

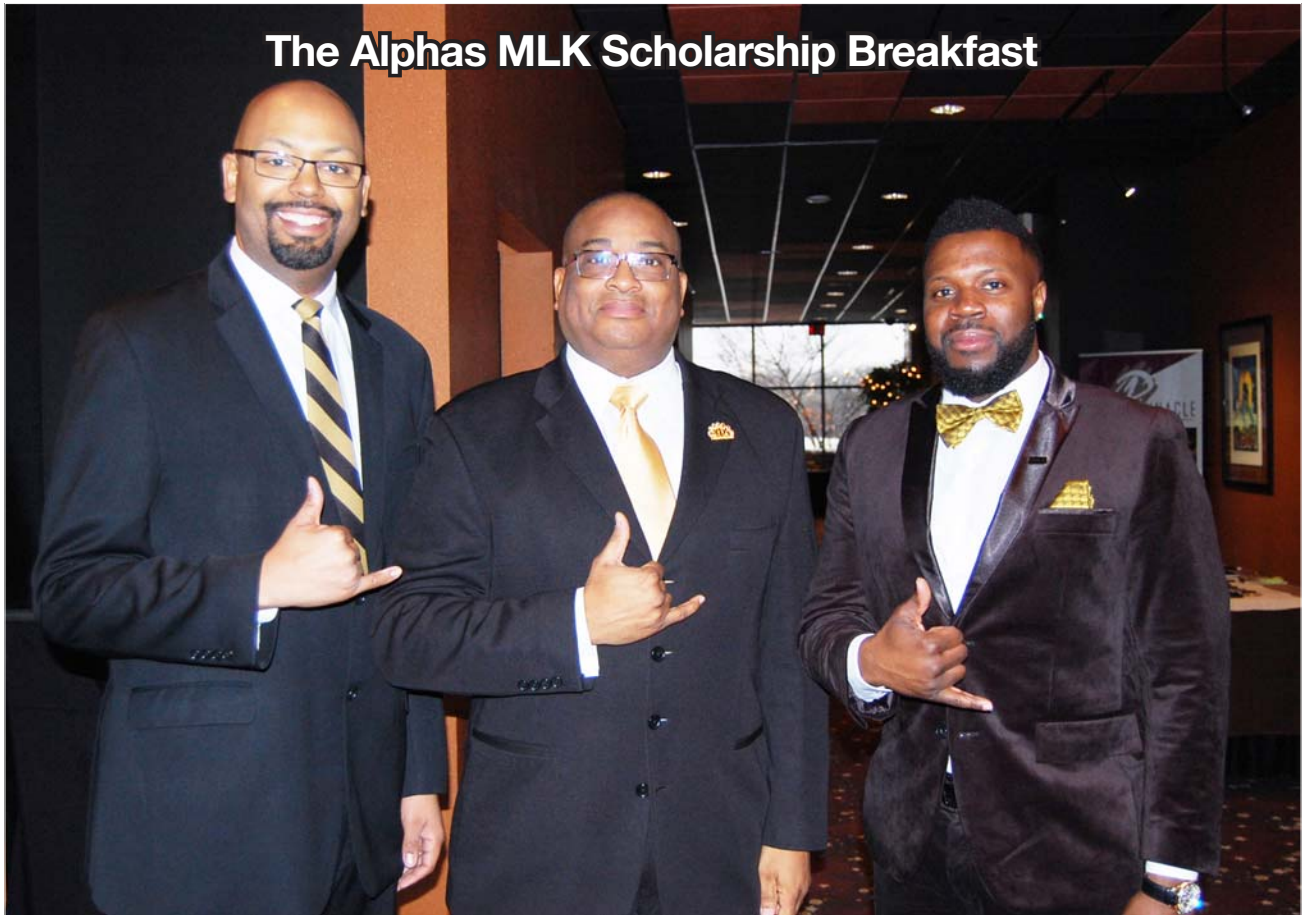
The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 59, No. 8

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 22, 2020

The Alphas MLK Scholarship Breakfast



Richard Jackson, Keith Nelson, and Greg Walker

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In the Spirit of MLK

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

The Truth Contributor

What if MLK Day became the day where elected officials, clergy and community advocates presented progressive policy proposals to the public in Dr. King's honor?

- Earle J. Fisher



On the weekend before MLK Day, the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) announced that it had applied for and was awarded, \$1 million to fund the Opioid Response Initiative developed by New Concepts, a faith-based organization affiliated with Friendship Baptist Church.

New Concepts provides culturally competent and evidence-based treatment and recovery support services for Substance Use Disorders (SUD). The million-dollar grant will allow the organization to provide treatment, manage education and outreach activities and disperse funds to other collaborators such as Adelante, UMDAOP Lucas County, and the Toledo Lucas County Health Department.

A Critical Need:

In 2007 there were two opioid-related deaths in Lucas County's black community. In 2017, the number of black deaths attributed to opioids rose to 32 after only 10 years. And, although the number of people with SUDs nationally outnumbered those who suffer from heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, an effective response to the problem of SUDs has eluded black and brown people primarily due to the public, institutional and internalized personal stigma surrounding addiction and treatment.

Historically, blacks and Hispanics suffering from addiction have been perceived as being morally-flawed, dangerous or personally irresponsible and steered directly into the criminal justice system. Conversely, whites have historically been viewed more sympathetically under the "disease" model of addiction and are thus more likely to be compassionately escorted into the health care system.

Notably, the grant award was announced to the public on the weekend of MLK Day, which is profoundly significant.

In a poignant essay in The New Tri-State Defender titled 'Day of Service,' the Rev. Earle J. Fisher, Ph.D. asserts that the "national day of service" that has accompanied Dr. Martin Luther King Day since 1994, has become "a sham."

Fisher's rationale?

The typical "service" activities such as slapping a coat of paint on dilapidated inner-city buildings or cleaning up trash from broken glass and debris-strewn vacant lots in communities of color, subversively blames victims for their conditions by challenging them to "pray for those in poverty, pick up more trash." In other words, "to engage in charitable acts instead of advocating for justice."



The pastors leading the effort



Scott Sylak of MHR SB

Because civic leaders and politicians can easily find the money for multi-million-dollar projects downtown but can seldom find funds to improve black lives, "Calls for service, in an inequitable environment, are concoctions of deception and disrespectful to Dr. King's transcendent legacy," Fisher maintains.

Contrarily, the grant awarded to New Concepts "provides a significant opportunity to improve our efforts to address the treatment needs of African Americans, Latino and other minority populations," says Scott Sylak, MHR SB's executive director. "We hope that the intentionality of our efforts will positively impact treatment success rates while reducing the number of deaths related to an opioid-related overdose."

... continued on page 4

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

January 24

A Discussion and Information Session on Politics and the 202 Elections: 10 am;
Mott Branch Library; Sponsored by Councilman Tyrone Riley

February 4

Credit Repair Seminar: 6 to 8 pm; Hosted by Jason White, 700 club Witness
Riches; Mott Branch Library

February 8

VIP Breakfast for CEO's VPs and Managers: 10 to 11:30 am; Complimentary;
Crusaders for Christ Church; Register Eventbrite.com - Deadline 02.02.2020

February 16

The Movement on the Move: 2 pm; Over the Top Occasions (formerly Garden
Lake); To inspire and energize young adults in the voting process: 419-304-2733
or 419-283-8369

Rock 'em ... sock 'em!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, if you are a boxing aficionado, the upcoming battle of the teams of lawyers that will duke it out on national television on the Senate floor regarding the impeachment of Herr Trump plans to be a doozy!

As you may have heard, Herr Trump plans to add to his brawlers the notorious Ken Starr of President Clinton impeachment fame and the, "I wanna be with the big boys" Alan Dershowitz, the famous Harvard law professor who claims to be on the side of the Constitution but has a blind eye for all things Trump.

For Dershowitz, what Trump has been alleged to have done, is no big deal and does not call for removal from office. Even if Trump's intents were to sabotage the 2020 election for personal gain and to keep a death grip on the Oval Office.

One hugely big reason for Herr Trump's feverish desire to keep in power is the fact that if he loses the 2020 election, he knows that subpoenas and warrants for his arrest will be awaiting him at the front gate of the White House.

From where I sit and eat my tuna salad sandwich, Herr Trump is as guilty as one putting ketchup on a prime rib steak! The man is wacko when it comes to having any semblance of being fit for the presidency, but his hypnotized base and the feckless GOP will gladly crawl across a desert of glass shards and black mamba snakes in their undies in order to kiss his ring finger!

That is how bizarre so-called Republican oath takers have fallen in their duty to the country but now pledging allegiance to their cult leader, Herr Trump.

If you saw the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court swear in the senators when they were told to raise their right hand and affirm an oath of impartiality and to hear and deliberate on all of the evidence, surely, as I did think, that lightning would have struck the majority of the lying GOP senators who have already made up their minds to acquit Herr Trump.

Even Lindsay Graham and Mitch (Moscow Mitch) McConnell have brazenly confessed on national television that they have made up their minds and will do everything in their power to have Herr Trump walk out a free man.

Considering their oaths of office and those preconceived statements of the innocence of Herr Trump, both Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell should be indicted on charges of perjury.

If a common man who was to sit as a juror in a Lucas County felony criminal trial was to tell the judge upfront that he or she was going to acquit without deliberating on one witness or one document or on one word, the judge would have tossed that miscreant out on his or her tush.

But not in this twilight zone of hyper gibberish and the pummeling of the constitution by those who think that Trump is a mandate from God!

Is democracy in trouble? You betcha! If Trump wins in 2020, the devil on steroids will be released via Trump's vain imagination and fragile ego and he will explode with vengeance against all foes, real or imagined.

Most political pundits have already resigned themselves to a farce of a "trial" and glumly predict that Trump will be acquitted.

Of course, Trump will take that acquittal to also mean that the stain of the word impeachment is to be no longer associated with his name and his will probably signed an executive order removing the word impeachment from his name and legacy.

That will cause a hue and cry from those who still value the rule of law but unless the Democrats win the Senate in 2020, they will lose the high ground of trying to overturn with vetoes the madness of Herr Trump.

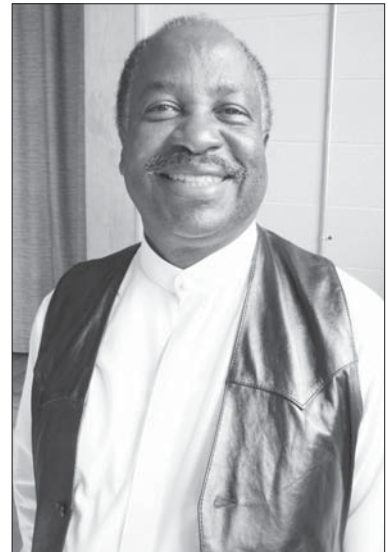
What is all this leading to you say? A continued and accelerated coarsening of the public good and further ill-will to all who oppose Trump.

The polarization of the American society will be sharpened, and the specter of depression and listlessness will overtake many who believe that their voices are being stifled by a crime syndicate in the White House and a GOP whose only concern is

power and more power!

Has America lost its way? Undoubtedly so and as I said before, democracy is a fragile butterfly that unless it is protected from ill winds and cold drafts and is nourished with healthy nectars, it will fall to ground, lifeless and scarred.

So, watch the Senate proceedings and carefully note the voices that should be shouting for the care and safety of the butterfly become drowned out; and those who wish to harm the butterfly, become more bellicose and virulent in their professed love of the flag and all things American.



Lafe Tolliver

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National Park Service and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Team up to Engage African-American women and Young Girls in Historic preservation

The National Park Service (NPS) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Zeta) have established a national partnership that will provide new opportunities for African-American women and young girls to experience national parks, historic sites and monuments as well as promote interest in historic preservation careers.

Recognizing the strength and potential in linking the two organizations, NPS Deputy Director David Vela and Zeta International Centennial President Valerie Hollingsworth Baker formalized the partnership during a signing ceremony at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington on January 16, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Zeta Phi Beta.

"We are honored to celebrate this momentous partnership with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on their centennial anniversary," Vela said. "This partnership is not just about this day or this single celebration, but about every day that follows and the work that both of our organizations will put into this effort. The National Park Service is proud to join Zeta in this effort and will continue to build on our progress toward our shared goals as both of our organizations move into their second century of service."

Zeta Phi Beta was founded on January 16, 1920 at Howard University and includes a membership of more than 125,000 college-educated, dynamic, community service-driven, diverse and professional women. Notable Zetas include Maggie L. Walker and Zora Neale Hurston.

"This signing commemorates the centennial celebration of Zeta Phi Beta, and showcases our dedication to providing opportunities for African-American women and young girls," Hollingsworth-Baker said. "We

are committed to celebrating the roles women have played in America, and continue to create programs and training for women advancement. With the National Park Service providing access to experience parks, historic sites and monuments, we will make our communities better."

Among the 419 national parks managed by NPS is Maggie L Walker National Historic Site in Richmond, Virginia, which preserves the home and tells the story of the esteemed Zeta. As bank president, newspaper editor and fraternal leader, Walker served as an inspiration of pride and progress. The site provides visitors the opportunity to learn about the legacy of Maggie Walker and her contribution to civil rights advancement, economic empowerment, and educational opportunities for Jim Crow-era African Americans and women.

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.



Maggie Walker

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What Is Your Life's Blueprint?

Six months before he was assassinated, King spoke to a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967.

I want to ask you a question, and that is: What is your life's blueprint?

Whenever a building is constructed, you usually have an architect who draws a blueprint, and that blueprint serves as the pattern, as the guide, and a building is not well erected without a good, solid blueprint.

Now each of you is in the process of building the structure of your lives, and the question is whether you have a proper, a solid and a sound blueprint.

I want to suggest some of the things that should begin your life's blueprint. Number one in your life's blueprint, should be a deep belief in your own dignity, your worth and your own somebodiness. Don't allow anybody to make you feel that you're nobody. Always feel that you count. Always feel that you have worth, and always feel that your life has ultimate significance.

Secondly, in your life's blueprint you must have as the basic principle the determination to achieve excellence in your various fields of endeavor. You're going to be deciding as the days, as the years unfold what you will do in life — what your life's work will be. Set out to do it well.

And I say to you, my young friends, doors are opening to you—doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and your fathers — and the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great essayist, said in a lecture in 1871, "If a man can write a better book or preach a better sermon or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, even if he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door."

This hasn't always been true — but it will become increasingly true, and so I would urge you to study hard, to burn the midnight oil; I would say to you, don't drop out of school. I understand all the sociological reasons, but I urge you that in spite of your economic plight, in spite of the situation that you're forced to live in — stay in school.

And when you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. don't just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn't do it any better.

If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the

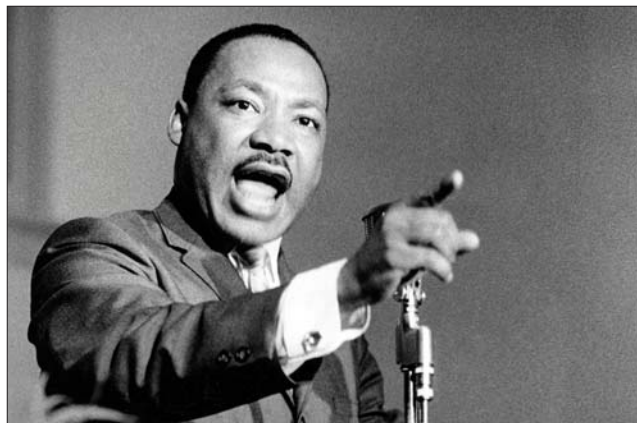


Martin Luther King Jr.

hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well. If you can't be a pine at the top of the hill, be a shrub in the valley. Be the best little shrub on the side of the hill.

Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are.

— From the estate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Perryman... continued from page 2

The award, then, in the spirit of MLK, is a tribute to the bold and courageous effort of Sylak to create a behavioral health system in Lucas County that is a model for diversity, inclusion, and health equity throughout the state of Ohio.

Also, in the spirit of King, the successful grant is a testament to the extraordinary vision of Bishop Duane C. Tisdale, when he created New Concepts in 1994 as a tangible faith-based response to the destruction of black lives from the crack epidemic.

The persistence of Janice Edwards, the staff of New Concepts, and John Edwards of UMADAOP also finally paid off as the public response to addiction begins to accept contemporary approaches such as alternatives to incarceration instead of continuing the criminalization of addiction.

It is the efforts of these individuals who, in the true spirit of MLK, were able to challenge racial and institutional stigmas to change how we think about and treat addiction in communities of color.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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Civil Rights Leaders Respond to Trump Administration's Latest Attack on Fair Housing, Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr

Proposal from HUD to Effectively Eliminate Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule Weakens Enforcement of Fair Housing Laws, Reinforces Decades of Discriminatory Practices

Leaders of The National Fair Housing Alliance, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Housing Law Project, and Alliance for Housing Justice held a media conference call last week to express opposition to the Trump administration's latest attack against a critical Fair Housing Act tool for fighting housing discrimination. You can listen to a recording of the full press call [here](#).

The proposed rule released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) just days before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day would effectively eliminate the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) mandate under the Fair Housing Act. Congress passed the Fair Housing Act one week after the assassination of Dr. King in 1968 as an honorific to the civil rights leader who had fought for passage of the bill. It remains an important part of his legacy.

In response to HUD's proposal, a coalition of advocacy groups launched fightforhousingjustice.org, where those who oppose the rule and support the fight against housing discrimination can get more information and submit a comment to HUD.

These civil rights leaders released the following statements in response to the Trump Administration's move to eliminate the AFFH rule:

Kristen Clarke, President and Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

"The 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule was a his-

toric victory for the civil rights movement. Secretary Carson should do the right thing: withdraw this disastrous proposal and take steps to restart the implementation of the 2015 rule. Secretary Carson not only seeks to dismantle HUD's system for providing oversight of its fair housing grantees, the proposed rule also doubles as a transparently ideological attack on equitable local policies that advance racial and economic justice. In no uncertain terms, we condemn this latest attempt by Secretary Carson to undermine fair housing efforts in our country."

Lisa Rice, President and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance



Lisa Rice

"This proposed rule is not a fair housing rule at all. It is a deregulation rule, cloaked in affordable housing language masquerading as a fair housing rule. This rule represents the antithesis of what fair housing is all about. It discards the anti-discrimination, equity and opportunity lenses that were key features of the 2015 regulation. It takes a free market approach to solving issues of inequality and segregation – a model that has never worked. It discards the requirement for jurisdictions and public housing authorities to complete a comprehensive analysis of barriers to fair housing and adopt plans to overcome them. It also does not give jurisdictions the directed guidance they requested to enable them to fulfill their fair housing obligations and will likely open them up to increased liability. The GAO issued a report admonishing HUD for not effectively enforcing the AFFH mandate. The 2015 rule addressed the GAO's findings and incorporated its recommendations. This rule does neither. HUD must abandon this ill-fated effort and reinstate the 2015 regulation post haste."

Diane Yentel, President and CEO, National Low Income Housing Coalition

"Secretary Carson's proposal is a complete retreat from critical efforts to undo historic, government-driven patterns of housing discrimination and segregation throughout the U.S. This proposed rule underscores Secretary Carson's fundamental misunderstanding or willful misreading of the Fair Housing Act and its obligations. His proposal would allow communities to ignore the essential racial desegregation obligations of fair housing law and is the latest of Secretary Carson's attempts to weaken and disrupt HUD's fair housing duties. Secretary Carson must abandon the ill-conceived proposal to gut the AFFH and instead work to vigorously enforce his obligation to further fair housing in our country."

Shamus Roller, Executive Director, National Housing Law Project

"HUD has proposed a rule that advances the Trump Administration's deregulation agenda under the guise of fair housing. Make no mistake: this rule promotes neither fair housing nor affordable housing objectives. Instead, this proposal continues the Administration's pattern of attacking civil rights and housing access. HUD's proposal releases jurisdictions from having to examine whether they are perpetuating discrimination and segregation. Pretending our country's legacy of housing discrimination does not exist is not a valid federal housing policy. Putting our heads in the sand will not suddenly create inclusive communities, nor will it address the enduring impacts of

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... continued on page 12

Se. Brown Joins Sen. Booker in Introducing Legislation to Ban Discrimination Based on Hair Textures and Hairstyles

Senators' Legislation Follows Recent Reports of Hair Discrimination in Ohio and Across the Nation

Special to The Truth

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) has joined Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) in introducing the Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act, legislation to ban discrimination based on hair textures and hairstyles that are commonly associated with a particular race or national origin. Reps. Cedric Richmond (D-LA), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) have introduced a House version of the bill.

Right now, existing federal law prohibits some forms of hair discrimination as a type of racial or national origin discrimination. However, some federal courts have narrowly construed those protections in a way that permits schools, workplaces, and federally funded institutions to discriminate against people of African descent who wear certain types of natural or protective hairstyles. The CROWN Act changes that by making clear that discrimination based on natural and protective hairstyles associated with people of African descent, including hair that is tightly coiled or tightly curled, locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, and Afros, is a prohibited form of racial or national origin discrimination.

"No one should face discrimination in the workplace or in school for wearing their hair the way it grows naturally," said Senator Brown. "We've heard too often of black workers or students targeted and treated unfairly, simply because of their hair texture and hairstyle. If we truly value the dignity of work, we cannot accept discrimination of any kind. This legislation will make a much-needed clarification that will help ensure civil rights in our schools, workplaces and federally funded institutions are protected."

"Discrimination against black hair is discrimination against black people," Senator Booker said. "Implicit and explicit biases against natural hair are deeply ingrained in workplace norms and society at large. This is a violation of our civil rights, and it happens every day for black people across the country. You need to look no further than Gabrielle Union, who was reportedly fired because her hair was 'too black' - a toxic dog-whistle African Americans have had to endure



for far too long. No one should be harassed, punished, or fired for the beautiful hairstyles that are true to themselves and their cultural heritage. Our work on this important issue was enhanced by the tireless advocacy of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, Crown Coalition advocate Adjoa B. Asamoah, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund."

Pervasive discrimination against natural hair also remains a significant barrier to the professional advancement of people of color, especially black women. A recent study found that black women are 50 percent more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, and 80 percent of black women feel the need to change their hair from its natural state to fit in at the office. The same study found that black women's hair is three times more likely to be perceived as unprofessional.

Cincinnati City Council voted in October to make it illegal to discriminate against people with natural hair, making Cincinnati the second city in the country to pass such a law.

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Sheryl A. Riggs, Managing Director

The Men of Alpha Phi Alpha Host Annual Scholarship Breakfast

By *Tricia Hall*

The Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Over 450 attendees enjoyed the 28th annual event sponsored by the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., held on January 18.

Kristian Brown, 13abc news anchor, was the mistress of ceremonies and introduced Franklin Brewer who led the Negro National Anthem, and Rev. James Jones who delivered the invocation and video presentations of the scholarship recipients.

The program continued with official greetings delivered by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "I bring greetings from the city of Toledo. This breakfast provides one of the few actual links to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

One of the annual features of the fraternity is awarding the Drum Major for Justice Award. The 2020 recipient was David Fleetwood who is the business manager of LIUNA, Laborers Local 500, that has over 1,200 members. Fleetwood also serves as associate pastor of The Body of Christ Church in Toledo, a member of The Lucas County Workforce Development Board and is vice chairman of The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. He has been married to his wife, Michelle for 29 years, and also a proud father and grandfather. "I am a product of grace. I didn't achieve

... continued on page 10



Scholarship winners with Brandon Tucker and Dr. Michael Stubblefield, DDS



Aufwiedersehen and Celina Winfield, Monique Gayle



Brandon Tucker, Bishop Rudolph McKissick Jr., and John Jones



Rochelle Hall Rollins and Ambershaun Byrd



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- Updating the public consistently on budget, income, and expenditures.
- Having accountability measures in place at all levels.
- Keeping an open dialogue with constituents, other city officials, and the city's labor movement to keep Toledo progressive for the future.

I am focused on restoring confidence and trust in city government and strengthening the partnership with the city and Toledo Public Schools.

Rev. Albert and Helen Easterly Celebrate Their 68th

WOW! 68 years as a couple – What A Blessing!

By Karen Cession, Albert and Helen Easterly's Daughter

Special to The Truth

In a recent conversation with daddy, I asked him how he and momma met. You see, I knew their anniversary would be coming up on January 9, 2020, but I did not know the background story.

Daddy stated that as a young man, his mother (Big Momma) asked him to walk to a wedding with her, so he did. The wedding was at the home of George and Alice Sparks, (my grandparents). He stated that at the wedding, he saw my mother across the room talking to someone and knew right then that she had captivated his heart. Maybe not his exact words, but the meaning is the same. After two years of dating and 66 years of marriage later, they are still hanging tough.

"You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace." Song of Solomon 4:9

I say hanging tough because as every married couple can attest to, not every day is one of sunshine, blue skies and roses; sometimes you have to go through the rain and through some storms to appreciate the sunshine, blue skies and the roses that bloom from the rain. I learned from them that you have to put God in the midst of it all, and sometimes you just have to turn it over to God and he will work it out.

They both have a beautiful spirit and a very loving heart. They love children, family and friends. They love showing you their love by giving of themselves in service, by feeding you, teaching you, and if you are in need, they will help you if they can. Family and fellowship with family is very important to both of them.

This past December when I came home for Christmas, I noticed something very special happen. Every morning daddy would come downstairs and sit in

his recliner and then shortly after, momma would come down. The first thing that she did was not to go into the kitchen but to go over to him. They hugged each other, and then gave each other a good morning kiss and would say, "I Love You and I Love You Too." I could see the love and I could feel the love that they continue to have.

Do you still greet your spouse with a kiss and a hug in the morning? Could this be one of the keys to a lasting marriage? Ever-lasting, Ever-loving, Never-ending LOVE!

These two beautiful people are not just my parents however I am the youngest, Karen. They are also the loving parents of, Chee-Si (Althea), Derek and Niecey (Dennis). They have 11 grandchildren and I am not sure how many great-grandchildren.

Momma will be 86 years young this year and daddy will be 88 years young. We are so thankful that God continues to bless and shine his grace and mercy upon them.

"Let love and faithfulness never leave, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3:3-4



Albert and Helen Easterly

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Toledo Opera presents La Bohème Giacomo Puccini on February 7 & 9 at the Valentine Theatre

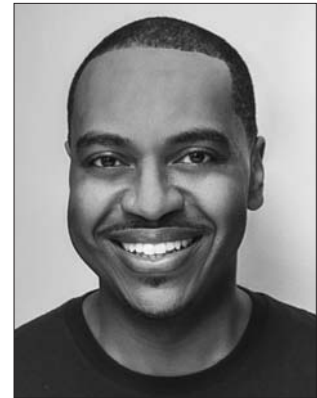
Young love. Bohemian artists. Exquisite music. Set in Paris in 1830, La Bohème is a story of young artists pursuing their dreams and finding love and friendship in the midst of great hardship. Toledo Opera presents the most beloved opera of all time, Puccini's La Bohème, on February 7 & 9 at the Valentine Theatre.

This new, fully staged production will be presented in Italian with English subtitles and will feature the Toledo Opera Chorus, Toledo Opera Children's Chorus and Toledo Symphony under the baton of James Meena. Veteran director Jeffrey Buchman who directed Carmen last season is back.

The dashing writer Rodolfo is played by tenor Zach Borichevsky. Borichevsky has performed the role Rodolfo for both the Finnish National Opera and English National Opera. Soprano Jessica Dold will play Mimì, the ailing seamstress. Dold made her company debut with Toledo Opera in Magic Flute last season and we are thrilled to have her returning to us.



Alicia Russell



Brian Major

Civil Rights Leaders... continued from page 6

practices such as redlining and government-sanctioned segregation."

Maria Zamudio, Associate Director, Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco with the Alliance for Housing Justice and Homes for All

"With these proposed changes to AFFH and HUDs fair housing policies, Trump and his administration are simply trying to remove regulations to allow his developer friends to profit off of discrimination, exploitation and displacement. We can see through these false solutions. Our communities are organizing to protect ourselves and are winning new protections to fight for real solutions to the housing crisis. Instead of gutting fair housing protections, HUD and the federal government should invest in renter protections like rent control and just cause eviction protections, full funding to rehabilitate and maintain public housing, and in millions of new units of social housing for all people that is safe, dignified and sustainable for our people and the planet."

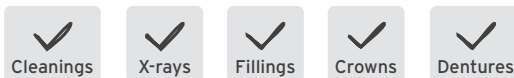
Alicia Russell, who was a Toledo Opera Resident Artist last year and also played Frasquita in Carmen, will be performing the role of flirty singer Musetta. Russell just won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions for North Carolina. Brian Major, familiar to Toledo Opera audiences from Magic Flute & Carmen, will play Marcello, a young painter.

Playing two of Rodolfo's starving artist friends are bass-baritone Peter Morgan as Colline, a philosopher and baritone Keith Harris who plays the musician Schaunard. Donald Hartmann is Alcindoro/Benoì. Jeawook Lee is a current Toledo Opera Resident Artist and is playing the role of the toymaker, Pargnol.

Tickets are now on sale and begin at just \$59. Visit toledoopera.org or call our Box Office at (419) 255-7464 for tickets. This production is sponsored by KeyBank, Elizabeth T. Wolfe for the Wolfe Family Charitable Foundation, and the Toledo Opera Guild.

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Legal Symposium Announcement

If you are interested in a career as a lawyer, the Thurgood Marshall Law Association and the University of Toledo College of Law is sponsoring an informational workshop for students!

WHEN: February 8, 2020 from 8:30am - 2:30pm

WHERE: University of Toledo College of Law, near the Secor road entrance

FREE lunch is being served

Interested in attending?

- (1) Sign up with your Guidance Counselor **OR**
- (2) Email Twila Ferguson at twilaf3@gmail.com with your name, school name, phone numbers, and age.

Questions? Email - Twila Ferguson at twilaf3@gmail.com

Thank you,

Thurgood Marshall Law Association

Monica Hoskins, President

LED Streetlight Announcement

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz last week announced the city would soon begin converting the city's 28,000 conventional high-pressure sodium bulb streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs with the help of Toledo Edison - a change that will save \$580,000 annually on energy costs.

"We committed to converting every streetlight to LED by the end of 2021, and we are now following through with that promise to make our streets safer, more illuminated, and do so less expensively over the long run through the efficiency of LED lights," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "This will save the residents and business owners of Toledo significantly over the next decade."

The \$580,000 annual savings will cover the cost of the infrastructure upgrades. There is a 10-year or better return on investment for the conversion.

The mayor was joined by Toledo Edison Regional President Rich Sweeney for the announcement.

"LED streetlights represent a significant improvement over existing street lighting technology, providing a longer service life, reduced energy consumption, and brighter, higher quality light," Mr. Sweeney said. "We are pleased to be working with the city of Toledo on this project, which we plan to complete in 2021, which also marks Toledo Edison's 100th year of service to the community."

A pilot program in the Old South End converted 200 streetlights to LED.

"That change in the Old South End led to brighter, safer streets, and that is what we expect citywide through this upgrade," the mayor said. "Our community will be safer as a result of this long-overdue conversion."

Toledo City Council received legislation Friday, Jan. 17 that will authorize a needed agreement with Toledo Edison to begin the upgrades and allocate necessary funds. The proposed 2020 city budget includes \$1.5 million for the first phase of the LED conversion. The cost

for the upgrade was initially estimated to be about \$9.6 million but that was recently reduced to \$5.8 million through tariff modifications with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The citywide conversion will begin in The Junction neighborhood of Toledo, where Mayor Kapszukiewicz made the announcement. All of the streetlights in Central Toledo and East Toledo should be converted in the first year, the mayor said.

"LEDs are more efficient - they consume 50 to 75 percent less electricity than the sodium lights - so Toledo can recover the conversion cost through energy-bill savings within 10 years," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "The city has been working on this for several years and we are extremely excited to get this started now and completed by end of 2021."

A Toledo Edison crew replaced the sodium bulb streetlight at the southwest corner of Indiana Avenue and Hawley Street to an energy-efficient LED so residents can see the significant difference.

Maumee Chamber of Commerce Joins Maumee City Schools to Host Career & Job Expo on February 18

The Maumee Chamber of Commerce will partner with Maumee City Schools to host a Career & Job Expo on Tuesday, February 18 from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Maumee High School, 1147 Saco Street, Maumee, Ohio.

This event is free for job seekers and open to the public. Job seekers will have the opportunity to network with many Greater Toledo area employers who are seeking individuals to fill open positions.

Employers will be recruiting for exciting positions in the areas health-care, sales, food service/restaurant, education, insurance, retail, customer service, and much more.

Booth reservations are still available for employers who are looking for great talent. The cost is \$75 and includes a table and chairs. Maumee City Schools will have close to 100 graduating seniors in attendance seeking full time and part-time positions. In addition, the Maumee

Chamber of Commerce has invited students from the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University who are also pursuing employment.

For more information or to reserve a booth for your company, please contact the Maumee Chamber of Commerce at 419-893-5805. Job Seekers should enter

Maumee High School through door #1.

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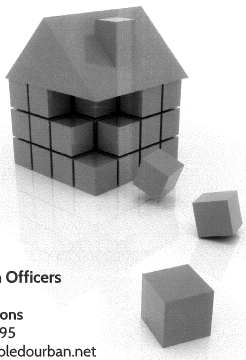
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Delivered by Midwives: African American Midwifery in the Twentieth-Century South by Jenny M. Luke

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The mailman's come and gone for today.

He never brings you much anymore anyhow, just a few bills and a card sometimes; now and then, you might get a box of something you purchased and that's always fun. You know, though, that the mailman doesn't always bring you what you ordered. As in *Delivered by Midwives* by Jenny M. Luke, someone else brings a different kind of package.

At the turn of the last century, if you were an African-American woman and you were pregnant, you might have struggled with more than just labor: white doctors simply didn't have to treat black patients if they didn't want to. Because of this, "many African-American women in the Jim Crow South had no expectation of medical care for pregnancy and childbirth."

And so, as did their foremothers when they were slaves, laboring women relied on "granny midwives" to "catch" their babies. Doing so was a natural conclusion, says Luke, since both men and women in early black communities were "authorized to be healers," which was "a power that the white medical establishment could not undermine."

What the white establishment could do, however, was to point out the high rate of maternal and infant death in black communities. Because of this, laws were made in the 1920s to regulate midwives of all races. Classes on hygiene and cleanliness were taught to help improve the health of the most poverty-stricken mothers and their families, and joining a "midwife club" was mandatory.

As World War II began, however, so did the perception that not calling a doctor for a baby's birth indicated "an indifferent negligence toward" the child. Black mothers still reached out to midwives but it was increasingly becoming "a marker of status" and more "scientific" to have a hospital birth. By 1970, and though racism persisted and "hospital care and medical expertise were... not expectations of African Americans..." nine out of 10 black women delivered their babies in hospitals.

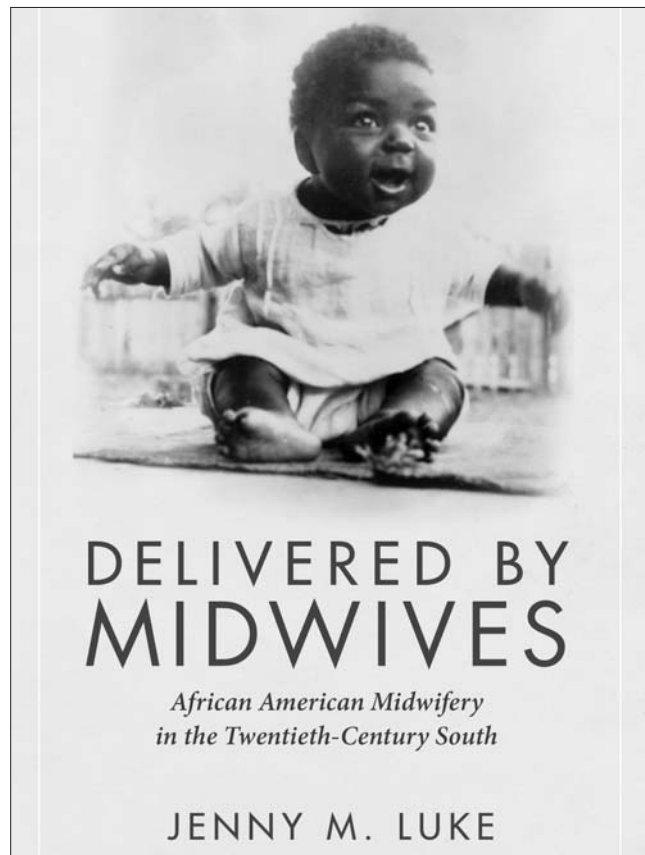
The tide is turning back again, says author Jenny M. Luke, but there are issues – specifically, educational requirements for professional midwives have become steeper, which can lead to questions of affordability. Still, in *Delivered by Midwives*, she shows a continued need for midwives, especially in poorer communities – though getting to that point here can sometimes feel a lot like labor.

Luke moves her history at a good pace before repetition forces everything to slow down, then it speeds up again, so things move quickly inside this book – and then they don't. We're treated to painful, wincing tales of past midwives and what their patients endured, and those things might make you scream before you hurry-up-and-wait for relevant-but-scholarly

c.2018
University Press of Mississippi
\$30.00 / higher in Canada
193 pages

information that slows the process down. It ends in a somewhat-frazzling, acronym-laden whoosh.

That doesn't make this a bad book – it makes this informative and interesting, good for students and prospective midwives, but not a curl-up-by-the-fire something to read. Still, if it's the kind of medical, African American or feminist history you're looking for, *Delivered by Midwives* is the total package.



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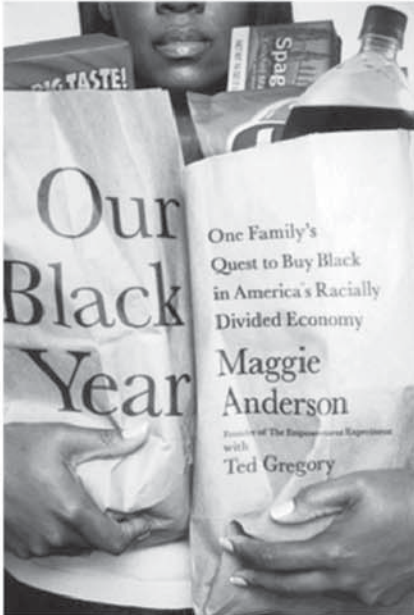
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CLASSIFIEDS

January 22, 2020

Page 15

START 2020 BY READING MORE

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Everyone who logs at least one book will receive one-size-fits-most Toledo Library touch screen gloves for adults and kids or red mittens for little ones (while supplies last) and will be eligible for grand prizes such as:

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QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR

At the Area Office on Aging, we're passionate about making sure the those age 60 and better get the high quality nutrition, home care, Alzheimer's Day Care and other aging services they need to live long, quality lives that are as independent as possible. With the Quality Improvement Coordinator position, you have an opportunity to do meaningful work.

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By finding ways to better align what is in the interest of the Area Office on Aging, its service providers and older adults/their family caregivers, this position will help the agency more fully realize the growth potential that lies within it.

The Area Office on Aging is a mission-driven organization that is full of people who have passion, purpose and contagious energy for the worthy work we do and who care for one another and the older adults, family caregivers and younger persons with disabilities whom we serve. We are on a mission to provide quality services that make a positive impact in the health, well-being and overall lives of older northwest Ohioans and their family caregivers.

So, if you believe in the work that the Area Office on Aging does and you want to advance the agency's focus on ensuring quality, send your resume to jobs@areaofficeonaging.com or mailto:jobs@areaofficeonaging.com with Quality Improvement Coordinator in the subject line or go to www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com/Careers or <http://www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com/Careers> to keep reading about this position.

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KAPTUR ENCOURAGES NORTHERN OHIOANS TO APPLY FOR 2020 CENSUS JOBS

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), is encouraging Northern Ohioans to apply for paid opportunities with the 2020 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau seeks to fill up to 500,000 temporary, part-time positions in local communities across the nation to carry out the decennial Census in 2020. Interested applicants can visit 2020census.gov/jobs or https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__2020census.gov_en_jobs.html&d=DwMGaQ&c=L93KkKjKsAC98uTvC4KvQDdTDRzAeWDDRMG6S3YXIIH0&r=ixX8cgPnGzUueOgiz_ogjgIQMo_dBaTJJWDz8ing5jY&m=0MaLe9C0kkYbJWHzF_43SQmhwF1U7GltziREtLtp1c&s=Eq7Ezh8wthTBJRA5o4qwB7-EQpaqehYCqXks190orT8&e=> for more information about these positions.

The Census is mandated by the United States Constitution every 10 years to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives in addition to regulating the proportion of population based federal assistance to local communities.

"Our government relies on the Census to draw legislative districts and allocate federal investments to local communities for critical programs, including transportation and housing infrastructure and social services," said Rep. Kaptur. "I encourage all Northern Ohioans to participate so that everyone is accounted for and every voice is heard."

Last month, Kaptur, as a Senior Member of the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee with funding jurisdiction for the Census, worked alongside her House colleagues to secure \$7.6 billion for the Census Bureau, which includes a strong increase to enable the Bureau to conduct a thorough and accurate 2020 Decennial Census and to prevent the politicization of the Census.

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2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Day Celebration

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The City of Toledo and the University of Toledo joined hands for the 19th year and brought together a number of speakers, performing artists, students, university faculty and staff and elected official to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 20 at UT's Savage Hall.

The morning's event began with a song from Karen "Lady K" Harris ("Intuition"), followed by a musical introduction by the UT Blue & Gold Pep Band, before Mistress of Ceremonies Alexis Means of 13abc News called the assembly to order and brought in the Lucas County Sheriff's Office color guard to present the colors.

After the National Anthem – sung by Toledo School for the Arts' student Camille Wilburn – and the Black National Anthem – sung by soprano Alicia Russell of the Toledo Opera – the audience saw a welcome video by Sharon Gaber, PhD, president of UT, and Wade Kapszukiewicz, mayor of the City of Toledo.

The UT TRIBE Dance Team performed next with an African-inspired routine, followed by Russell again, who performed a rendition of "Give Me Jesus," which had the Savage Arena crowd on its feet with a sustained applause at the conclusion.

"Being black in America doesn't mean it can't happen," said UT student Laycee Horn, as she offered a reading of her poem, "The Dream That Could."

"You have to believe, to succeed," she said. "You have to believe you will live your dream."

Andrew Kinsey, WTOL 11 anchor and teen journalist and blogger, Jaden



Scholarship recipients Tayana White, Emir Moore, Juwaan McGee, Mariah Hutchins, Kourtnee Dallas-Robinson, Josephine Aduba

Jefferson, presented a video explaining how important 2020 Census will be. Then followed the presentation of the MLK Scholarship Awards.

The scholarships were presented by Willie McKether, PhD, UT vice president of Diversity and Inclusion, and office assistant, Malaika Bell. This year's scholarship recipients are: Josephine Aduba, Kourtnee Dallas-Robinson, Mariah Hutchins, Juwaan McGee, Emir Moore and Tayana White.

Will Lucas presented a tribute to Dr. King and the ceremony closed with performances by a dance troupe from the Toledo School for the Arts, a vocal performance by Ayanna Hicks of TSA, a praise dance by Kurt Carr Sistahs in Spirit of UT and final acknowledgements by representatives of the city and the university.

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Camille Wilburn sings the National Anthem



LC Sheriff's Office presents colors as Mistress of Ceremonies Alexis Means looks on



Laycee Horn recites her poem



UT Blue & Gold Pep Band