



Volume 62, No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 22, 2020



State Rep. Lisa Sobecki, State Rep Paula Hicks-Hudson, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken

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Don't Let the Fire Burn Out

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

The Truth Contributor

There may be some difficulties, some interruptions, but as a nation and as a people, we are going to build a truly multiracial, democratic society that maybe can emerge as a model for the rest of the world.

- John Lewis



"How long can we be patient," John Lewis queried in a forceful challenge on August 28, 1963. The youngest and perhaps most revolutionist of the array of distinguished speakers at the historic March on Washington, Lewis, then threw down the gauntlet. "We want our freedom, and we want it now."

For more than 60 years, the gentle but resolute Lewis fought for voting rights, gun control, healthcare reform, immigration, fair housing, and equal rights under the law for all citizens. Last week, having fought the good fight of faith, the gentle moral but mortal giant "stuck his sword in the sands of time" and went on to be with the ancestors.

What made John Lewis a giant?

Lewis mastered the "art of pestering" at a young age after concluding that injustice is more effectively remedied by troubling "ease" than troubling conscience.

"I met Rosa Parks in 1957, when I was 17. In 1958, I met Dr. King," he explained to The Late Show host Stephen Colbert in 2016. "And these two individuals inspired me to get in trouble. And I've been getting in 'good trouble,' necessary trouble ever since," he added.

Having become an expert irritator, disturber, and tormentor under King, Lewis was first arrested and jailed on February 27, 1960, along with nearly 100 young black HBCU students. They attempted a sit-in at Woolworth's, Walgreens and McLellan's in Nashville, Tennessee.

Despite being beaten bloody, kicked, spat on, and burned during over 60 years of social activism and legislative advocacy, Lewis, the professional "good trouble-maker," always kept coming back. He was arrested 45 times, McClatchy News reports, including five times as a member of Congress. The last arrest was in 2013.

Yet old and new battles are still before us.

The SCOTUS's gutting of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has allowed discriminatory voter suppression tactics targeting African-American communities to potentially neutralize the increased voting power of blacks won during the Civil Rights Movement. Thousands of voter locations have been closed, mostly in black and brown communities, limiting voting opportunities. Millions of minorities have also been purged from voter rolls.

Additionally, police officer-involved killings of George Floyd in Min-

neapolis, "Sean" Reed in Indianapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta represent a horrifying series of sequels. Tragically, police misconduct demonstrates "a critical need for police reform that will halt the seemingly unchecked power of officers to shoot and kill blacks out of their fear and bias," says attorney Ben Crump.

Other newer issues, such as trans rights, access to technology, and a pandemic, which has brought unprecedented sickness, death, hatred, and political discord, also demand attention.

What can we learn from Lewis?

John Lewis' legacy provides us with many lessons.

1. The Fight for Justice is a War

A war is made up of many battles, and the fight will ebb and flow. There will be both advances and retreats; progress and setbacks. There will be breakthroughs like the election and inauguration of President Barack Obama. However, delays, retreats, and reversals will also occur. The control of an incalculable U.S. Senate, unwilling to provide a hearing for the Voting Rights Advancement Act and for other relevant fairness legislation, is an unfortunate hindrance.

2. When Making Trouble is Good

Following the conservative norms of appearance and behavior as a counter to negative stereotypes about black people a/k/a Respectability Politics is a myth and has never worked to bring about change. Melissa Harris-Perry warns about the increasing lack of relevance of many of our black middle-class, Baby Boomer-led organizations. "If they are unprepared for emeritus status, they must be ready for a return to the bloody years. [They] must become radical and expect a time when people will be mocked and potentially harmed simply for being aligned with it."

However, thankfully, the current movement is younger, multiracial, and more radical, open, populist, militant. Like Lewis, the younger generation does not mind causing "good trouble" or making privileged groups uncomfortable. Besides, groups like BLM and others are "more plural – in terms of class, sexuality, and even concern about various racial groups. Hence, they are OUR future," says Duke University professor Eduardo Bonilla-Silva.

As Lewis passes the baton to these more agitative groups, older black organizations continue their "slow march of extinction, as they transition to relic status."

3. Hold Them Accountable

... continued on page 4

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

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Eastern Star MBC – Open Now

New Psalmist – Open Now

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St Paul MBC – Open Now

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Kaptur, Save UTMC Coalition Statement After University of Toledo Decision to Stay the Sale of UTMC

Special to The Truth

Last week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) and members of the Save UTMC Coalition, including state Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, released the following statement in response to the announcement that the University of Toledo will indefinitely postpone the Request for Proposals (RFP) process issued for its medical center:

"I am thankful the University of Toledo Board and UT Interim President Dr. Gregory Postel have answered our community's call to stay the sale of UTMC'S Teaching Hospital and emptying out of its publicly-financed academic research and medical campus. This entire situation demands full sunlight and an accounting to our citizenry," said Rep. Kaptur.

"Divesting or dramatically emptying out operations at northwest Ohio's only public hospital during a public health emergency in my view would not only be a mistake, but a moral injustice. This campus serves as a major hub for advancing health outcomes, spurring innovation for economic growth, and linking to medically underserved areas in our tristate region," Kaptur added.

"Significant federal funding through the CARES Act, which I fully supported, has recently been delivered to UTMC. To date, more than \$21.5 million in CARES direct funding has been directed to UTMC. This means the hospital has been provided bridge funding to the future. In addition, realigned federal and state sponsored care reimbursements, a dedicated, hardworking physician and medical corps of professionals and an interim president who understands the importance of academic medical research, the hospital's financials will improve," continued Kaptur.

"While today's decision is a step in the right direction, there remain

too many unanswered questions. A complete audit covering the pre and post 2015 period at the University will better enable us to determine how UTMC's financial standing has become so dire," concluded Kaptur.

"This is a reasonable move amid the financial status of the university. There will be many challenges ahead and we look forward to working together," said state Senator Teresa Fedor. "We have made great strides towards saving our public hospital, and to continue that work, we must maintain our status as a teaching and research institution. This is not an asset to be trifled with. We have seen what the hospital can do when it came to forging the path for COVID-19 testing in the region."

"The delay will give UTMC time to identify and finalize partnerships with important allies such as the Toledo Clinic. Such a partnership would help UTMC replace more of the doctors who moved to ProMedica and enhance healthcare for the region. The delay also could help the Save UTMC Coalition find answers to the questions surrounding the flow of funds in and out of the hospital and determine the net worth of this important state asset," former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner said.

Northwest Ohio legislators were scheduled to meet today with Ohio Auditor Keith Faber's office.

The University of Toledo stated one reason for this decision was the public scrutiny surrounding a 50-year academic affiliation agreement between ProMedica and UT for its College of Medicine and Life Sciences (COM&LS). The agreement was initiated as a way to improve the university's finances and help advance the COM&LS's academic and research mission. However, the Save UTMC Coalition argues that the agreement has only exacerbated the university's financial issues.

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Perryman... continued from page 2

Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, said it best. Speaking exactly six years after the death by police chokehold of her son, "Don't let the fire burn out," she admonished. "Because what happens is when we've settled down, they settle down and they sweep all of this up under the rug. We have to keep the fire to the feet of the legislators."

John Lewis' long, tenacious career of activism dramatically accentuates Carr's statement. In other words, "don't let fatigue defeat us," Lewis' life seems to preach to us. That's the danger that undermines the entire struggle.

Yes. "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice. So, be not weary in well-doing, for we shall reap if we faint not."

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

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Local Dems Demand Measures to Ensure Ballot Access

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"How are we prepared for the election of our lives?" said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken as he opened a press conference with fellow Democrats on Monday to announce the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure that all who want to vote, in Lucas County and around the state of Ohio, have the opportunity to do so safely and easily.

"Some things have to change," Gerken noted, as he recalled obstacles voters faced in recent elections in states such as Wisconsin and Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joining Gerken at the announcement were Lucas County Democratic Party Chairman Michael Ashford, State Representatives Paula Hicks-Hudson and Lisa Sobecki, Toledo Councilwoman Katie Moline.

Gerken emphasized the need for voters to check their status online to make sure they are registered with the correct address. He also said that local election officials should make sure that "precinct consolidation should not happen" to enable as many voting locations as possible. In addition, said Gerken, ballot boxes should be "spread throughout the community to drop off ballots to be picked up every day."

So far, noted Gerken, only two such ballot box locations have currently been designated for the county, which are not enough. "The law allows it," he said, the Ohio Attorney General "just needs to set it up."

"The Board of Elections needs to align with these demands," he added.

Hicks-Hudson and Sobecki addressed their concerns about Ohio House Bill 680 which recently passed in the Ohio House and has gone to the Ohio Senate for its approval. The bill – which addresses election procedures – passed along a party line in the House – all Republicans in favor and all Democrats opposed.

As passed by the Ohio House, the Republican bill will prohibit future public officials from "causing an election to be conducted other than the time, place and manner prescribed by the Revised Code;" rolls back the absentee ballot request deadline from the Saturday before an election to a full week before an election; prohibits the Secretary of State from including prepaid postage on any absentee ballot requests of absentee ballots.

"This is an impediment to democracy," said Hicks-Hudson outlining her concerns about the three provisions. The prohibition against prepaid postage, she noted, would also apply to military personnel in the service of their country.

"Our position at the statehouse is that we are going to make access to voting a priority," she said. "Leadership has the option of hope," Hicks-Hudson quoted the late Congressman John Lewis. "I am optimistic that we can make this work for voters easily and safely."

Hicks-Hudson and her Democratic colleagues are working on their own legislation to "allow citizens to participate in our government," she said.



Lucas County Democratic Party Chairman Michael Ashford

That legislation would make absentee ballot requests available online; establish postage paid return ballot requests and ballots and allow counties to set the number and hours of early voting centers.

Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson's Statement on Mask Order

Rep. Hicks-Hudson statement on state mask mandate for Lucas County falls in Level 3 of the state's new COVID-19 alert system

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued a statement last week following Gov. DeWine's executive order to require facemasks in Lucas County. The county falls within Level 3 of the state's new Public Health Advisory System, which was unveiled July 2. Level 3 indicates very high exposure and spread of coronavirus.

...continued on page 6

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Mayor Seeks Income Tax Ballot Approval

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz released the following statement this week regarding the November 2020 ballot:

"After weeks of conversation with members of City Council, leaders in the business community and citizens all throughout Toledo, I have decided to ask Toledo City Council to place two issues on the ballot for the November election.

"Today, I am introducing both ordinances to City Council, which will need to approve them both by August 4th in order to place the issues before the voters.

"The first issue is a simple renewal of the temporary 3/4 percent income tax that has helped fund city operations for nearly 40 years.

"The 3/4 percent income tax was first passed in June 1982 and has never failed to earn the support of Toledo voters. It is the engine that operates city government, and all Toledoans understand that it must be renewed in November in order for the city to provide even the most basic of essential services.

"The 3/4 percent renewal generates \$56.8 million to help the city provide police and fire protection, snow removal, clean water, park maintenance, and other basic services.

"The defeat of the 3/4 percent renewal would truly be catastrophic for our city. To understand the impact of removing \$56.8 million from the city budget, consider that salaries and benefits for the roughly 500 Toledo Police patrol officers also total \$56.8 million. In other words, filling the hole in the city budget caused by the defeat of the 3/5 percent renewal could be accomplished by laying off literally every single patrol officer on the police department.

"Clearly, this would be an unacceptable future for our city. Toledoans understand this, which is why they have voted to renew the 3/4 percent income tax consistently since 1982. I know they will do so again this November.

"The second issue is a temporary four-year 1/4 percent income tax increase to be used, exclusively, to fund road repair. The passage of this issue would raise \$18.9 million per year to fix the roads of Toledo, which as we all know, are badly in need of repair.

"The most effective public officials are the ones who truly listen to their constituents, and since the defeat of Issue 1 in the spring, I have sought input from stakeholders from all parts of our city. The feedback I received was

crystal clear: a separate, stand-alone, smaller tax increase levy, to be used solely and exclusively to fix our roads, would enjoy the support of citizens who want to see Toledo succeed. That is what this approach does.

"Issue 1 was criticized for being too bold — for seeking to do too many things at once. While Toledoans wanted the youth programming, park improvements, pre-K, road repair and additional police that Issue 1 would have provided, I can understand that asking for all of those things at once was perhaps overly ambitious. This certainly became true after the COVID-19 crisis ushered in a time of great economic uncertainty.

"Time and again, I heard voters express three very clear opinions: they didn't want the tax increase to be so large; they wanted the new revenue to fix roads much more so than any other program; and they wanted the request for new revenue to be separated out from the primary means of funding city operations, the 3/4 percent renewal.

"I listened to the citizens of Toledo, but more importantly, I heard them. That is why the approach I am requesting does each of the three things voters demanded: the levy requests are two totally separate issues; the size of the tax increase has been cut in half (from 1/2 percent to 1/4 percent); and every penny of the additional revenue will be spent fixing our roads.

"As much as I continue to believe that Toledo also needs more programming for youth, more police, universal pre-K and stronger parks, the revenue from this new levy will go to only one thing: road repair.

"Toledo has faced a year of unprecedented challenges, but the passage of these two issues in November will chart the course for a stronger and brighter future. I am asking City Council to place these two issues on the ballot so we can build on our momentum and invest in our city."

Carnel Smith Hosts 18th Annual Free Football Camp For Boys in 3rd – 8th Grade –Virtually!

Scott high School Principal Carnel Smith, EdD, is hosting his 18th annual free football camp for boys in third through eighth grades. However, this time there's a twist, it's virtual!

The camp will on football from offensive, defensive and kicking perspectives. Camp will also focus on social skills. In fact, participants are required to complete daily homework assignments based off the word of the day. "As a former football player and now mentor and high school administrator, I believe that while athletics are important, the key to being a great athlete must include social skills and academics!"

There will be daily motivational speakers and participation will take place with the use of a tablet, laptop or cell phone in the comfort of the participants' home or the park while utilizing proper social distancing.

When: Monday July 27 – Friday July 31 daily at 11:00 AM.

Registration: Participants can register by visiting drcarnelsmith.com.

Mask Order... continued from page 5

Several cities in Ohio have already moved to require facemasks, including Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton.

"It is truly unfortunate that Lucas County is now a red, Level 3 county. I personally know of people who have died or have been hospitalized with this virus. If you start to experience symptoms or find out you were exposed to Covid-19, please quarantine yourself to prevent the spread to the best of your abilities," Rep. Hicks-Hudson said. Remember to social distance, and wear a mask in public in order to protect each other. We must take this virus more seriously."

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TARTA Workers Join Rally for “Strike for Black Lives”

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 697 of Toledo joined the rally for the “Strike for Black Lives” on Monday, July 20 at Advanced Healthcare on Garden Lake Parkway. The Strike was a call for government and corporate America to confront the systemic racism and oppression of communities of color that has plagued society and the economy.

The local action was part of a nationwide protest by the members of ATU, as a call went out for thousands of workers to stand down from work for eight minutes and 46 seconds in memory of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain and other Black people killed by police around the nation.

In Toledo, ATU Local 697, which represents TARTA workers, emphasized the risk that their members work every day on the job to provide essential transportation across the metropolitan area since the pandemic began.

As COVID-19 rages and states begin to re-open, the pandemic has taken a far greater toll of communities of color, killing dozens of black men and women in ATU's own ranks. They are dying in greater numbers because governments and employers see no need to protect the working class essential heroes on the frontline, said ATU International President John Costa. “We must dismantle the racist policies that target our communities to ensure all workers are healthy, safe and secure no matter their race, immigration status, gender, job or where they live,” he added.



Julian Mack (bullhorn) and Erika White (right) lead protest



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Biden Campaign Announces Top Ohio Operatives

Special to The Truth

Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign on Friday announced four key Ohio hires that it hopes will help it wrest the state from Republican President Donald Trump in November.

Toni Webb, Ohio State Director

Toni Webb has spent the past decade fighting for working families across the country with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. She is a graduate of Millikin University and Saint Louis University School of Law and is a veteran of dozens of political and issue campaigns.



Toni Webb

She most recently led For Our Future Ohio, Ohio's largest permanent progressive field organization that runs issue and independent expenditure programs. Webb is on the board of LEAD Ohio, Ohio's progressive candidate recruitment, training, and support organization, because she is deeply committed to developing and supporting new, diverse political candidates and operatives.

Demeatrious St. John, Ohio Strategic Advisor

Over the past 20-plus years, St. John has been very instrumental as a Democratic political operative in Ohio, serving as campaign advisor for mayors and several council members and County Commissioners in northeast Ohio and statewide, he served as Campaign Director to former State Representative William J. Healy II (52nd District) and advisor to current State Representative Thomas West (49th District).



Demeatrious St. John

He has also served as African American Outreach Director for the Ohio Democratic Party and the Obama Campaign for Change in Ohio 2008, served as political director to Ohio State Treasurer Kevin Boyce in 2010 and Political Advisor to Congressman John Conyers Jr. of Michigan (MI 14) from 2009-2011.

Currently, St. John serves as Statewide Political Outreach Advisor to Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH 11).

Alan Bannister, Ohio Political Director

Alan brings 23 years of political experience to the campaign. Alan supervised constituent affairs for eight counties in northwest Ohio in Governor Ted Strickland's Office, and managed projects for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives. Bannister was also a special projects manager for the City of Toledo for the past five mayors. He was the state political director for Clinton in 2016 and was part of the political teams in 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns.

Meredith Tucker, Ohio Deputy State Director

Meredith Tucker brings more than a decade of experience working in Ohio government and statewide and presidential elections, with an extensive background in political advising and strategic communications. Since President Obama's 2008 campaign, she has worked for the Ohio Democratic Party, the Ohio Legislature, the labor coalition We Are Ohio, and as a political consultant for candidates and elected officials throughout Ohio and across the country.

Most recently, she has been serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Communications for Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. Tucker is a Lakewood, Ohio native, and an Ohio University alumna."

Democrats say they're optimistic they can win Ohio this year, even though Trump won the state by eight percentage points in 2016.

"In Ohio, we have millions of voters that have voted for Democrats in the past," said U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Cleveland. "They voted for Strickland, they voted for Obama twice, they voted for me, they voted for (former Ohio Gov. Dick) Celeste, they voted for Clinton twice. So, we have a lot of voters. We just need to return them to the voting patterns that they've been used to."

"Winning the Buckeye State means speaking directly to voters who have been hurt by Trump's broken promises and failed policies," added Jenn Ridder, Biden's national states director. "Joe Biden keeps his promises. That's how he brought the auto industry roaring back to life, and it's why our campaign has hired a tested team that will take back the battleground state of Ohio."



Joe Biden and Alan Bannister



Standing Up For Something: Meet Daniel Carter

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach

Special to The Truth

Daniel Carter was 19 years old when his first son was born. Having a child at that young of an age taught him a lot about himself, including the fact that he could be a good father and do whatever he needed to do to ensure his child was taken care of.

Initially, Daniel's relationship with the mother of his now two sons wasn't that great. They lacked communication and weren't seeing eye to eye on many things. He didn't allow that to affect his relationship with his child, though, and spent time with his son every moment he could.

Daniel found out about Brothers United during a job fair and then heard about it again during the African American Festival.

"The persistence of the outreach team that was talking to me and asking me questions really talked me into giving it a chance."

Brothers United helped Mr. Carter learn more about communication. He realized that without communication, his relationship with his co-parent would never be good.

"It taught me to have a better relationship with my co-parent and grow a bond with my child."

Carter is now 23 years old. He and his co-parent got married after he completed the program and they now have two boys.

"We both realized that communication is really good for our marriage and relationship. BU taught me to be honest and willing to do anything to make your relationship work and have a good relationship with your kids so that you're involved in their lives."

Mr. Carter is back to working and is able to provide more for his family. He's more involved with his boys and is focusing on continuing to build



Daniel Carter

a healthy relationship with his wife.

"Life now is looking better and stronger for me and my family."

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or www.pathway-toledo.org

Applying and Learning: Gregory Cross Jr.

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach

Special to The Truth

"I was raised in Chicago. Coming from the lifestyle that I come from, having to see family on drugs, I just wanted something different for myself. I didn't want to be the typical statistic of a young black male in and out of prison, selling drugs or in gangs."

Gregory Cross Jr. considered his life to be pretty decent, but rough around the edges.

His father was popular in town, which left a name for Cross. He realized he had to be careful about how he moved.

Despite his father's obstacles and time in prison, he believes he had a great father figure growing up. Gregory's father taught him that he didn't have to smoke and drink or be in gangs in order to make something of himself.

"He basically taught me the ropes on how to be a man, taught me that I didn't have to go to jail or get caught up in the system. He taught me focus and most

kids don't get that. I had a decent man that raised me, but there was just a me that I had to become."

Gregory had his first son when he was 28.

"Having a child taught me that I got to really look out for myself because I have a seed now. Anything I do is not just for me anymore, it's for my child and his well being. Anything you do falls back on your child. If you're not careful, you can mess up your child's life based off your actions. Any little moves that I may make or any little selfish actions that I take out of pride or ignorance, I leave my son out here to fail. Anything I do now has to be for the sake of my

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Gregory Cross, Jr.

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Social Security Column

A Redesigned Retirement Benefits Portal That Works for You

By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

We are excited to tell you about our redesigned retirement benefits portal at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement. Keeping you informed about our products and services, and helping you prepare for making

decisions that will affect your benefits is very important to us. Preparing for retirement is one of the most important decisions you can make.

Our website has helped millions of people get ready for and apply for retirement. But we heard your feedback that you also want to:

- Find the information you need without reading through too many pages.
- Learn about the benefits in a clear and concise way.
- Be better prepared to apply for retirement online.
- Learn how to manage your personal my Social Security account online.

We made our redesigned retirement benefits portal more user-friendly and easier to navigate, whether you are ready to learn about, apply for, or manage your retirement benefits. You'll find the new portal eye pleasing, informative, and optimized for mobile devices. We also improved how we list our information on search engines to make it easier for you to find outside our website.

The new Retirement Benefits portal is just the first of several steps we are taking to improve your experience on our website. Visit our new retirement benefits portal today at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to Learn, Apply, and Manage your retirement benefits and subscribe to receive retirement information and updates.

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SOCIAL SECURITY in plain language

Some of the terms and acronyms people use when they talk about Social Security can be a little confusing. We're here to help you understand all you need to know.

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... continued on page 13

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Ohio Caregivers Prepare for Nursing Home Visits starting July 20

For Rebecca Bickett, July 22 couldn't have gotten here soon enough.

As soon as she heard Governor Mike DeWine announce on June 29 that effective July 20, nursing homes would be permitted to begin outdoor visitation, Bickett said she called the next day for a visitation appointment.

Her mother Virginia (Ginny) Jones, 88, lives with dementia in a skilled nursing facility. Because of COVID-19, Bickett has not physically seen her mother since the spring and the separation has been tough.

"She's on the second floor and I can't do window visits," Bickett said. "I've got to be honest with you, I even took a ladder over and tried. I needed an extension ladder and didn't feel that would be the wise thing to do."

For Bickett, seeing her mother up close and personal was worth the try.

In mid-March, Governor DeWine announced that visitors would not be permitted at Ohio's nursing facilities. While assisted living facilities and intermediate care homes for the developmentally disabled resumed outdoor visitation on June 8, nursing homes who meet all the safety standards start Monday.

Pete Van Runkle, executive director of The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA), said he is confident that visits for nursing home residents are safe if done correctly. "We are happy to see this option opening up for the residents that our providers care for in these settings. We have advocated for safe visits as we know these are necessary for the health and quality of life for our residents."

The OHCA represents more than 1,000 assisted living communities, home care and hospice service providers, providers of care and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD), and skilled nursing care facilities.

While many caregivers are anxious to finally see their loved ones in person, many are not sure what physical condition they will find them in, particularly if their loved one has Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Pamela Myers, program director for the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio and Central Ohio, said, "We have heard from so many of our caregivers that they have been told their loved ones have been more confused as they have been more isolated on the no visitor restriction. This is a huge concern for caregivers as increased confusion could possibly lead to undesirable behaviors or a decline in physical health and adds worry to an already tough situation."

Currently 220,000 Ohioans live with Alzheimer's disease. Older people with Alzheimer's or other dementias have more skilled nursing facility stays and

home health care visits per year than other older people. Nationwide, according to the 2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, 48 percent of nursing home residents have Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Amy Kullik has not physically seen her mother Lynn Phillips, who lives in a skilled nursing unit, since March 6 - two days after her 69th birthday. Diagnosed four and a half years ago with Young Onset Alzheimer's, she has kept in touch through FaceTime and phone calls.

"She's in the later stages of Alzheimer's so she does not understand anymore the technology like she used to," Kullik said. "When she sees us on FaceTime, she does not understand we are not there with her and she'll get up and go to the next room looking for us. That was back in March. Now she just looks down at the screen. Over the last three months she has become non-communicative. She does not say a word... This inability to communicate is new. It's kind of heartbreaking that it has happened in this period of time when we have not been able to see her."

Cedric Howard said he and his father, Lee Howard, have been getting updates on his uncle, who is in a nursing facility but who does not have dementia, through phone calls and letters from the facility. The last time they saw Thomas Howard, Jr. was Feb. 29. "He's been in pretty good spirits," Howard said about his uncle. "He's just trying to understand why no one has been up there to see him."

Howard said his dad is ready to see his uncle. "He's ready to see him, see how he is doing," Howard said. "We know he is doing OK, but we kind of want to put some eyes on him."



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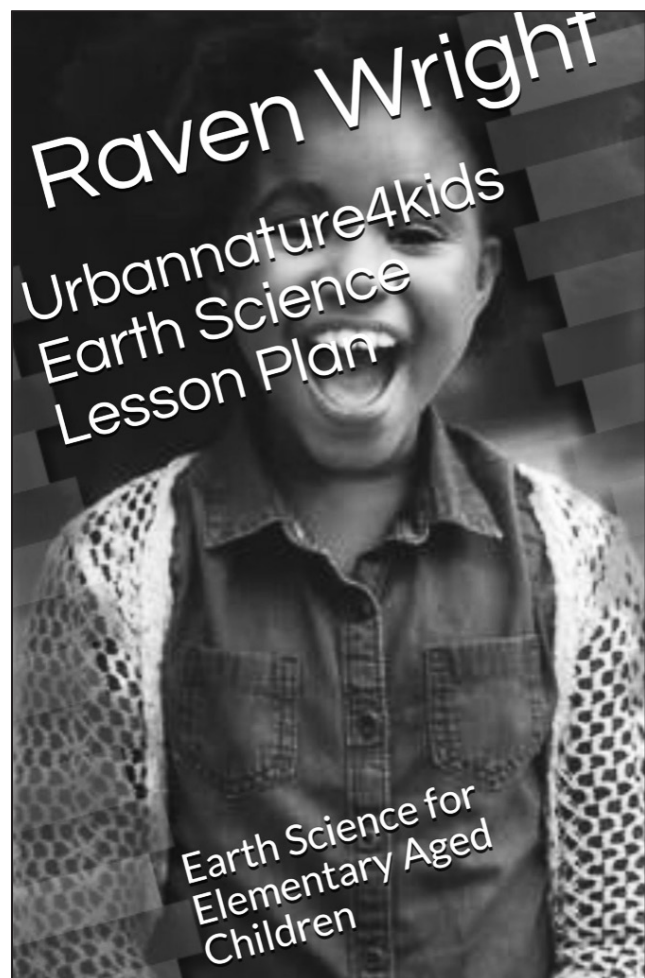
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C.T. Vivian... continued from page 16

Rights Act that he helped win, our long journey to equality was nowhere near finished. As Rosa Parks once said of Reverend Vivian, "Even after things had supposedly been taken care of and we had our rights, he was still out there."

I admired him from before I became a senator and got to know him as a source of wisdom, advice, and strength on my first presidential campaign. His friendship, encouraging words, and ever-present smile were a great source of inspiration and comfort, and personally, I will miss him greatly. I'm only here thanks to C.T. Vivian and all the heroes in that Civil Rights Generation. Because of them, the idea of a just, fair, inclusive, and generous America came closer into focus. The trail they blazed gave today's gen-

eration of activists and marchers a roadmap to tag in and finish the journey. And I have to imagine that seeing the largest protest movement in history unfold over his final months gave the Reverend a final dose of hope before his long and well-deserved rest.

*John Lewis... continued from page 16*

ship of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This passion drove Mr. Lewis to dedicate himself and his life to the Civil Rights Movement.

As a student at Fisk University, Mr. Lewis was a part of the Nashville Student Movement and helped organize sit-ins that eventually led to the desegregation of the lunch counters in downtown Nashville. In 1961, he became one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, an integrated group determined to ride from Washington, DC to New Orleans. In 1963, he became the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an organization he helped form.

As chairman of SNCC, John Lewis was one of the "Big 6" leaders of the historic March on Washington on August, 28, 1963, and was the youngest speaker to address the hundreds of thousands marching for jobs and freedom that day. He also played a key role in the marches from Selma to Montgomery, a campaign against the blatant voter suppression of Black citizens. He joined Hosea Williams and hundreds of civil rights marchers to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge on "Bloody Sunday" and suffered a fractured skull that day for the right of Black people to register and vote.

For 34 years, Mr. Lewis served Georgia's 5th district and our country with the same burning desire to ensure America's promises were accessible to all. He never hesitated to tell the truth about this nation's history and injustices. In his very first Congress, John Lewis introduced a bill to create an African American history museum in Washington, DC, but the bill was blocked by Senator Jesse Helms for 15 years. But Mr. Lewis persisted, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in 2016 and is by far the most popular museum on the National Mall.

In 2012, John Lewis unveiled a marker in Emancipation Hall commemorating the contributions of enslaved Americans to the construction of the United States Capitol. The marker was the result of literally a decade of work by a special task force led by Mr. Lewis after a bill was found in the National Archives documenting payment for slaves to build the Capitol. Congressman Lewis commented at the unveiling:

"When I walk through Statuary Hall, it means a great deal to me to know that the unusual grey marble columns were likely hewn and polished by slaves in Maryland. They quarried the stone in Maryland and sailed ships or barges many miles down the Potomac River weighed down by heavy marble columns to bring them to DC. Somehow, they carried them several miles through the streets perhaps using wagons and mules or horses, and then hoisted them

up so they are standing as we see them today in the Capitol. The bronze statue sitting on top of the Capitol dome also involved the contribution of slaves. These men and woman played a powerful role in our history and that must not be forgotten."



Legislatively, Mr. Lewis championed the Voter Empowerment Act, which would modernize registration and voting in America and increase access to the ballot. He was also an ardent advocate for immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and affordable health care for all. As Chair of the Oversight Subcommittee on the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Lewis helped ensure the efficient implementation of laws related to tax, trade, health, Human Resources, and Social Security. He examined how the tax code subsidizes hate groups and the public health impact of gun violence. Most recently, Mr. Lewis pressed the Trump Administration to quickly deliver the stimulus checks that Congress provided in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Lewis continued his practice of nonviolent protest, community organizing, and grassroots activism throughout his tenure in Congress. In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States of America. Following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2016, John Lewis led Democrats in a 26-hour sit-in on the House floor to demand that the body debate gun control measures. Every year, he led a pilgrimage to Selma to commemorate the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Even his recent health challenges could not keep him from commemorating the 55th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" this year.

Despite more than 40 arrests, brutal attacks and physical injuries, Mr. Lewis remained devoted to the philosophy of nonviolence in his fight for justice and equality, even to this day, as America faces another reckoning with racism and hundreds of thousands around the world spark a modern-day civil rights movement against police brutality and racial injustice. He taught us to keep our eye on the prize, and that lesson is more crucial than ever. We will keep our eye on the prize of social justice, voting rights, quality education, affordable health care, and economic empowerment for every soul.

The entire Congressional Black Caucus extends our condolences to Mr. Lewis' family, friends, staff, and the city of Atlanta.

Gregory Cross Jr... continued from page 9

child. It's not about me anymore. It's about him."

Cross first heard about Brothers United while he was in CTF Work Release. He asked people he knew about the program and they convinced him to join. Having known of many fatherhood programs that failed to serve him, Cross was hesitant to be-

lieve BU could benefit him in any way. Once he got into the program, he grew to liking it.

Brothers United helped Mr. Cross grow wise in his decision making. He learned how to control his anger and communicate, which he expressed he was very poor at beforehand.

"I appreciate all the things you guys taught me. You showed me to pay attention. I still have my issues here and there, but I'm applying what I'm learning and trying to make it count.

Cross realized that after the program, he was able to look at the things he was doing wrong. He became more cautious of his behavior and continues to do what he can to stay out of trouble.

"I had my problems here and there, but I made it to 29. I'll be 30 this year. I'm thankful this program helped me to really evaluate all I do."

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Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man by Mary L. Trump, Ph.D.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You hadn't seen that container in ages.

You really can't remember when you put it on the shelf. Sometime this year, six years ago, when you moved last? What's in it must be worth something, though, or you wouldn't've saved it. Now, as in the new book *Too Much and Never Enough* by Mary L. Trump, PhD, digging may yield answers.

No one has to explain to you who Donald Trump is but, for anyone who's been completely out of the loop, Mary Trump is Donald's niece (she uses his first name, always, and to avoid confusion, so will we). Trump has a PhD in psychology, worked at Manhattan Psychiatric Center while in school, was once a therapist, and taught graduate psychology. The point is, she got chops and it shows, especially when this book – a look at her family and, specifically, her Uncle Donald – reads like something from the True Medicine genre. Indeed, medically-based passages are nearly emotionless in their clinicality.

To fully understand this story and where it leads, Trump begins with brief accounts of her great-grandfather, who came to America from Germany in order to avoid military service. After the elder man died, Trump's grandfather "Fred" (as she refers to him) became business partners with his mother and expanded the family fortune.

Trump asserts that grandfather Fred was "a high-functioning sociopath" who put his own self-interests above everything else. He was cruel for cruelty's sake and ultimately used that against his eldest son and namesake, "Freddy," whom Fred hoped would assume the family business but who didn't have the heart for it.

When Freddy proved to be a disappointment, Fred turned to Donald, his second son, and gave him free reign, an open bank account and the paternal approval Trump suggests that Donald craved.

Once you get this far into *Too Much and Never Enough*, it shouldn't surprise you; none of it will, going forward, because you know how this book ends. Long before that, though, Trump shares details of growing up, noting nuances within the Trump sibling group and the family at large, learning

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to read silences, and hearing regular racist or homophobic comments that made her, years later, keep mum on her marriage to (and subsequent divorce from) a woman. The cruelty, as she describes it, can sometimes read like a TV documentary on wolves at a kill. Disappointment was thick on both sides.

Readers may occasionally note something like sour grapes, too, but even that offers more of an understanding of Trump's observations. While this memoir some-

what culminates with the fight over Trump's grandfather's will, a skewed inheritance, subsequent lawsuit, and the truth she says she found with the urging of the New York Times, the story – as she indicates – won't begin to be finished until January, or a January four years hence.

Until then, this is a must-read for left and right alike but beware that it might leave you feeling mournful – not for any one person, but overall, in general: *Too Much and Never Enough* just contains a lot of sadness.



Author Mary Trump, photo courtesy Peter Serling

Social Security.. continued from page 10

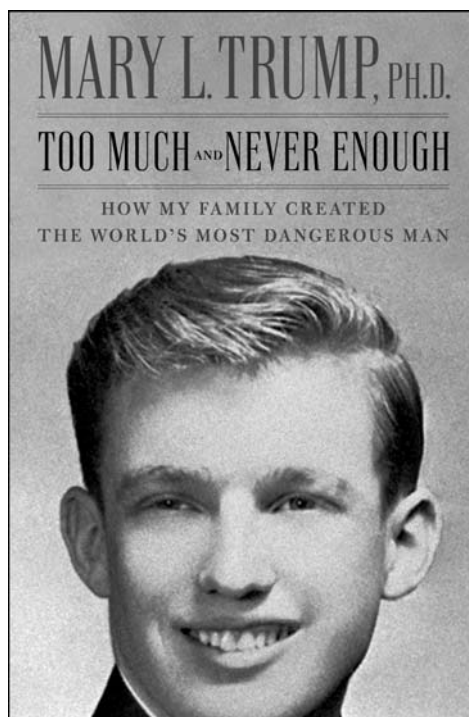
be particularly challenging when talking about complicated programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare. If there's a technical term or acronym that you don't know, you can easily find the meaning in our online glossary at www.ssa.gov/agency/glossary.

Everyone uses shorter versions of words nowadays. We do too. Social Security's acronyms function as shorthand in conversations about our programs and services. If you're nearing retirement, you may want to know what PIA (primary insurance amount), FRA (full retirement age), and DRCs (delayed retirement credits) mean. These terms describe your benefit amount – based on when you decide to take it. If you take your retirement benefit at FRA, you'll receive the full PIA (amount payable for a retired worker who starts benefits at full retirement age). So, FRA is an age and PIA is an amount.

Once you receive benefits, you get a COLA most years. A COLA is a Cost-of-Living Adjustment, and that will usually mean a little extra money in your monthly benefit.

What about DRCs? Delayed retirement credits are the incremental increases added to the PIA if you delay taking retirement benefits beyond your full retirement age. If you wait to begin benefits beyond FRA – say, at age 68 or even 70 – your benefit increases.

If one of those terms or acronyms comes up in conversation, you can be the one to supply the definition using our online glossary. Sometimes learning the terminology can deepen your understanding of how Social Security works for you.



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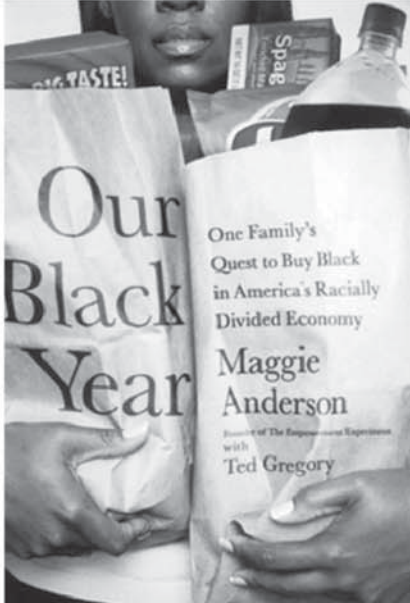
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Date: May 28, 2020

ABOUT US:

Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1997. Our mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings.

SUMMARY:

The Clinical Director is an independent contractor who will collaborate with the Executive Director, the Management Team and the Clinical Services Team. The Clinical Director is responsible for designing and implementing client services that address Center of Hope Family Services' mission and are provided in a manner consistent with Agency vision and values.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Recommends a system of clinical programming for achieving budget goals and assuring quality of care by adhering to relevant best practices and State mandated requirements.
2. Ensures that clinical decisions are made in the best interest of the client.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Clinical Director must have a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, psychology, or other closely related human service field.
2. Must be licensed to practice in the State of Ohio in psychology, social work or professional counseling.
3. Must have demonstrated extensive experience in the treatment and care of individuals who have mental health, substance abuse or trauma related issues and/or children who have experienced these issues or child abuse / neglect.
4. They must have prior supervisory experience.

To apply, please email your resume to jobs@cohfs.org.

The Congressional Black Caucus Mourns the Loss of Rep. John Lewis

The Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement on the passing of House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee Chairman and Congressional Black Caucus Member, Congressman John R. Lewis (GA-05):

The world has lost a legend; the civil rights movement has lost an icon, the City of Atlanta

has lost one of its most fearless leaders and the Congressional Black Caucus has lost our longest serving member. The Congressional Black Caucus is known as the Conscience of the Congress. John Lewis was known as the conscience of our caucus. A fighter for justice until the end, Mr. Lewis recently visited Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington DC. His mere presence encouraged a new generation of activists to "speak up and speak out" and get into "good trouble" to continue bending the arc toward justice and freedom.

The City of Atlanta has lost one of its most fearless leaders. Congressman John Lewis spent his life fighting racism and injustice wherever he confronted



John Lewis



it, from boycotts, sit-ins, and other protests in the streets, to championing bold, progressive policies in Congress. Mr. Lewis was born and raised in Troy, Alabama, a segregated town of the Deep South. At an early age, he was inspired by the non-violent activism of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his leader-

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President Barack Obama's Statement on the Passing of C.T. Vivian

Today, we've lost a founder of modern America, a pioneer who shrunk the gap between reality and our constitutional ideals of equality and freedom.

C.T. Vivian was one of Dr. King's closest advisors, a field general in his movement for civil rights and justice. "Martin taught us that it's in the action that we find out who we really are," Reverend Vivian once said. And he was always one of the first in the action – a Freedom Rider, a marcher in Selma, beaten, jailed, almost killed, absorbing blows in hopes that fewer of us would

have to. He waged non-violent campaigns for integration across the south, and campaigns for economic justice throughout the north, and never let up, know-

ing that even after the Voting Rights Act and Civil

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C.T. Vivian



Northwest Ohio is **POWERED**

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Andre Tiggs, '07
Fire Investigator
City of Toledo Fire Department
Toledo

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Sgt. Javier Martinez, '14
Lucas County Sheriff's Office
Toledo

CARED for

Theresa Hamlin, RN, BSN, '12
Nurse
Blanchard Valley Hospital
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