you for taking the time to draft your email. Regarding your comments about officers knowing the community they police, I agree wholeheartedly. This is referred to as "Beat Integrity" and it is a concept I am committed to as Chief of Police. Thanks to Mayor Kapszukiewicz's commitment to hire forty new officers a year I will now be able to keep officers assigned to a specific area much easier than it is now. Once this occurs, neighborhood residents will see the same officer's faces at the same time in the same locations.

As for you, and your brother, being pulled over, clearly I wasn't there, and can look into it further if you feel the stop was inappropriate. You mentioned you wondered why the officers were not more concerned about the increase in illegal drugs being sold in your neighborhood. I assure you they are. Drug trafficking and reducing shooting incidents are one of our main focuses to help keep all Toledoans safe. Traffic enforcement is a strategy used when addressing these issues.

I have an incredibly busy week and will be off on vacation next week. But, I would like to sit down with you once I return. As you know, I am very interested in, and encourage constantly, collaborations between TPD and the community we serve. If I can be a conduit to conversations between our Operations Division, Community Services Section officers, and the community I would jump at the opportunity. I truly value your support to TPD and the Brains and Body

Program. I am confident we can improve the relationships we all so badly want.

Again, thanks for reaching out and I'll be in touch soon.

Chief Kral

The following is a statement from Lucas County Children Services in reference to the death of Serenity Hunter-Davies:

This Is an unfortunate start to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Every April, Lucas County Children Services tries to draw attention to abuse and neglect in the community and how everyone should play a part in its prevention. The Wear Blue campaign next week and the annual child memorial later this month have become strong reminders toward awareness of the incidents and tragedies that can and do occur in our community.

The child memorial now has a seventh name to add to the ceremony on April 27. The child memorial flag already was flying in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month and now also flies in Serenity's memory as the latest fatal victim of child abuse.

We rely on the public as a valuable partner to help keep a close watch on our community's most vulnerable population, our children. In other words, if you see something suspicious, say something.

Toledo Public Schools is on spring break this week, so young people will be out and about since they are not in class. But it's up to everyone to look out for the little ones.

The 24/7 child abuse and neglect hotline is 419.213.CARE. That's 419.213.2273.

This the third death of a baby or toddler this year due to a boyfriend left as the caretaker.

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Rogers High School Accounting Business Professionals of America Chapter Wins States

Business Accounting Technology at Rogers High School, Accounting BPA chapter won second place at the State Leadership conference in Columbus, Ohio in the contest of Financial Analyst Team and qualified for nationals in Dallas, Texas in May. The Financial Analyst Team won 1st place at Regional Leadership conference at BGSU. The following students make up the team: Ariyah Jones, Zachary Payne, Jonathan Freeman, and Accounting Teacher is Rana Daniels.



Notre Dame Academy Offers Financial Meeting: Where to Start ?

Affording the Best Education for Your Daughter!

Notre Dame Academy will offer an informational meeting called, "Where Do I Start? Three Ways to Afford the Best Education for your Daughter" on the Notre Dame Academy Campus (3535 W. Sylvania Toledo) on April 19 from 6-7:00 pm.

You want your daughter to get the best education possible but wonder how you will pay for it. NDA invites you to learn solutions and ask professionals your questions. Topics and information include: 529 Savings and prepaid education plans, private school scholarships and financial aid, college credit and college scholarships. There will be free babysitting and light refreshments will be served.

RSVP online at nda.org or call 419.475.9359.

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Education Section • Education Section

Toledo Early College High School to Represent Toledo Region High Schools at the 46th National Jefferson Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Special to The Truth

Leadership Toledo (LT) Executive Director Anna Toney announced last week at the Jefferson Awards Breakfast that TOLEDO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL'S Youth Jefferson Awards/Students In Action (SIA) initiative was selected by an esteemed panel of judges to represent the Toledo Region at the Jefferson Awards Foundation's 46th annual national ceremonies this June in Washington, D.C.

Toney explained that because of its well-respected youth programming, LT was selected in late 2008 by the national Jefferson Awards Foundation to facilitate the Toledo Region's initiative. SIA is designed to pass the tradition of service and volunteerism to the next generation of young Americans, and now has a presence at all of the Toledo Region's 40 area high schools and offers all high school students access to this prestigious national youth recognition and rewards program.

At most of the schools, SIA is neither a club nor organization – rather, it is a comprehensive, student-led movement resulting in a renewed enthusiasm for charity, community service, and teamwork. Toney remarked, "SIA has grown beyond the initial opportunity to receive an award. We believe that this demonstrates that our young servant leaders of TODAY are already helping change the alarming trend of passive reliance of youth on someone else to create solutions for the problems that challenge our communities!"

Each year, the Toledo Region's participating schools are invited to showcase how their year-long efforts have redefined the culture of their campus to one of service and further document how each has met the Jefferson Awards Foundation's national SIA criteria Competition is intense and includes both the completion of a detailed online questionnaire and creation of a video.

There are two levels for schools to participate at – Ambassador and Banner. Ambassador is limited only to schools who have earned the designation – there are just seven in the nation that meet the demands – Springfield High School is one of the seven!

To determine the 2018 Banner recipients, LT assembled a local judging panel which included 13abc Anchor Tony Gefetos; Toledo Blade General Manager,



Romulus Durant, TPS superintendent, Toledo Early College Principal Karen Berman, Toledo Early College Students In Action leader Grace Garard, Jefferson Awards Co-founder Sam Beard an

President Editor Kurt Franck; Marc Jaromin of Buckeye Broadband; Toledo City Councilman Nick Komives; Marcus Sneed from The University of Toledo and A.J. Decker, president of Leadership Toledo's Board of Trustees.

The judges were challenged to evaluate the competition packages of five finalist schools – Bedford, Emmanuel Christian, Jones Leadership Academy, Lake, and Toledo Early College. In what was a "was extremely difficult yet unanimous decision," cited Toney, the judges for the first time awarded three Gold Banners.

2018 GOLD BANNERS were presented to 2017 regional and national

...continued on page 10



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Education Section • Education Section

Lourdes Announces 2018 Summer Science Camp

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Lourdes University Center for Science Education and the Environment (CSEE), the Department of Chemistry & Physical Sciences, and the Department of Education are pleased to announce this year's Summer Science Camp – "WOW: Wonders of Water." The summer camp meets each day at the CSEE located on campus grounds at 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. Lourdes University Education majors are designing and assisting with the delivery of the science camp curriculum.

WOW: Wonders Of Water
Monday, June 25 – Friday, June 29
 12:45 to 3:45 p.m. daily - \$110 per camper

Designed for students who will enter grades five through eight in Fall 2018

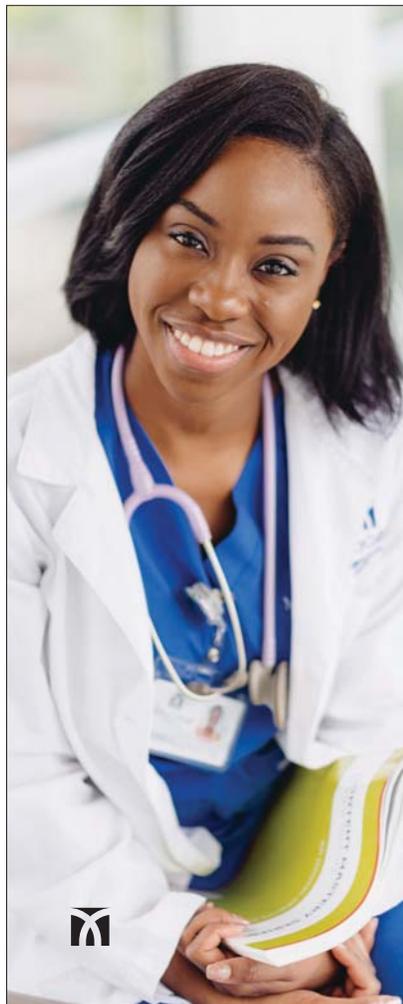
Young campers will Explore and Experiment the Wonders of Water using chemistry, physics and biology in Exciting new ways!

...continued on page 10

Affordable Overnight and Day Camp Opportunities Provided by The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is offering two different camp experiences for children in the Toledo Area. The first is a week-long overnight summer camp taking place August 1-6. The second is a summer day camp offered Monday- Friday, June 25

...continued on page 12



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↗ Denotes online program



Education Section • Education Section

Alternative Ways to Make College More Affordable

Special to The Truth

A college education is one of the largest expenses you're likely to have in your lifetime, second only to buying a home. Unfortunately, the cost has increased dramatically in recent years.

Tuition plus fees at four-year public colleges jumped 71 percent over the last decade, forcing many would-be degree seekers to delay or even forgo attending college. For others, it's meant heading to school while taking on large amounts of debt.

Today, however, new solutions are popping up to address the college affordability crisis. Most people know about grants and scholarships. Students can now also consider alternate paths to college credit, helping them graduate faster and more affordably, say experts.

Here's what you need to know:

- The average cost of a typical undergraduate college course is \$1,782. In high school, take as many Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses as you can handle, increasing your opportunity to earn college credit and save money on tuition.

- The College Board's CLEP, while not as well-known as AP, is a 50-year-old credit-by-examination program accepted by more than 2,900 schools and universities. Check to see if the colleges you are considering accept CLEP credit, and then work hard to succeed on one or more of the 32 CLEP exams. CLEP courses and exams are rigorous, but shorter and not as challenging as AP.

- Consider new programs such as "Freshman Year for Free," an initiative developed by Modern States Education Alliance, a charity dedicated to making a college degree more affordable and attainable for everyone. Students can use Modern States' 40+ tuition-free online courses -- all taught

by top college professors -- to prepare for the AP and CLEP exams.

- One advantage of CLEP tests is that they are offered every day at thousands of testing centers. AP exams can only be taken in high schools in May. Modern States is paying the AP and CLEP exam fees for the first 10,000 test-takers, making the program, which also includes free textbooks and practice questions, totally free.

"This is a great on-ramp to college and an opportunity to save both time and up to 25 percent of the rising cost of a degree," says Steve Klinsky, founder and CEO of Modern States Education Alliance.

To learn more, visit modernstates.org.

- Attending community college for the first two years and then transferring to a four-year institution offers another opportunity to cut costs. Dual-enrollment programs, whereby students take college courses at a city or community college while still in high school, are another great way to head to college with some credits under your belt.

More than one-third of Americans ages 30 and younger who haven't attended college attribute their decision to the high cost, according to a Federal Reserve survey. In fact, U.S. student loan debt stands at an all-time high of \$1.34 trillion. Don't miss out on an education or let it saddle you with debt. Seek out alternative methods for earning college credits.

Courtesy StatePoint

Lourdes... continued from page 9

GOLD BANNER recipient Lake, Bedford High School and to Toledo Early College (TEC), a past Silver Banner recipient. It was then announced that TEC would represent the Toledo Region in the national Banner Competition.

"The deciding factor for Toledo Early College to represent the Toledo Region in the national competition was the students' ability to balance the demands of rigorous academics with their passion to serve others," said Toney. She concluded: "Toledo Early College is the first Toledo Public School to be awarded a GOLD Banner. They have raised the bar for themselves each year and serve as a model for all TPS schools. What began as a core team of students has exploded into the school-wide movement that showed the judges just how much they are capable of doing - NOW! We congratulate the SIA leaders at every competing school - Springfield, Lake, Bedford and BRONZE BANNER/School of Promise recipients Emmanuel Christian and Jones Leadership Academy - for empowering ordinary students to become extraordinary through their service to others. We are proud to support them as they act today to address needs in their neighborhoods, schools, and the region."

For additional information, please contact Kristina White, director of community impact, at 419.290.5027. #

Jefferson Awards Ceremony... continued from page 8

Space is limited - RSVP Now

All campers receive a T-shirt. Limited scholarships are available. For more information or to RSVP, contact Holli Bone at hbone@lourdes.edu or 419-824-3909.

The Center for Science Education & the Environment

Shared by the Lourdes University Department of Biology & Health Sciences, the Department of Chemistry & Physical Sciences, and the Department of Education, the CSEE offers inquiry-based science activities to enhance content knowledge, science process skills and science pedagogy skills for Lourdes students and other students in the local community enabling them to touch the Franciscan spirit through academic and societal learning experience. Science students and pre-service teachers as well as community members are pivotal in developing and delivering these programs.

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Education Section • Education Section

Library Breaks Ground on New Mott Branch

Special to The Truth

On a blustery Aril morning, a standing-room only crowd gathered at the construction site to hear elected officials and Toledo Lucas County Public Library staff share tales and watch them break ground for the new Mott Branch Library.

Clyde Scoles, director of the Library system, opened with remarks on the importance of a public library system, words echoed by U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, who spoke of her realization in adult life that Americans have an easy access to books and that not all of the world's population can claim.

Also on the agenda were Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD; State Rep Edna Brown; State Reps Teresa Fedor and Michael Ashford; Toledo City Councilmen Tyrone Riley, Cecelia Adams, PhD, and Gary Johnson; Lucas County Commissioners Carol Contrada and Pete Gerken and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, a number of whom grew up in the area and frequented Mott Branch when they were children.

The construction on Mott Branch will conclude in approximately 12 months.



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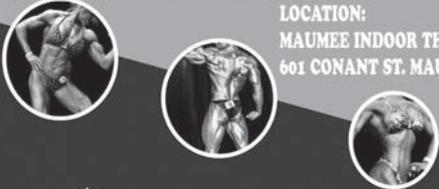
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RESTORE's Eighth Annual "Fatherhood Walk"

Special to The Truth

RESTORE Inc., is hosting Toledo's 8th Annual "Fatherhood Walk". The Walk is featuring a 5K Run on Saturday, June 9th (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) at Central Catholic High School. **Run for the Solution: Restoration of Fathers!**

The annual Walk is part of RESTORE Inc. campaign to raise the awareness of the importance of the roles fathers play in the lives of their children. Register on line at www.restorefathers.org or the day of the Walk/5K Run. Early registration fee for the 5K Run is \$20 online; \$25 day of the race. Registration starts at 8:00 am for the 5K and 9:00 am for the Walk.

The two-mile walk through the surrounding neighborhoods will start and end at Central Catholic High School. Family fun activities will take place immediately following the walk on the lawn of Central Catholic.

The event is expected to draw hundreds of responsible fathers/father figures, families, and fatherhood supporters. Sponsors and supporters include McDonalds, RS Behavioral Health, House of Day Funeral Home, Systems Dynamics Communications, Lamar advertising, Neighborhood Health Association, Freemont Elite Runners Club, Laborers Local 500, Dr. Mary Gombash & Bud Crosby, Pathway, and Michael Colbert.

"We want to draw attention to the significant roles fathers play in the lives of their children. Research confirms that children do better in every measure of development when there is a responsibly involved father in their lives", said Mark Robinson, founder.

The "Fatherhood Walk" is free to the community to show support of fathers, father figures, & mentors, and to strengthen families and the community. There will be free food, family fun, and musical entertainment.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. was founded in 2006 by Responsible Fatherhood Advocate, Mark Robinson. Robinson is a social worker by profession. He is currently on the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) Board,

which is a statewide collaboration that seeks to advance a fatherhood and family agenda at the state and local level. Vendor tables are available for a small fee.

For more information about R.E.S.T.O.R.E. and/or the Fatherhood Walk, please Contact:

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc.
419-377-1488
restorefathers@aol.com
www.restorefathers.org

Day Camp... continued from page 9

to August 3(camp will not be held on July 4).

The overnight camp is held at Camp NEOSA located in Carrollton, Ohio. Children ages six-12 years old are welcome to attend. The camp costs an adjusted price of \$25 per child and a physical and medical paperwork are required. Transportation is provided from Toledo, campers will leave Toledo early in the morning on August 1 and return in the afternoon on August 6. Camp NEOSA is an accredited camp with a nurse on staff and offers many activities including swimming, a zip line, ropes course, and crafts. Captain Mike Smith says, "It provides a great opportunity for children to spend time outdoors, meet other children and staff from around the world."

Summer day camp is offered at The Salvation Army building in downtown Toledo, children entering first grade through entering sixth grade are welcome to attend. The camp is offered Monday-Friday June 25 to August 3 (camp will not be held on July 4) registration is required by May 25. Captain Angie Smith says, "It's a safe, fun environment where the children get to meet new people and learn about Jesus." Day camp is offered for six weeks and costs \$5 per child per week, the cost covers supplies and field trip costs. Each week has a theme, such as sports, or science and these themes help determine daily field trips and craft projects.

Space is limited for both camps if you are interested in having your children attend make sure to contact The Salvation Army at 419-241-1138. For more information on both camp experiences and to see all the themes visit The Salvation Army website at <http://sar.my/tu> or call us at 419-241-1138.



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Strange Fruit Volume II by Joel Christian Gill

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Apples, bananas, cherries, and oranges.

Tasty things, available from an appropriate tree, perhaps even one in your back yard. But what's the story about them? Who was the first brave soul to take a chance and take a bite? In the new book *Strange Fruit Volume II* by Joel Christian Gill, you'll see that some histories remain hidden on the vine.

c. 2018
Fulcrum Books
\$19.95 / \$26.95 Canada
108 pages

Throughout history, a lot of untold things happened that deserve to be remembered and retold. That's especially true of black history and in this book, author Joel Christian Gill offers up a few tales of inspiration and amazement.

Take, for instance, the story of Stagecoach Mary Fields.

At a time when the average man was not quite five-and-a-half-feet tall, Mary stood six feet in height and weighed 200 pounds. It's been said that she never backed down from work nor gunman, she was brave, she loved baseball, and when the Postal Service needed a stagecoach driver for a dangerous route, Mary literally fought to get the job.

And then there's the tale of Blind Tom Wiggins.

Born into slavery, Tom was without sight from his very first day. He was also autistic and because of that, his master didn't think much about him – until the day that Tom sat down at a piano and played beautiful music without having received any lessons at all. Alas, his owner tricked Tom's mother into signing away his life and though Tom later became famous, he was never given his freedom.

On the other side of the world, Millie and Christine McCoy were perfectly willing to speak up for themselves. Also born into slavery,

in 1852, the girls were conjoined at the pelvis and were exhibited in Paris as "freaks" that could sing; their managers, in fact, called them "The Two-Headed Nightingale." They performed beautifully, and at age 15, they used their voices to announce their decision that their performances would no longer include "embarrassing public medical examinations." At the height of the Civil War, the enslaved girls took complete control of their lives!

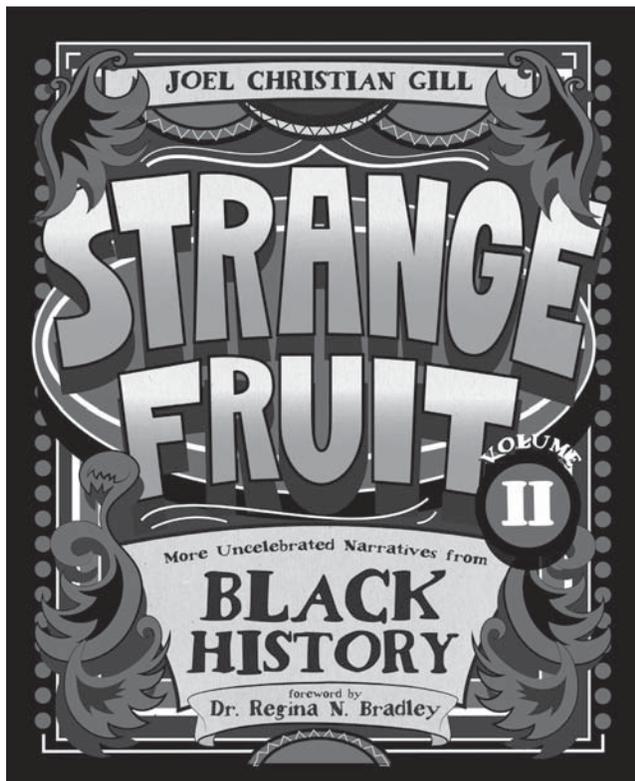


Author Joel Christian Gill

Have you ever thought about the parts of history you might have missed? A small story here, a single person there, things you might like to know about? If you've wondered, then you can stop now: *Strange Fruit Volume II* helps fill you in.

With a title based on a Billie Holliday song about lynching, you can bet that the tales inside this book – most of which come from the latter 1800s – are inspirational in the courage shown by their subjects. Author Joel Christian Gill brings eight individuals to light, telling about them with sparse colors, illustrations, and few words; despite that the stories begin awfully abruptly, that irresistible artwork makes this book kid-friendly. A bibliography offers a path toward more information.

While adults can (and will) surely enjoy this book and may learn a thing or two, it's really meant for those 11-and-up. If a quick-to-read curiosity-satisfier is exactly what's needed for home or school, *Strange Fruit Volume II* is peachy.



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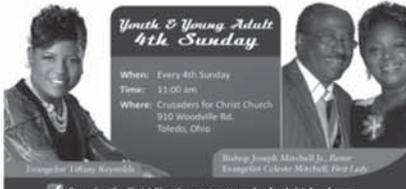
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CLASSIFIEDS

April 11, 2018

Page 15

REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER LUCAS COUNTY

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Proposals must be received no later than **4:30 PM on Monday, April 30, 2018**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

The University of Toledo Department of World Languages and Cultures invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position, at the rank of Assistant Professor, in the area of Latin American Literature and Culture, to begin in Fall 2018. The position will involve teaching at all undergraduate as well as graduate levels within the Spanish program. Applicants must have native-like fluency in Spanish and English, and hold a Ph.D. in Spanish by August 20, 2018. We seek a candidate with a commitment to teaching excellence, and experience teaching upper level courses is preferred. An interest in teaching writing and experience mentoring underrepresented minority students is a plus. Area of research is open, but must be related to Latin American literature or culture. Screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applicants must apply for this position at <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>. Applicants must include a cover letter, CV, three recommendation letters, and a statement of teaching philosophy. Teaching evaluations must be available upon request.

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Proposals must be received no later than **4:30 PM on Monday, April 30, 2018**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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RFP#18-R006

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Labor Relations Services.

Received in accordance with law until April 26, 2018 at 3PM ET. For documents:

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY18-34, (Project # 0068-18-193) for Larimer Training Room Expansion for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2018. 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 Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$70.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from John Brock of Consulting Services Logistics at 419-214-3670. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$325,000.00; Breakdown: General Construction: \$325,000.00.

The Toledo Opera's *I Dream* World Premiere Astounds, Delights Audiences

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

During the intermission for the opera *I Dream*, which had its world premiere last weekend, courtesy of the Toledo Opera and the Valentine Theatre, audience members could be overheard marveling at how wonderful the production had been in the first act – the music, the singing, the choreography, were all praised effusively. Then the unexpected happened in the second act – the opera got better.

There is, in fact, a scene in the second act that takes place in a jail cell occupied by Martin (Derrick Davis), Hosea (Victor Ryan Robertson) and Ralph (Ken Overton) and that occurs after the Selma march. The scene might well be the highlight of the show. The three argue about the tactics being employed in the voting rights fight. Hosea, who is never totally convinced of the merits of non-violence, expresses his doubts that love will conquer all in an aria that Robertson delivers in his wonderful tenor that seems to settle the question. Martin, not to be second-guessed in his view that non-violence is the answer, then replies in an aria that allows Davis' voice to soar to the heavens ending with the phrase "let freedom ring." The audience had expressed their approval of the Hosea aria enthusiastically but the Martin reply brought the house down.

I Dream is a triumph. The music is delightful, powerful, expressive and left this audience member wondering where a recording could be found. The story of the last 36 hours of King's life as he reflects back on his childhood, his college days, the triumphs of the Montgomery bus boycott and the Selma march, the disappointment when he feels that his life has lost meaning, is mesmerizing, and the pace of the opera is breathtaking with not a dull moment in the production, it just moves smartly along.

The five guest artists are fabulous – Davis, Overton and Robertson, as noted. Laquita Mitchell as Coretta is a soprano whose voice has power and warmth.

Mitchell has become a regular visitor to the Glass City. Two years ago she sang Bess in the Toledo Opera's *Porgy and Bess* and last year in *The Marriage of Figaro*, she sang the role of Countess.

Rounding out the slate of guest artists is Krysty Swann, an acclaimed mezzo-soprano who sang the role of Grandma, appearing in Martin's early and late reflections on his life.

The guest artists are indeed fabulous but kudos also to the local singers and dancers who were critical parts of the show's success, a number of whom sang a variety of roles.

The Toledo Opera's production of *I Dream*, the creation of composer/librettist Douglas Tappin, directed by Daniel Goldstein and conducted by Carl Marsh, is a remarkable production but not without a major flaw – it's over. Gone after one short weekend, leaving thousands of Toledoans without the opportunity to see and hear, leaving many of those who did see and hear it wishing they could do so again.



Photos courtesy Bob Lubell & Stevie Grand Lubell-Studio

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