



Volume 55, No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 24, 2019



Jera Stewart

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Killing Me Softly

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

The Truth Contributor

...[N]ormative, seemingly civilized racism with its compassionate conservative undertone is the new racial monster we must work hard to defeat.

— Eduardo Bonilla-Silva



I am appalled by the outrageous and old-fashioned in-your-face racism, inflammatory rhetoric, and visible acts of hate that divide and polarize people.

Yet, I am equally outraged by the “killing me softly” smiley-faced discrimination that is often concealed within policies and practices that negatively impact the poor, people of color or women.

There are at least two local policy issues that we should be concerned about.

The first addresses the gender-based pay gap, whereby several studies show that women, on average, are paid 83 cents per every dollar paid to men. For black women, the disparity is even greater. Black women are paid only 65 percent of the pay received by white men performing nearly identical work and having similar education.

In dollar terms that means that women bring home \$3.27 less per hour than men. Over a lifetime, the data shows that women are shorted \$530,000 over their lifetime and nearly \$800,000 if they are college-educated.

With 20 percent of Toledo households headed by women, and more than 15 million women-headed households nationally, (29 percent of which fall below the poverty line), the collateral consequences from this unfairness will negatively impact all of us.

The response?

Councilpersons Nick Komives and Yvonne Harper, a self-professed victim of wage discrimination herself, have co-sponsored the Pay Equity Act, legislation that bars employers from asking prospective employees about their salary history.

“All too often, employers will base an incoming person’s salary on their previous salary and we know that many of them might have come in lower than what they were even worth in their previous job, so there’s no reason for that to continue to hold them back, and essentially, what we’re going to be asking is that employers pay people what the job is worth,” says Komives.

Similar legislation has overwhelmingly passed in Cincinnati.

“The only people that came out in opposition (in Cincinnati), which is what I anticipate here as well, was the Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce, but interestingly, every single minority or other

Chamber of Commerce including the LGBT Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce, all of those other sub Chamber of Commerces in Cincinnati were all in favor of it,” Komives adds.

The second potential discriminatory policy area is the request for the Kapszukiewicz administration to eliminate the longstanding policy of free downtown parking from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and replace it with all-day paid meter parking.

If implemented, the policy will disproportionately burden poor and people of color who are over represented in the criminal justice and social service systems and also those who transact personal business or access governmental offices in the downtown area.

I understand the business community’s desire for economic prosperity and to make downtown restaurants a lunchtime destination. However, the constant feeding \$2.00 into parking meters is a challenge for many.

And, “what scares me,” a concerned friend recently said to me, “is that they’re gonna start aggressively enforcing the expired meters.” Those who visit downtown may find that the courts are not likely to respect meter time and “if you ain’t done (with your case), you can’t refresh that meter, you’ve got to move your car, you can only get two hours.”

The first parking ticket, I believe, costs \$10. After the sixth ticket the fine rises to \$30 and increases to \$50 with the 10th ticket. For those who don’t have the means to pay, the “penalties for poverty” add up for those most likely to “get caught in the system.” After getting too many tickets, a block is placed on their driver’s license and then can spiral to another charge for driving on a suspended or expired license as a result of trying to get to a job that pays them less than it pays others.

The audacious Komives/Harper policy response to the subtle but harmful economic discrimination in Toledo is also supported by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE); Equality Toledo; NAACP; The Museum of Art; United Pastors for Social Empowerment, and several labor unions.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

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Community Calendar

April 26-27

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-531-9444

April 27

The Libbey High School Historical Marker Dedication: 11 am; The former Libbey High School campus.

April 28

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir “It’s a Crown Affair:” 5 pm; A service celebrating area pastors’ and ministers’ wives and widows; Calvary Baptist Church: 419-241-7332

A Celebration of Life: And a sharing of memories: For Roosevelt Powell, Jr who passed away on March 16; Toledo Botanical Gardens Conference Center; 2 pm

May 1-3

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Spring Conference 2019: 7 pm nightly; “The Church Changing the City for Christ;” First Church of God

May 2

Kwanzaa Neighbors Meeting: 6 pm; The Padua Center; Guest speaker is Adam from Make America Beautiful; Also community police officer on safety

Reparations...How It Gets Done

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

In last week's column, I raised a penumbra of issues regarding the issue of reparations and the emotional drama that it would play with and upon Americans, both white and black, (and shades therein).

If the matter of reparations ever got beyond the stages of biting and vitriolic conversations with both sides (pay us versus no pay you) lobbying accusatory grenades at each other, there is still the glaring issue of the mechanics of promulgating a sensible, reasonable and fair plan for executing any Congressionally approved plan.

Make no doubt about it, to guide a reparations plan through Congress and to get a president to sign off on it would be a Herculean task to say the least!

Why? Because it is tantamount to an official apology by the US government that the illegal buying and selling of dark-skinned human beings was wrong and their subsequent treatment after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed was both morally reprehensible and against all norms of human decency and fairness.

During any precedent discussions about reparations and its implementation, you would encounter a steel-willed opposition that would engage in histrionics to kill any bill that would compensate millions of African Americans with trillions of dollars for their losses, both tangible and intangible.

Just as the law allows a victim of a car crash accident to claim monetary damages for both visible injuries and property damages, that same law also allows for the recovery of mental and emotional losses, pain and suffering and hedonic losses.

The same analogy could be and should be used to develop a "payment matrix" that would insure that all confirmed victims of America's unique system of racial hegemony and brutal subjugation for hundreds of years would be adequately compensated for.

Every injury, slight or otherwise, could not be compensated for, but the discussion must include those psychic damages, loss of life and injuries intentionally done by actors of the federal government, state governments and local municipalities

Those entities passed egregious laws that killed, maimed and stunted the opportunity of people of color to simply live without the hourly reminder that their lives were of no value or consequence to a white society; and that their lives or that of their family members could be snuffed out at a moment's notice at the whim of a racist police officer or an angry mob.

In discussing reparations, it is the story of the victims that needs to be told and heard so that the horribleness of what transpired can be recorded for the sake of posterity.

So, with that in mind, I have proposed several financial devices that could be an aid in discussing how the government (federal, state and local governments were and are all complicit in this human tragedy) can make sincere attempts to come to grips with America's unique racial nightmare and dilemma.

One: The issuance of Treasury notes, bills and US bonds that are sold to the general public and to foreign governments who should be permitted to buy such "paper." This venue alone could raise hundreds of billions of dollars in ready cash.

Two: The establishment of a blue-ribbon commission composed of sociologists, historians, economists, actuaries, lawyers, archeologists, representatives from repositories of archived information (museums, photographs, oral recordings and public records) that would establish criteria as to who qualifies for reparations and why they so qualify.

Remember, this Number Two is a toughie since it involves determining numerically the people of color (including the harm done to the Native Americans and whether those who are "passing" for white), who can claim any benefits.

Three: The establishment of a national bank with state branches by which people of color can receive credits for interest free home loans and grants to establish businesses and to buy land.

Four: The pardoning and the granting of commutation of criminal sentences that were determined to have been sentenced by unfair judges or juries, both past and present. This includes exonerating innocent victims of racist judicial systems and "kangaroo courts."

Five: The establishment of a judicial tribunal which would oversee

claims that victims of racism could present regarding their property being wrongfully taken without due process of law. (Note: many successful black towns were intentionally burned down or ransacked by

white mobs with the tacit approval of local and state governments which turned a blind eye to such lawlessness).

Six: The establishment of an educational fund that would provide free tuition and room and board to students to enter both two year and four-year degree colleges; and also includes hefty financial grants to the historically black colleges and universities so they could continue the laudable goals of educating people of color when majority white universities said either, "No!" or made their successful matriculation at their educational sites nigh impossible or very difficult.

Seven: A proclamation by the US Congress on behalf of the American people, past and present, that American slavery was a sin against both the enslaved and against God and for which the American government now repents of and wishes to correct the record.

Eight: Yearly appropriations by Congress of sums certain that would be used to perpetuate this payment plan until the goals of the plan have been substantially fulfilled.

Nine: A sum certain to be paid to the most directly affected African countries that American slavers profited from regarding hundreds of years of human trafficking from their shores.

Ten: A national holiday to remind everyone of one of the world's biggest holocausts whose victims, by their forced and unpaid labor and creativity, allowed America to aggregate a critical financial mass that allowed it to become the world's financial behemoth.

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Kaptur Announces \$425,000 in Federal Funds for Toledo's Fair Housing Center

Funds will be used to strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination in Toledo

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, last week announced \$425,000 in federal funds for The Fair Housing Center in Toledo to strengthen its work to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination. The funds were allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP).



Marcy Kaptur

Of the \$425,000, \$300,000 will be administered through FHIP's Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI) grant, which funds non-profit housing organizations to carry out testing and enforcement activities to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices, while \$125,000 will be administered through FHIP's Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI) grant, which funds local government and non-profit fair housing organizations that educate the public and housing providers about equal opportunity in housing and compliance with fair housing laws.

"I am so grateful for the important work The Fair Housing Center carries out on a daily basis to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination in our community," said Rep. Kaptur. "Discriminatory housing practices continue to be a barrier for many who seek housing.

"Thankfully, The Fair Housing Center has been there to educate housing providers, provide resources to individuals who've faced housing discrimination, and hold bad actors accountable when necessary. This federal sup-

port will help the nationally recognized Fair Housing Center continue its important mission successfully. Due to inexcusable delays from HUD in getting resources to the ground where they are needed, The Fair Housing Center was forced to cut workers' hours and salaries as they waited for HUD. I look forward to meeting with the President and CEO of The Fair Housing Center later this week to hear from them directly and find ways we can work together to ensure HUD is held to account in turning these grants around on time."

"Like other fair housing organizations across the country, our staff has had to make sacrifices to continue to do this important work during a six-month gap in funding," said President and CEO of the Fair Housing Center Marie Flannery. "I am grateful to our staff and Board for their dedication and to our community for their support. Knowing that this critical HUD funding is on the way means that we can advance our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination and create welcoming neighborhoods of opportunity. The Fair Housing Center fully supports Congresswoman Kaptur's efforts to ensure continued federal funding for these vital enforcement and education activities so that everyone in our community may choose where they live, free from harassment and discrimination."

Fair housing organizations and other non-profits that receive funding

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Lucas County Commissioners File Lawsuit Seeking the U.S. EPA to Enforce U.S. Clean Water Act to Clean up Lake Erie

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners filed a lawsuit last week to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to comply with its legal obligations under the Clean Water Act regarding the impaired status of Lake Erie.

The complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in Toledo, states that the refusal of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to submit a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to the federal EPA violates the require-

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The Law and Leadership Institute – Preparing High School Students for College Success

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Law and Leadership Institute (LLI) is a collaborative program for high school students that is funded in part by the Ohio State Bar Foundation and involves all of Ohio's nine law schools as well as the State Bar Association, the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education.



LLI began in 2008 as a summer initiative of the Supreme Court of Ohio with just 40 students in the cities of Cleveland and Columbus. One year later, the program expanded to include the law schools in the cities of Akron, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo. Today, LLI provides legally-based academic instruction and leadership training to approximately 225 high school students across the state of Ohio due to the support of all nine Ohio law schools, generous grants from the Ohio State Bar Foundation and the Law School Admission Council, as well as continued support from the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio federal courts, the metropolitan bar associations and corporate and individual stewards of the communities who recognize the value of the work LLI performs.

The LLI's summer program is offered in Ohio's six largest cities – Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton and Akron – with a special emphasis on reaching out to minority students.

LLI, a four-year college preparatory program that starts with instruction in criminal law and court procedures, is intended as a vehicle to help high school students gain critical academic skills in studying and test-taking. The program focuses on developing students' ability to write and express themselves, thereby building self-confidence, positive peer group relations and excitement about a professional career.

"We are looking to improve diversity in the legal profession and looking at under-served communities – that is our mission," said Marilyn Preston, site administrator of the Toledo LLI and a professor of Legal Writing at The University of Toledo College of Law.

Heather Creed is the executive director. The organization is overseen by a board of directors. One of the local directors is Neema Bell, a partner with

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The Law and Leadership Institute's Impact on One Former Student

By Ron Birchfield, Graduate Research Assistant

The Ohio State University College of Medicine

I graduated from the Law & Leadership Institute in the 2012-2013 school years, the same time I was finishing my final year of high school. At the time, I was conflicted on whether or not to pursue law as a full time career and had recently completed a medical internship with a local health system in Toledo.



Ron Birchfield

When entering my undergraduate studies at The Ohio State University, I ultimately decided that I would pursue medicine, but at every turn I kept being reminded of how much of a role LLI played in my life. I eventually added a minor in public health to my studies and that's when I really started to reflect on the impact that LLI had in shaping me both academically and personally. Seeing how intertwined the law and policy are in directing people's health allowed me to push for a career that would connect the two.

In 2015, I accepted a position as a Senate Page with former Senator Edna Brown [Ohio Senate District 11, Toledo Area], who guided me on interests in health equity and policy. Following that opportunity, in 2017, I accepted an internship with the Ohio Department of Medicaid to learn more about the bridge between law/policy and health.

In solidifying this connection, I ultimately decided to pursue a Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree as a means of satisfying my love for both health and law/policy. Fortunately, I was accepted into the seventh-ranked MHA program in the country at The Ohio State University and began my graduate studies immediately after completing my undergraduate degree in 2017 [Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Sciences].

During my interview for the MHA program, my experiences with LLI were the main thing spoken about with one of the admissions team members, who happened to be a lawyer.

It's pretty comforting to know how much things have come full circle with being in LLI. Ten years ago in 2008, I was in eighth grade, starting the LLI program. Now, here I am in 2019, in my final semester of completing my masters degree and I am taking healthcare law which is

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The Salvation Army's RISE program

RISE (Recovering Individuals from Sexual Exploitation) is a Salvation Army program in Toledo that works to improve the physical, emotional and spiritual life of those who have experienced human trafficking. This is accomplished through comprehensive case management, and a variety of weekly events including a support group, women's AA meeting and drop-in hours.

RISE was started in 2015 to help address gaps in services for trafficking survivors. The Salvation Army has been a major leader in the anti-human trafficking movement across the nation. Salvation Army officers (ordained ministers) bring awareness of the issue to the community and can assist with adding spiritual components to the program.

When asked what makes RISE different from other programs for human trafficking survivors Nora Riggs, RISE Unit Leader, said "Since we are a program of The Salvation Army, we're able offer unique and holistic services for survivors. We have hygiene products, a food pantry, a diaper bank, utility and rent assistance, and other immediate resources in-house that we can offer to clients."

RISE also works closely with the Salvation Army officers here who have a presence in our group and on drop-in days. So although practicing a faith is not a requirement for clients to receive services with RISE, clients who do want a connection for spiritual support are able to receive that right away."

RISE serves clients in northwest Ohio and creates individualized service plans for each client, making sure to identify any barriers the client might have and developing goals for each survivor. The hallmarks of RISE include healing from trauma, building a positive self-concept and self-esteem, living clean and sober, and helping individuals learn to have healthy relationships. There are three phases in the RISE program, with incentives to help motivate

clients as they move from victim to survivor and thriver.

You can learn more about the RISE program on The Salvation Army website at <http://neo.salvationarmy.org/NortheastOhio/NWOASRIse> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RISE-Recovering-Individuals-From-Sexual-Exploitation>. The weekly Women's AA meeting is open to the public on Mondays from 11:00 am -12:00 pm.

First Annual "Midday Madness" Fan Festival

The Toledo Threat Women's Professional Basketball Team will be hosting the team's 1st Annual Fan Festival on *Sunday, April 28th from 3 to 5 p.m. at Owens Community College (SHAC Center). Fan Festival is a free event and open to the entire community. It gives everyone a chance to meet the players first hand and have some fun while doing it. The Toledo

Threat will also host an OPEN practice to everyone following the event from 5-7:30 p.m. The Toledo Threat have officially been named by Mayor

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The Truth

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The Soulcial Scene

Jera's Heavenly Sweet: Baked Goods for Any Occasion

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Opening the tiny package, I was so excited - it smelled like Grandma's house when I was a kid! My melt-in-your-mouth peanut butter cookie was served hot and oozing with goodness. It was the perfect addition to my morning coffee and meeting the chef was the icing on top.

When one must caffeinate and conquer the day, head on down to Jera's Heavenly Sweet. It is a true baker's gem!

Jera Stewart is the founder and lady-boss behind Heavenly Sweet. This full-service bakery serves fresh baked goods made with exceptional ingredients.

Now located on the lower level of the One Seagate building, Jera's bakery initially started out of her home. "My husband and I agreed I would stay home and raise our four children. Naturally I started baking for our church, my kids after school events, festivals and even funerals," recalls Stewart.

A member of the Toledo Food Truck Association, Stewart started baking for Food Truck Thursdays, a summertime treat in downtown Toledo located at the corner of Madison Street and St. Clair. "I started quickly building a clientele without even realizing it," she states.

Chatting about her baked goods was the equivalent of wrapping myself in a warm blanket, a blanket made out of thick cake slices slathered in homemade buttercream.

It comes as no surprise that it wasn't long before people started asking where they could buy her mouth-watering treats.

While her children were in school she started a charitable baking ministry at her church and became a licensed kitchen from the Department of Agriculture shortly thereafter. The rest, as they say, is history!

"I realized what began as a simple passion for baking, was turning into something pretty sweet," states Stewart.

Operating then as a one-woman show, Stewart realized her business would not grow if she continued working out of her tiny kitchen and old built-in oven. She started inquiring on places where she could bake. "I felt like a pregnant woman about to give birth," she recalls.

One afternoon, away from the hustle and bustle of the Huntington and Seagate Centers, she found a home for her budding business just a few blocks up town.

"I noticed ProMedica coming downtown and starting to shake things up in a good way and I found a hidden gem of a location as fate would have it."

Jera's Heavenly Sweet is now a full service bakery overlooking the serene fountains of Promenade Park. The park and its surrounding buildings were beautifully renovated by ProMedica, now headquartered in the historical Toledo Edison steam plant building.



Hanna Koziarski, Leona Myers, Brianna Stewart, Jera Stewart



Located waterside in downtown Toledo, grassy Promenade Park, will always be a community favorite. This gathering place provides benches, paths and a pavilion featuring community events and concerts.

Jera's bakery opened its sweet smelling

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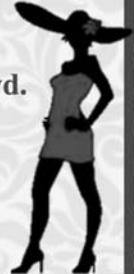
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The Soulcial Scene

Vision Boarding – Setting Goals and Sharing Dreams

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

"We're here to vision board and to think about our careers and our goals," said Cynthia Sharper Snodgrass at the start of her vision boarding event on Saturday, April 20 at The Truth Art Gallery.

Women representing various ages, nationalities, and occupations united to create vision boards on canvas. Attendees enjoyed good vibes, music and fun, under the guidance of Snodgrass, a 14-year career services veteran, while curating visual landscapes of their highest career, personal and spiritual goals.

The afternoon began with refreshments, an icebreaker, and individual commitments to create a safe space of respect, love, and inspiration. Next, Snodgrass gave a brief presentation which emphasized the scientific and spiritual significance of visualization.

Participants also learned the importance of intentionally selecting images, words, and phrases from the pages of various business and



Cynthia Sharper Snodgrass

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Po'Up and Paint Makes its Debut

Amanda Pompili's first Po'Up and Paint gathering occurred at The Truth Art Gallery on March 24 and dozens of aspiring artists and hobbyists stopped by to get an idea of how fascinating it can be to pour out one's dreams and fantasies on canvas. The next Po'Up and Paint will be at The Truth Art Gallery on Mothers' Day. Call 419-297-7857 for more information.



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The Soulcial Scene

Diana Patton's Second Book Is a Tribute to Ashtanga Yoga

By Rhonda Sewell

Guest Contributor

Author and motivational speaker Diana Patton recently held a book launch party for her second work titled *This Yogi's Journey* held at the new downtown location of Yogaja Yoga, 701 Madison Ave.

Some 70 friends, family and supporters gathered to hear Patton speak about her motivation for writing a second book. Her groundbreaking debut memoir, *Inspiration In My Shoes*, was published in 2016 and written with author Amanda Filippelli. Both of Patton's works are available on Amazon and via her business website, dianarpatton.com. Attendees also learned about Patton's RISE program which she has begun to implement in area school districts and organizations to create more inclusive envi-

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Diana Patton with Jump-Start Toledo employee



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The Soulcial Scene

Earth Day at The Middle Grounds Metroparks

The Padua Center is inviting youth (grades K-8th) to celebrate Earth Day at the Middle Grounds Metropark (Downtown), 111 Ottawa St. Toledo, Ohio 43604 on April 26 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Fun and food is guaranteed for all adventurers who will be coming for an interactive park walk/adventure and picnic.

An added bonus is that the first 15 in attendance for the event will be eligible to sign-up for six weeks of summer camps free! (otherwise camps are \$25.00 per week).

The Padua Center's mission is to empower people at all stages of life to live to their fullest potential. The Padua Center focuses on care

of earth, agriculture and food production. The Padua Potters Garden Club and the Emerging Young Ladies will be joining in this Earth day event.

Although reservations are not required calling ahead will be helpful for planning. (419-241-6465)

Parents and guardians who bring youth are welcome to stay.

Let's make this Earth Day really special!

For more information call: Brookelyn Phillips at The Padua Center 419-241-6465 or Sister Virginia Welsh at 419-241-6465, or 419-241-4544.

Diana Patton... continued from page 9

ronments. Read more on her website dianarpattson.com.

Patton's *This Yogi's Journey* is a guide to the author's 50 years of life lessons, wisdom and inspiration over 50 days, through the lens of Ashtanga Yoga. The book also portrays the author in beautiful yoga poses throughout downtown Toledo by photographer Mary Wyar. Filippelli also served as editor.

A practitioner of Ashtanga yoga, Patton inspires readers to try yoga, but



mainly inspires them to embark on their own journey of living out a life of peace, joy and fulfillment. Ashtanga is a yoga system inspired by Sri K. Jois (1915-2009) and involves synchronizing the breath with a progressive series of postures.

Patton is available for speaking engagements and/or to learn more about implementing her RISE program and to purchase her books, visit dianarpattson.com for more details.

Five Unique Gift Ideas for Mother's Day

Special to The Truth

Flowers are always a classic selection on Mother's Day, but for gifts that will truly make Mom's day, consider the following ideas:

1. Self-care. Whether you bring the professionals to your home or plan a spa day, Mom deserves to be taken care of and treated well. A gift certificate is a great way to let her pick the services she wants à la carte, though many spas offer special package deals providing a greater value. Either send Mom alone for some deserved me-time, or make a day of it and join her so you can enjoy some quality time together.
2. Music. For musical moms with limited space, or moms looking to learn piano or hone their skills, consider gifting a keyboard with a slim profile. Weighing in at less than 25 pounds, the Casio's PX-S1000 boasts the Smart Scaled Hammer Action Keyboard with simulated ebony and ivory key textures, for a grand piano feel and a remarkable sound. And integrated Bluetooth technology lets you connect your device wirelessly. Complement this gift with a package of lessons or music to get her started.
3. Making a meal. Create memories together, and a new family tradition, by cooking one of Mom's favorite or most notable recipes together.

... continued on page 13

Mother's DAY

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Darius Coleman



CJ Manning



featuring
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The Soulcial Scene

Vision Boarding... continued from page 8

lifestyle magazines. After several hours, the women were then guided through a visualization exercise using key elements of their boards and



then engaged in a rigorous goal-setting session.

Snodgrass encouraged participants to practically apply intent, visualization, and specific, attainable goals in order to shift the paradigms of life and career. In all, women shared their dreams and left inspired women with beautiful, personal works of art with a renewed sense of commitment to self and accountability.

To get updates on Cynthia's next event, services and full bio, please go to www.sharperworksllc.com

Jera... continued from page 7

doors in 2017. "We will be celebrating our two year anniversary this year, June 17. Time sure does fly when you're having fun," says Stewart.

You will find delicious fun with a variety of unique goodies at Jera's bakeshop. Her extraordinary recipes retain a magical quality that leave the tongue screaming with delight and whimpering for more!

"My favorite cake is our chocolate mousse cake," she says. "It has four or five layers of chocolate mousse whipped to an airy perfection."

When asked what she loves the most about what she does Stewart says, "I love when people stop in to see us while visiting the waterside. Many come for the baked goods of course, but more importantly, they love that we still look them in the eye while going above and beyond with our service."

Located between the Renaissance Hotel and the Fifth Third Building, stop in for specialty pastries, cookies and cakes for any occasion. If you find yourself in a rush don't curb your cravings, as they also offer free 15 minute valet for those in a hurry!

"Come down the escalators in the Fifth Third building and you'll see me on the right!"

Stewart also offers advice to other budding entrepreneurs, stating, "Make sure to have a strong support system. As you scale your business make sure you have systems in place and be open to answering the hard questions. Your business will be better for it."

Stewart encourages other business owners to, "Never quit your daydream. It has always been my dream to serve my community. I'm so grateful I get to cross cultural and racial barriers because people just like sweets."

She extends a special thank you to her mentors Erik Johnson of The Ivy Entrepreneur Institute and Bill Worsel with the Chamber of Commerce. "We are also so thankful to have had the opportunity to donate delicious cupcakes and cookies for ZOO To DO's Charitable Party with a Purpose."

Jera and her husband Bill Stewart – a financial representative at Western & Southern Insurance Company; former production manager at WTOL and former special assistant to the mayor of Toledo – live in Toledo with their four children: Christian, Jerica, Cameron and Brianna. Stewart expresses her undying gratitude to her husband, children and their Church of God family for all of their support over the years. "My husband and family are still my biggest supporters. I remember everyone helping me bag and label cookies until 3 a.m. in our sweet little kitchen on numerous

occasions. I'm truly blessed."

In response to increased demand, Heavenly Sweet is considering opening a second location for their growing clientele. "We truly appreciate our regular downtown clientele. So many come from the courthouse and sheriff's department that we now consider family. I love meeting people from all walks of life while they tell me their stories over the counter."

Stewart is currently looking for someone who has a true passion for baking to join her close knit team as they grow. You can order online through their delicious looking website at jheavenlysweet.com and they encourage the community to follow them on Facebook and Instagram for tasty updates.

Stewart's story is warm and sprinkled with flour and sugar. Meeting the woman behind the scene was a delicious treat! Let Jera's Heavenly Sweet help give your special occasion some extra indulgence. Her desserts are a harmonious marriage of decadent flavors, sure to make you smile – a true match made in Heaven!

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Mrs. Cenia M. Willis

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And Missed beyond Measure.

Thank you to those who continue to support our family with prayers, calls, visits and other expressions of kindness shown during and after her homegoing celebration.

Words truly cannot express how much our hearts were lifted!

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Law and Leadership College Success... continued from page 5

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. Each of the cities has a site administrator.

The Toledo LLI began 10 years ago with a single ninth-grade class. Every year another ninth-grade class of students enter the Toledo LLI.

The students undergo four rigorous weeks during the summer and then commit to spending 12 weekends a year during the school year during their first year.

As students advance through the program, they will experience law-related seminars and field trips, a four-day paid summer internship, and participation in a law debate (moot court) program while paired with an attorney or law student.

"My goal is to graduate with a degree in political science, go on to law school, eventually become a government official and an advocate for students in urban areas with high poverty," said one 2014 Toledo LLI graduate.

For more information, visit the LI web site at lawandleadership.org or contact Marilyn Preston at 419-530-2863. Applications are being accepted now by LLI for the 2019 Summer Institute. To apply for the 2019 Summer Institute, go to the Law & Leadership Institute website and visit the Apply section.

Midday Madness... continued from page 6

Wade Kapszukiewicz as Toledo's FIRST Professional Basketball team! The Threat is a part of the WBDA (Women's Basketball Development Association) with 30 other teams throughout the country (West/East Coast). The WBDA is considered to be the D-League for the WNBA! Visit [*wbdapro.com](http://wbdapro.com) <<http://wbdapro.com>>* for more league information.

The 2019 Roster has been considered to be the best recruited roster in the league for the upcoming season. They have former WNBA players, women who are currently playing professional overseas (play with the Toledo Threat in their off season), and major Division 1 players from top colleges throughout the country. Point guard Alexis Peterson will not be in attendance this weekend due to an invite to the WNBA Training Camp with the Phoenix Mercury. If things do not work out for her she will be back with the Threat for this season.



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*Law and Leadership Impact... continued from page 5*

required as part of our degree program.

Historically, it is a tough course as it is taught by professors from Ohio State's Moritz College of Law. Luckily for me, my background from LLI has given me a leg up in understanding the material and critically thinking. I can truthfully say, more than half of the topics and methods taught in my graduate level course were taught to me through my time as a student in LLI.

To this very day, I still keep in touch with my LLI classmates and LLI teachers. I even keep in touch with the program director, Marilyn Preston, J.D., and my LLI internship preceptor, Pariss Coleman II, J.D., both of whom have continued to be phenomenal mentors in my professional development.

Considering all that's been said, it is tough to note one particular thing from LLI that has benefited me the greatest. The program is so well rounded and looks at students holistically. It levels the playing field by providing an array of opportunities for the advancement of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. For that, I will be forever grateful for this program, and I take great pride in being a former scholar of the Law & Leadership Institute.

Lake Erie... continued from page 4

ments of the Clean Water Act and other federal regulations.

"The Clean Water Act and other federal regulations require the U.S. EPA and the Ohio EPA establish a Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus and other nutrient pollution causing the harmful algal blooms that blight Lake Erie and prevent its waters from meeting state water quality standards," the Lucas County Commissioners said.

The Commissioners, who are the plaintiffs in the suit, are asking the court to order the federal EPA to create a TMDL for the western basin of Lake Erie or have the agency order the Ohio EPA to develop and submit a TMDL to federal environmental officials.

"Lake Erie is a leading economic driver for the entire Great Lakes region. Tens of thousands of people rely on the lake for clean, safe drinking water, their livelihood, and recreational opportunities. We are asking the court to order the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to comply with its obligations to establish a TMDL for phosphorus and other nutrient pollution causing impairment to Lake Erie or order the state EPA to create one and oversee its implementation," the Commissioners said.

A basin-wide, phosphorous limiting TMDL is necessary to begin to drive collaboration and science-based solutions for the survival of Lake Erie.

Kaptur... continued from page 4

through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), such as The Fair Housing Center, assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination.

FHIP organizations partner with HUD to help people identify government agencies that handle complaints of housing discrimination. They also conduct preliminary investigation of claims, including sending "testers" to properties suspected of practicing housing discrimination. Testers are minorities and whites with the same financial qualifications who evaluate whether housing providers treat equally-qualified people differently.

In addition to funding organizations that provide direct assistance to individuals who feel they have been discriminated against while attempting to purchase or rent housing, FHIP also has initiatives that promote fair housing laws and equal housing opportunity awareness.

Tolliver... continued from page 3

Eleven: The financial provision for any African Americans to return to Africa with enough funds to allow a reasonable lifestyle commensurate with the median income of the local population.

Twelve: Funding of academic studies regarding the study of African-American history on the North American continent with an emphasis on the effects of slavery in the United States.

So, if and when the discussions of reparations gains any traction, be on the look out for the ways and means by which it could be implemented and be wary and ready for the intense blitz of negativity that would come from those who claim that slavery is over and done with and thus no group of people or their progeny should be compensated for any losses.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

We Speak for Ourselves: A Word from Forgotten Black America by D. Watkins

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You could be rich someday.

That's what they say: you could have a great job, a nice car, and a crib on the beach, if you want them. They say it could happen, if you seize opportunities that come your way. They say it's possible to be successful if you just pull yourself up by some imaginary bootstraps. And according to **D. Watkins** in his new book *We Speak for Ourselves*, they are lying.

Oprah, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Kanye. Of course, you know who they are but did you ever notice that they aren't like most black people?

That's something D. Watkins sees in the books he reads on race, in the TV he watches, and events he attends: there are "different types of black people" and when it comes to news and "maybe even in society.... People from the street are absent...."

In Watkins' world – "Down Bottom" in Baltimore – gunshot is a common background noise. It's also common for multiple generations of black men to die by bullets, for girls to get pregnant early, and for boys to sling drugs.

What else do they know, except what they see? Kids on the street are not "dumb," he says, but a "street hustler mentality" is given to them as a sort of heritage because there aren't a lot of choices, opportunities are few and the need for money is powerful. It doesn't help that education for black students is often underfunded, proper nourishment is sometimes lacking, housing may be sub-par, "open-air drug markets are real," cops can be "more crooked than the crooks," and "Black Taxes" exist.

And yet – Watkins is proof that success is possible, but it'll take action:

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208 pages

promote literacy. Teach a child something. Get to know people who are different than you. "Be the person you needed growing up." Speak up, but remember that your voice won't mean a thing "if action is not added to those words."

Sometimes it happens: your eyes are open but you can't see. When author D. Watkins writes, though, you're smacked with the very thing you're missing.

Watkins, who starts *We Speak for Ourselves* with a cocktail party attended by elite blacks, turns his attention quickly to the majority of black people he knows, none of whom are rich or famous. This tour, if you will, takes readers into his neighborhood through a voice that quietly hammers home the realities of privilege, inequality, poverty, and feelings of helplessness, but Watkins doesn't let us linger there.

Observant readers will find simple actions for change-making, and reminders that we always hold the power to act. There's quiet advice for keeping a cool head when wrongs are presented, and a gently-urgent plea that differently-backgrounded people spend time together. There's also one hilariously subtle thread of humor, so look for it.

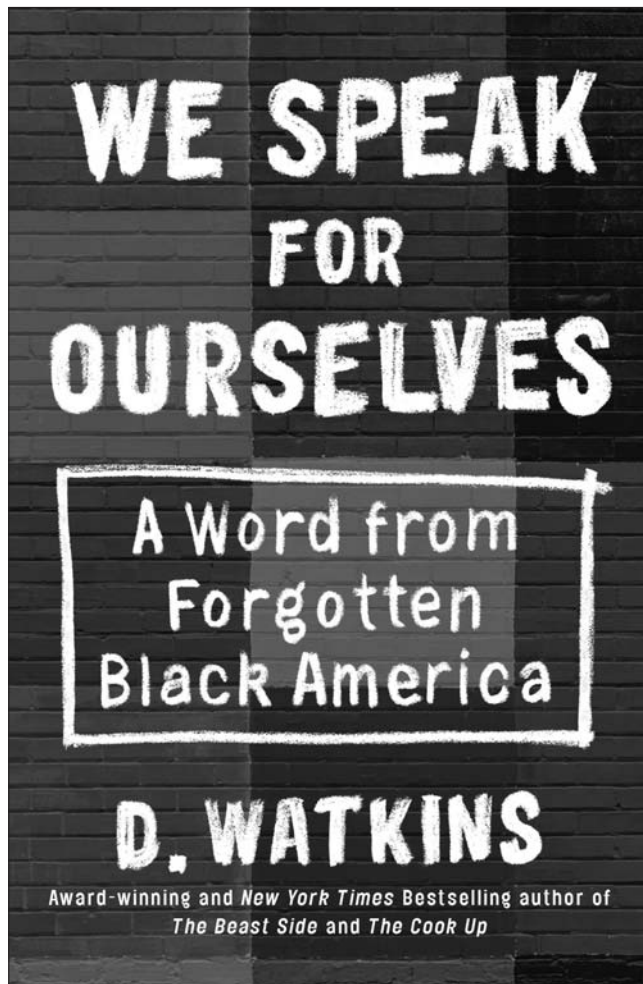
No matter which part of the sidewalk you occupy, this short, quick book is a must-read if you worry about our future. *We Speak for Ourselves* offers the beginnings of a map forward, and in thought-provoking ideas, it's rich.

Mother's Day... continued from page 11

Not only will you be creating a delicious Mother's Day meal, she can pass down the recipe to you while you spend quality time together.

4. Timepiece. Put a spin on the usual jewelry given on Mother's Day, with an accessory that's not only fashionable, but useful, too. For versatility that will complement simple, classic or retro glam looks, consider the Vintage Collection timepieces from Casio, which are offered in different metallic color combinations, such as gold and black, rose gold, silver, and even camo, and equipped with an LED-lit display face, a countdown timer and a 1/10th second stopwatch. They also feature a daily alarm, hourly time signal, and an auto-calendar, making them a necessity for anyone looking for fashion flare that keeps them on time.

5. Movie night. Is Mom a movie buff? Upgrade the cinematic experience by helping her create an affordable at-home theater. It all starts with the right projector. For a unique, high-brightness tool, consider a Lamp-Free projector from Casio's Advanced Series, such as the XJ-F210WN, which features two HDMI terminals as well as a USB power supply. It also has Intelligent Light Control, which senses ambient light in the room and automatically adjusts the projection brightness accordingly to ensure viewers have spectacular visuals any time of day and in any lighting conditions.



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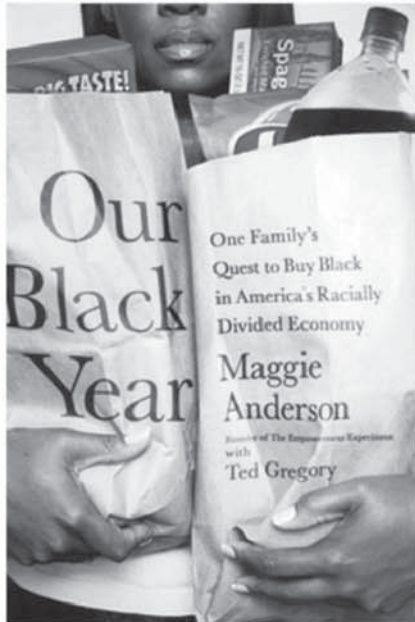
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Page 15

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Construct Taxi-lane Phase 1 and 2 project located at Toledo Executive Airport in Millbury, Ohio 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$244,000.00, additive alternate #1 is approximately \$84,000.00 and additive alternate #2 is approximately \$105,000.00. Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction. Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Monday, April 29, 2019 @ 1:00 PM at the Port Authority's administrative office at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins at Projects@toledoport.org by Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM local time. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

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Attn: Johnny Mickler, Sr.

EARLY HEAD START HEALTH COORDINATOR LUCAS COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

Lucas County Family Council is accepting applications to fill the **Early Head Start Health Coordinator** position. Application deadline is April 25, 2019 at 4:30 pm. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Early Head Start Health Coordinator" from the list to read more or apply.

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Metroparks Toledo is seeking a Volunteer Coordinator. Two years college-level education in business, liberal arts, environmental science, or related field, or equivalent work experience required. Moderate experience with volunteer administration or special event management. The candidate should have excellent communication, computer, database management, and public speaking skills. Fulltime. \$15.87/hour. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view the complete job description and submit an online application and resume by May 2. EOE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on LUC Metroparks Paving, FY2019 will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 Friday, May 10, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of asphalt resurfacing and new asphalt paving of approximately 26,450 square yards of select lots and drives within five Metroparks Toledo locations – all in Lucas County. General construction includes asphalt paving, catch basin repair & adjustment, pavement planing, pavement marking, concrete curb, and topsoil, seed & mulch. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

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The Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) goal for this project is minimum five percent (5%).

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NANBPWC Toledo Club Talent Night

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc held its Creative Expressions Talent Competitions on Monday at Rogers High School, 222 McTigue Drive, Toledo, Ohio at 6:00. Admission was Free and open to the public.

The 21 participants were senior Debutantes who are participating in the 2019 NANBPWC Cotillion Scholarship Program. The Deb's N Waiting and escorts also participated with props and set-up while serving as hosts and hostesses.



Talent show participants were high school students from the Toledo area schools who are seniors.

Their talents were:

Jordyn Faulkner - Science Experiment; Paris Sims- Praise Dance; Makenzie Cleveland - Violin Solo; Lauren Baker- Original Spoken Word; D'Asia Gover- Kata Boxing, Whitney Huges- Vocal; Damiah Wade-Spoken Word; Taysia Mathis-Ballet; Cincere Blackburn -Original Spoken Word; Faith Rogers- Praise Dance; Choioe' Smallwood- vocal solo with American Sign Language; Sapphire Holston-Spoken Word; Jasmyne Brown- Spoken Word; Alexi Moore- Spoken Word; DeAsia Neal- Piana, Deviana Estis- Spoken Word; Kiyana Rome-Praise Dance; Kiara Gowdy- Spoken Word; K'Allie Riley -Praise Dance and Jasmine Fox- Spoken Word.

Debutantes and Deb's N Waiting wore blue ribbons and club members dressed in blue in honor of the fight against child abuse during the month of April.

Creative Talent Expressions Talent co-chairmen were Deborah Carlisle and Beverly Tucker. The Talent Committee consisted of Wilma Brown- Cotillion Chairman; Karen Jarrett; Dennis Jarrett; Denise Cardwell; Larry Cardwell; Frances Collins, PhD and Denise Black-Poon.

Winners of the talent show will be announced at the Debutantes Cotillion Scholarship Program that will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2019 at the Great Hall of the Stranahan Theatre, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.



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