

The Sojourner's Truth

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Volume 65 No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 23, 2020

Tis The Season for Giving!!



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Yet, With a Steady Beat

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

The Truth Contributor

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet, Come to the place where our fathers sighed?

- James Weldon Johnson



The song "Lift Every Voice," also known as the black national anthem, resonates with many – Blacks and Whites alike. Originally written in 1899 by brothers James Weldon and John Rosamond Johnson, the hymn's theme of struggle and resilience has made the song both endearing and enduring.

Nothing prepares a leader for success as the ability to overcome adversity and life stressors to control his or her life.

I had the opportunity to converse with Toledo Councilmember Vanice Williams, who represents District Four. Throughout her life, Williams has traversed life's rugged terrain. Yet, with a steady beat she has overcome economic, psychological and social adversity again and again. Undoubtedly, Williams' resilience throughout her cragged journey predicts her success as a public servant.

Here is our conversation.

Perryman: Please share a little bit of your background.

Williams: I was born and raised in Toledo's inner city by a single mother with an older sister and brother. I also have an older sister from my father, and we were all raised pretty close. I was evicted at age 17 by my mother to go out in these streets and make it on my own. My mom suffered from drug addictions, so we struggled with her.

Perryman: Can you elaborate?

Williams: We fought through sometimes not having the basic needs, food, lights, gas, water, which ultimately turned to my brother trying to provide for us the best way he knew. So, we were opened up to gang violence, as my brother was a part of a gang, and my dad was in and out.

After graduating from Scott High School, I attempted to go to the University of Toledo, but with little support, I didn't deal with that well. I dropped out of UT my first semester, then tried to go to Owens for a little bit and dropped out of there also. When you don't have a whole lot of support, you just don't finish stuff. I had an apartment in the Moody Manor at the age of 18. I lived there until I was 21 and tried to better my life and go to the Army. But nine days in, I had to go home because I was nine days pregnant.

I started working at Chrysler and was pregnant, so I couldn't work as much as I wanted to, so I took the layoff back in 2000 or 2001. I had my daughter and stayed home for eight months raising her and then decided to get back to work, and I started in the emergency department at St. Vincent's Hospital. I was there for a year, left, and went into the business office at Mercy Hospital and decided it was time for me to go back to school.

Perryman: Please talk about your decision to return to school.

Williams: I've always wanted to be a teacher, an educator. I worked a little bit at Head Start when I was a teenager at 19, so I definitely wanted to make sure I progressed and finished that up, but didn't feel like I had enough support as a single mother raising my daughter in the Moody Manor. While at Mercy, I decided to go to Lourdes, also working part-time to make some extra money to get out of the Moody Manor. So, I worked at the business office full time and a bar on the weekends and I went to school. Then, I was eventually able to go back to Chrysler and also finish my last two years at Lourdes, earning my bachelor's in marketing in May of 2009.

Perryman: Did you get into the field of education after graduation?

Williams: I decided to go to the Life Skills Center of Toledo in December of '09. I went in as the enrollment specialist. Four years later, I worked my way up to be the administrator. It's a dropout recovery school for 16 to 21 year-olds to get their high school diploma. I ran into many kids who were just like me, struggling to figure out where they fit in in this life.

And, actually, before I started working at Life Skills, I needed to take a little bit further and decided to get my master's. In 2011, while in my master's program, I was in the hospital for 20 days with meningitis, but the kids at the school said that they would not graduate unless I returned. That was my motivation to come back. So, I pushed through, getting my masters in 2012 and then ultimately became the principal at the Life Skills school.

Perryman: After helping to transform the lives of many young disadvantaged students, you felt that it was time to spread your wings and do something bigger?

Williams: I decided to leave Life Skills on June 14, 2019, which was the kids' graduation date. I graduated more kids that day than any year in the 10 years that I had been there and also met our report card. I decided it was time for me to get into early childcare, a goal I've had from the time I was much younger and attending Owens. I opened First Light Child Care Center, was blessed with a building, and opened for business in July.

Perryman: Please talk about the decision to become a city councilman.

Williams: I always knew that I wanted to do something bigger and help

... continued on page 12



Councilwoman Vanice Williams

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The Butterscotch Babies Panic!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you want to get to the underlying glue that is keeping Donald Trump's "deplorables" in absolute fear and panic of a future without The Donald in their lives, it is the yet to be broadcasted story of: THE BUTTERSCOTCH BABIES!

One of stories of why Donald Trump's desperate political gasps to keep the White House resounds with his voters is that they have a deep primordial fear of becoming a minority ethnic group by the year 2042.

They see in the personality of their cult leader, Donald Trump, their idea of a white savior who will keep the "brown hordes" at bay and allow them continued political and economic hegemony over those "others."

Trump, as a white nationalist, senses this and nurses their fear that one day, white America will wake up in a land not known to them but inhabited by more and more people of color.

For Trump's anxious base, that is a cause for alarm and irrational behavior, thinking that they may be on the short end of the stick as it comes to fairness and equality before the law.

These are two non-negotiable criteria of an American democracy which for so many centuries, were denied by white people to black and brown people.

If the bean counters at the Census Bureau in the national government are counting correctly, by the year 2042, brown and black people (including Latinos and Native Americans), will, numbers wise, rule the roost.

If you are a white person in America who has irrational racial fears and phobias of all things black and brown, that new America may give you pause for concern and what better time than now to express those concerns to the politicians who can stem the tide of this racial tsunami?

Trump knows that many in white America are not willing to give up their perks and privileges and share the pie with others based on their corrupted thinking that they worked for their economic goodies, fair and square; and they are willing to march to a far-right Republican ideology in order to maintain the status quo.

Ever since white America created in 1619 the time bomb known as chattel slavery, the colorization of America has been slowly migrating towards a population that reflects a lower birth rate for white Americans and a higher birth rate for people of color.

Now that population growth has morphed into a demonizing of people of color by white politicians who see advantages in reminding their base via the use of "dog whistle" politics that they better hold the line at immigration and racial inclusion; and if not, the Butterscotch Babies are on the move!

And now... enter stage right: The Butterscotch Babies!

These are the babies of interracial marriages and liaisons and I use the term, "Butterscotch Babies", to indicate their light caramel skin color and which babies mark the cornerstone of the racial fears of the white population that their daughters or sons will bring home a Butterscotch Baby and thereby hastening the demise of the white majority population.

White America has had a long and ugly history of its treatment of those who are born of the union of a white person and a person of color. Hollywood pandered to this racial fascination with movies such as *Pinky* and *Imitation of Life*.

Racial coding in this country has not retreated from the recesses of our collective consciousness. Spike Lee's two movies, *Jungle Fever* and *School Daze* revealed embarrassing secrets of the unspoken racial codes that influenced Black Greek fraternity life, and America's fascination with racial dating.

Why, we even had state laws that said that if you violated the racial taboo of interracial dating or marriage, your life would be in danger of having a "necktie" party sponsored by outraged parents or mobs, or you being ran out of town with a threat that your return could be your last.

But with racial coding not as explicit as before (it was permissible for Mr. Charlie to have his way with black women and to do so without any legal penalty or threat of physical harm), more and more people are engaged in interracial couplings so that the march of the Butterscotch Babies is on the move!

When Sidney Poitier starred in the groundbreaking movie *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, white folks went apoplectic because they saw their dreams and hopes of their daughters marrying white and marrying right, being challenged.

The Butterscotch Babies are marching in lockstep because their numbers are gaining momentum; and they see themselves as the front line to knock down the last of the remaining racial barriers in employment, housing and equal justice under law.

The Butterscotch Babies will take the baton of the civil rights era and with confidence, attack anyone who will dare to mock them or deny them equal privileges under law.


Those Butterscotch Babies will one day sit in legislatures, on courts and will populate police departments and mayor offices and will control the levers of economic power.

No, Donald Trump and his "deplorables" will not win the fight against these

Butterscotch Babies and their offspring because the numbers show that the eventual browning of America is a foregone conclusion.

Butterscotch Babies.... march on!

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Local YWCA Receives \$2 Million Donation from Mackenzie Scott

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio is the proud recipient of a \$2 million donation from national philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The funds, which were announced last week, will be used for operations and to seed a \$12 million capital campaign at the YWCA.

"Being one of the 384 organizations painstakingly selected to receive a donation from MacKenzie Scott is truly amazing," said Lisa McDuffie, president and CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. "This important donation comes at the same time we are launching a much-needed capital campaign to renovate and improve our physical plant at the YWCA, and this will serve as the first major gift to the initiative."

The donation to the Toledo YWCA is part of Scott's plan to give away \$4.2 billion in recent months. It will be split, with \$1 million to support operations and \$1 million into the capital campaign. The YWCA capital campaign, which entered its planning stages in October, will seek to raise a total of \$12 million to renovate the facility located at 1018 Jefferson Avenue.

"We also are pleased to announce that our campaign is being chaired by four outstanding local women – Rita Mansour, Cynthia Thompson, Sara Jane DeHoff and Lori Johnston," McDuffie said. "Each of these women are accomplished leaders in our community, and we are thrilled they are volunteering their time and talent to our efforts."

The original YWCA facility was built in 1954 and needs updating and renovation. As the city's only emergency domestic violence shelter, the current COVID pandemic has magnified the need for major capital investment.

The physical environment we use to shelter primarily women and their children escaping intimate partner violence is inadequate, and the sheer size and design for semiprivate housing has proved to be both challenging and constricting as we try to accommodate our clients through an unprecedented pandemic," McDuffie said.

The planned renovations throughout the core facility are also needed for the YWCA's many other programs and services currently working out of shared outdated spaces.

"Ms. Scott's donation gives us an extraordinary start to this fundraising effort, which will run through 2021," McDuffie said. "As the YWCA of Northwest Ohio marks its 150th year, we are excited about the opportunity to create a space that will serve the agency and the vital services we deliver to women and families well into the future," said McDuffie.

"MacKenzie Scott's generosity has given us a great start to that end."

Founded in 1870, the YWCA of Northwest Ohio is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The local YWCA serves people from 20 counties in Northwest Ohio. In addition to the emergency domestic violence shelter, the organization provides a wide range of critical services, including breast cancer education, screening and support for medically underserved women, sexual assault services, permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless women, health education and care coordination to reduce infant mortality, youth development and teen pregnancy prevention, and child care resource and referral. Additionally, the YWCA is a community leader in promoting racial justice and equity.

Sen. Bernie Sanders on His Efforts to Pass a COVID Relief Bill

Last night, Sen. Ron Johnson objected to my bill to provide \$1,200 to working families, \$2,400 for couples and \$500 for kids because he's "worried" about the deficit. Funny. He wasn't so worried about the deficit when he voted to give over \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the top 1% and large corporations.

He wasn't so worried about the deficit when he voted to give the Pentagon and the military industrial complex a record-breaking \$740 billion – more than the next 10 nations combined – to wage endless war.

He wasn't worried so worried about the deficit when he voted to provide hundreds of billions in corporate welfare to the fossil fuel industry. Yep. When it comes to tax breaks for the rich, corporate welfare for the fossil fuel industry and wealthy defense contractors, we have all the money in the world.

But, somehow, when it comes to helping the working families with children, the elderly and people with disabilities who are facing hunger, eviction and economic desperation, we just don't have enough money to address their needs. What hypocrisy!



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Local Housing Complex Receives Development Grant

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) and the City of Toledo were awarded the 2020 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The announcement was made during a virtual press conference held on Friday, December 18, 2020.

LMHA and the City of Toledo applied for the grant that incentivizes the use of private and public dollars to benefit the McClinton Nunn property and the Junction community.

The HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) is a competitive grant program that catalyzes a comprehensive, resident-led neighborhood revitalization effort. Key to that revitalization is the redevelopment of a public housing complex into a modern, desirable and inclusive community of choice. The CNI grant will ignite a two-year planning process that incorporates neighborhood goals and public housing redevelopment plans for the McClinton Nunn public housing complex.

Choice Neighborhoods planning grants are the first step in the pursuit of Choice Neighborhoods implementation grants of \$30 to 35 million, which are used to carry out the plans imagined throughout the planning grant process.

In Ohio, the cities of Toledo, Akron and Cincinnati were the awardees of the planning grants.

The McClinton Nunn public housing complex contains 151 apartment homes for families and senior citizens. Built in 1961, it is situated within the Junction Neighborhood.

"On behalf of Lucas Metropolitan Housing I want to thank you for your attendance today," said Joaquin Cintron Vega, president and CEO of LMHA. "This is an exciting opportunity to plan and engage our community. This year, 2020, threw some challenges but let's focus on opportunities, 2020 was unprecedented, but we can transform the Junction Community. It's time to continue the legacy of opportunity and impact those who live in the community. Our community has truly come together. We're able to expand housing opportunities of choice and create communities of choice. We want to thank the City of Toledo, Lucas County Commissioners, Toledo Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Lisc), Junction Coalition, LMHA board and staff, and over 35 community partners. Congrats to our community. This is just the first step in a long journey, we plan to look forward and working together hand in hand."

The two-year \$450,000 planning HUD grant focuses on a collaboration between LMHA and the City of Toledo to implement changes to McClinton Nunn and Junction communities. The grant includes research and engagement of residents to determine implementation steps for the community.

"I am happy and proud of what was put together for this grant, this opportunity has been underfunded by the current administration," shared Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. "Our local community has put together a great application. Junction Coalition, I want to thank you for your work. I also



Joaquin Cintron Vega

want to thank LISC and Toledo's mayor. I want to thank each of you for your partnership. I will be your partner and let's keep going. Congrats to all."

"On behalf of President Trump and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, it is my pleasure to be here," said Joseph Galvan, Midwest Regional Administrator of HUD. "Eleven communities received this award, that will address distress housing and revitalize neighborhoods. Toledo is one of three Ohio communities to receive this award, which is highly competitive. This grant will help breed new life into distress neighborhoods and assist residents thrive. We want this to lead to hope, healing and opportunity. We believe in what your doing. Your mission is our mission."

The City of Toledo also launched a disparities study which will complement the efforts of the two-year HUD planning grant.

"We're excited about this opportunity," explained City of Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukeicz. "This two-year planning grant could lead to an implementation grant. This planning process includes engaging residents and digging deep into what the community wants to see, including amenities, services and design. This planning grant aligns with the City of Toledo's disparities study, which will be completed within the first year. The disparities study focuses more on economic opportunities to create an equity enterprise ecosystem and identify local participants to scale up and create jobs."

LMHA plans to announce the planning timeline and strategic steps in the near future.



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Three New Members Appointed to the Toledo Museum of Art Board of Directors

The Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) announced the appointment of three new members to its board of directors. Joining the board are Romules Durant, EdD, CEO and superintendent of Toledo Public Schools; Lisa McDuffie, president and CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio and Brian Chambers, chairman and chief executive officer of Owens Corning.

New directors are elected following a rigorous internal process managed by a nominating subcommittee of the Museum's Leadership & Governance committee of the board. Each new member will serve a five-year term with the opportunity for a second term of the same length. TMA board members oversee the Museum's strategy and financial health, contributing their time and expertise to the whole board as well as several committees.

Randy Oostra, president and CEO of ProMedica Health System and president and chair of the Toledo Museum of Art Board of Directors stated, "Our newly appointed board members are diverse and dynamic community leaders. Their achievements in their respective fields and their passion for Toledo and the Toledo Museum of Art are indicative of their commitment to community stewardship. I know I speak for all the Museum's board when I express my excitement for our newest directors to join the institution."

"We are truly excited to welcome Dr. Durant, Lisa McDuffie and Brian Chambers to our board of directors," said Adam Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director of the Toledo Museum of Art. "They will help advance our institutional strategy to synthesize national and international ambition with deep-rooted community engagement."



Romules Durant, EdD.

Romules Durant, EdD, has dedicated his life's work to the education of children. He is a visionary leader who has forged strong alliances throughout Toledo's many communities. As CEO and superintendent of Toledo Public Schools (TPS) he oversees operations for the fourth largest school district in Ohio and the sixth largest workforce in Toledo. A native of East Toledo, Durant has served TPS since 1999 as a teacher, administrator and assistant superintendent. In December 2013, he was named the 30th Durant received three degrees from the University of Toledo: a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1998, a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision in 2002 and a Doctor of Education in

Educational Administration and Supervision in 2007. He serves on numerous boards and is affiliated with many national educational associations.

Lisa McDuffie, MSSA, LISW-S is an advocate for at-risk women and children throughout northwest Ohio. As president and CEO of YWCA of Northwest Ohio since 2001, McDuffie supervises signature programs at three sites serving 20 counties. The YWCA's signature programs include a 24-hour battered women's shelter; a 24-hour rape crisis center; a childcare resource and referral; permanent supportive housing apartments; a teen pregnancy prevention program; a breast cancer education program; a job readiness service; and health and wellness projects. She also oversees the YWCA Apartments LLC, development of the I Rise Community Coalition and the community initiative on Dialogue for Change, a program on anti-racism.



Lisa McDuffie

McDuffie received her Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University in 1993 and her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Findlay College in 1988.



Brian Chambers

Brian Chambers serves as chairman and chief executive officer of Owens Corning, a world leader in insulation, roofing and fiber-glass composites. Chambers was appointed to his current role in April 2019, at which time he also joined the Board of Directors at Owens Corning. He previously served as president and chief operating officer, a newly created role he was named to in August 2018. For five years prior to that, he served as president of the Roofing business. Before joining Owens Corning in 2000, Chambers held commercial and operational roles with Honeywell, BOC Gases and an international engineering firm. He brought nearly a decade of experience in the glass industry to Owens Corning, leading international sales, marketing and engineering teams.

Chambers earned a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in management from Northwestern University. He also serves as a member of the Business Roundtable and the Policy Advisory Board of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing.

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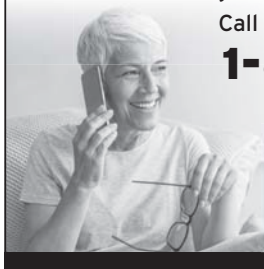
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A Look at The Toledo Black Agenda

A wide range of leaders in Toledo's Black community have joined forces to put together a report on the challenges facing that community in six critical areas.

The report, *The Toledo Black Agenda*, a months-long project in the making, examines historic obstacles and current challenges in the areas of criminal justice, economic development, education, housing, health, workforce development.

The community leaders and experts were assembled by Lisa McDuffie, CEO of YWCA of Northwest Ohio and Robin Reese, CEO of Lucas County Children Services.

Now Toledo's Black Agenda will be made available to local government agencies, along with a host of private and public companies and entities in order to gather community-wide support for the demands and suggestions proposed in the report.

We are printing excerpts from the report over the next few weeks. The following is McDuffie and Reese's introduction followed by the executive summary, statistics and recommendation from the second pillar – the Economic Justice pillar.

The entire report can be read online at thetruthtoleado.com

THE TOLEDO BLACK AGENDA

Introduction

The racial inequity that exists today is the direct result of "Structural racism," a term that asserts our country is steeped in policies, practices and culture that, either by purpose or by indifference, exclude and oppress people of color. While we recognize that racism affects all people of color, this document was created by representatives of the Black community for the Toledo Black community. It is our response to the murder of George Floyd and to an ongoing system of unrestrained and unrelenting racism in this country toward Black people, a system that is moving a race of people onto a path of genocide in plain view of the entire country, without any organized and aggressive voices being raised to stop it. This is our call to action to make "Black Lives Matter."

Across the United States, cities are declaring that racism is a public health crisis. Toledo City Council and the Lucas County Commissioners each, unanimously, passed the same such declarations. These words truly represent a step in the right direction. However, words in a declaration alone will not institute change. Concrete actions must be planned and executed to give credibility and effect to these well-intentioned government decrees.

The broad term "Public Health Crisis" reflects significant impacts on a community's health, its life expectancy, and its economy. Structural racism affects the health of Black people in every aspect of their lives. Without question, the data and research make it clear that racism is a systemic and ongoing public health crisis with serious consequences for the health of Lucas County Black citizens. It is also clear that racism has a profound and pervasive impact across all the factors that shape our health. This includes

our healthcare delivery systems, education, housing, food, economic, environmental, criminal justice and political systems.

Uniform support, from all sectors of the community, of the recommendations in this document along with zero tolerance for inequity will drive momentum towards true, lasting and effective change for the Black community in Greater Toledo.

Acknowledgements:

As the facilitators of this process, we gratefully acknowledge the hard work, time and talent of all the individuals who made this document possible. The forming of the Unification Coalition proved beneficial in our ability to organize and execute. For roughly three months of intense weekly meetings, we have done it!

Lisa McDuffie Robin Reese
Convener Co-convener

PART II: THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE PILLAR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Economic Justice is a goal that generations of Black Americans have been striving to achieve. After centuries of inequalities, the wealth gap between Black and White Americans remains vast. When exploring the financial root causes of this wealth gap one must look at the assets, liabilities and income as well as the historic and current hurdles an ethnic group faces in accumulating wealth.

The historical wealth gap between White Americans and Black Americans is mainly due to not being able to benefit from the transfer of wealth from generation to generation. The years of chattel slavery, decimation of thriving black communities, not earning a fair working wage, not being able to purchase and/or retain real estate, and not being able to obtain competitive financing have negatively impacted this generational transfer of wealth.

Household income is used to acquire assets and to pay off debts. Income is also used as a measure to apply for mortgages and credit cards; consequently, the amount of income you have often helps you obtain lower interest rates on the debt you acquire while helping you to lower your monthly debt payments.

We must reverse the trends that systematically stymie the growth and transfer of black wealth. With access to proper resources, we can ensure that the African-American Community has a real opportunity of revitalizing our community, owning thriving small businesses, and decreasing the historic wealth gap.

CONTEXTUAL STATISTICS

The median net wealth for White American families was \$171,000 compared to \$17,600 for Black American families, in the most recent Federal

... continued on page 11



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At Home With Mary Louise

Joy to the World! A Very Merry Christmastime

It's my special time of the year again ... "Christmas Time." Shopping, hanging lights, family time and baking, baking and more baking. I absolutely love baking, preparing desserts and setting my dining room table.

I simply enjoy making my home beautiful with Christmas trees in every room, candy dishes, fruit bowls, lovely center pieces ... and baking, baking, baking!

This year I'm doing something different. I'm bringing my grandchildren in on the cooking festivities. This will be so much fun since Kendall and Tre adore Grandma May May's cooking.

Baby Kendall loves to lick the cake bowl. She doesn't know what flavor cake she is enjoying, she just knows that it is sweet.

Grandson Tre loves Grandma May May's baked chocolate chip cookies with a nice cold cup of milk.

When planning for the holiday season remember to make family first because that's what the season is all about ... sharing, giving, spending quality time with the ones you love.

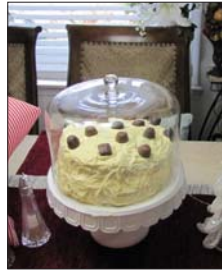
Meanwhile keep in mind, we're in a pandemic – limit your guest list, maintain social distancing, wear your face mask as often as possible ...

Oh my goodness, you should see the smile on my grandkids faces when the big hot chocolate chip cookies come out of the oven. "Scrumptid-dlyumptious," if I must say so myself!! Then the M & M candies placed in the dough are "yummy to the tummy," says three-year old Tre! Getting ready for Old St. Nick is a big deal in our home! We will be placing the cookies by the fireplace so that Santa can have a treat on his way out.

We leave a note for Santa also "please share the cookies with the Rein-

deer, especially Rudolph, because he has to guide the sleigh tonight!"

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!



Ohio Commander of The Rite Gives Donation to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

By Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. DMin

Special to The Truth

Each year the Ohio Council of Deliberation Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc. holds its Annual Session in a city in Ohio. The city is usually the home of the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, who are the counterpart of the men, called the Order of the Golden Circle. The State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler this year is Loyal Lady Pamela D. Hopkins and she resides in Toledo. The Ohio Commander of The Rite of the Ohio Council of Deliberation holds their annual meeting during the same time of the Annual Session. This year, Toledo was the host, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Meeting was virtual.

The Council of Deliberation is led by the Illustrious Deputy of the Orient of Ohio, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Carl A. Williams of Cleveland, Ohio. The President of The Ohio Commander of the Rite for the state is Sovereign Grand Inspector General Gregory S. Snead of Warren, Ohio. Throughout the state, there are five local Commander of the Rite Chapters and the head of the chapter is called the Vice-President. The local Vice-President of the Toledo Chapter is Grand Inspector General James G. Hopkins, the husband of the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Pamela D. Hopkins.

At each Annual Session of the Commanders of The-Rite, a donation is made to an organization of its choice, and this year it was St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Youth Department. A donation of \$500.00 was given to the Youth Department under the leadership of Advisor Sister Pamela Clark. The Chairperson of the Christian Board of Education is Sister Yvonne Gayle and the Youth Director is Grand Inspector General Jan Scotland.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church has a vibrant youth and children's program that includes a yearly Vacation Bible School and a Friday Christian Education Program. This Friday night program includes Bible study, social activities, intellectual speakers, Black History celebration, field trips, a Christmas craft show, a harvest festival and much more. The youth have not been able to meet since March due to COVID-19, however, St Paul is in the process of providing the children and youth with an at-home survivor and learning kit to use, keeping them focused on trusting God. This kit will include Christmas studies, Christian hands-on activities, games, puzzles, art, gift cards for essential items, Christian literature and other appropriate grade level books for reading.

Obviously, this cannot take the place of the fact-to-face teaching and learning but it will let the children know that the village cares. Rev. James Willis, Sr., D.Min, is the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and he is the Chaplain of St. Matthews Consistory No. 24 Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry as well as the Associate Grand Prior of the United Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.



Grand Inspector General Jan Scotland; Loyal Lady Pamela D. Hopkins; Grand Inspector General James G. Hopkins; Advisor Sis. Pamela Clark; Sis. Yvonne Gayle; Pastor James H. Willis, Sr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) FY 2020 through 2023 Goals

It is the policy of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority to provide Disadvantaged Business Enterprises the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part with federal funds.

In accordance with the requirements of Title 49 CFR 26.45, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority is publishing its DBE goal for Fiscal Years 2020 – 2023 of 6.27%. The Authority's proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection at www.tarta.com.

To request a paper copy of this information, please call 419-245-5219 or email info@tarta.com.

The U. S. Department of Transportation and the Authority will accept comments on the goal for 45 days from the date of this notice. Comments may be addressed to:

Federal Transit Administration	Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
Civil Rights Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Region 5 Office	1127 West Central Avenue
200 W. Adams. Suite 320	Toledo, OH 43610
Chicago, IL 60606	

Any firm wishing to obtain further information about the DBE program should contact Chief Financial Officer David Robinson at drobinson@tarta.com or 419-245-5200.



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APPOINTED: MAY 11, 1984 ~ RETIRED: JUNE 3, 2017

BADGE: 578 ~ SERVED AT STATIONS: 6, 19, ARSON INVESTIGATOR

NOSF Board Approves Expanding Eligibility for Need-Based Scholarships

At its quarterly Board meeting this month, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) Board approved expanding the eligibility scale for its need-based scholarships to include families living at the 300% of the household poverty limit. For example, a family of four with an annual household income of \$78,600 would be eligible to apply for a NOSF scholarship.

NOSF is currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for Kindergarten through eighth for children to use at a nonpublic school or for homeschool expenses. Families need to reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, in order to apply.

Since 1999, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$14.3 million in scholarships to 16,400 students, part of that includes \$4.6 million in matching funds. All funds raised locally by NOSF are matched by the Children's Scholarship Fund and are used for scholarships in Northwest Ohio.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is the only privately funded need-based scholarship program in Northwest Ohio that awards scholarships to children who otherwise might not be able to afford private schools for kindergarten through eighth grade and who do not qualify for an Educational Choice Voucher. Eligible families are required to demonstrate their financial need as measured by standards similar to the Federal School Lunch program.

Interested families can find more information about the program and other state-funded scholarships on the NOSF website at <https://nosf.org/scholarships>

or apply for NOSF online at <https://tinyurl.com/NOSF2122AP>.

For more information please contact Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048. Deadline to apply for the 2021-2022 school year is Friday, April 30, 2021.

Alzheimer's Association Tips on Navigating the Holidays with Someone Living with Alzheimer's or Dementia

While holidays can be a joyous time for many families, they can be challenging for families affected by Alzheimer's. The current COVID-19 crisis is adding even more complexities that can feel overwhelming for many families impacted by Alzheimer's.

But Pam Myers, program director for the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter, said caregivers need to look for ways to de-stress by creating new traditions and finding new ways for their family members to help make this season satisfying for all. "At the end of the day, support your caregivers- talk with them find out what they need, such as buying gifts or baking/ food preparation- be a support for them during this busy time," Myers said.

While Alzheimer's and dementia does not increase the risk of COVID-19, dementia-related behaviors, increased age and common health conditions that often accompany dementia, may increase risk. To help families navigate these challenges and provide a meaningful and enjoyable holiday season, the Alzheimer's Association recommends the following tips to make the holidays enjoyable and safe for all:

Talk to Your Family: As caregivers consider options for the holiday, Myers suggests that they arrange a group discussion via telephone, video call or email for family and friends to discuss holiday celebrations in advance. Everyone needs to understand your caregiving situation, the safety precautions you're taking to help keep your loved one healthy and set realistic expectations about what you can and cannot do.

Modify and Adjust: No one should expect you to maintain every holiday tradition or event, especially during a pandemic. Do what is manageable and safe. Schedule your own "holiday parade" and ask family members and friends to drive with homemade signs or other festive decorations. Take a ride to go see holiday lights.

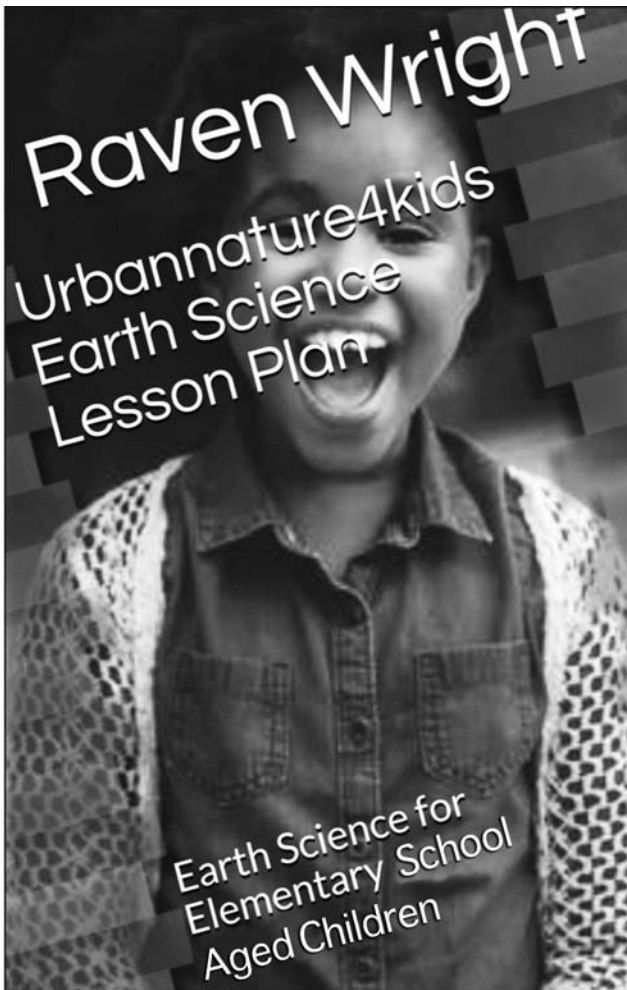
Involve the Person Living with Dementia: Ask him or her to help you prepare food, wrap packages, help decorate or set the table. FYI blinking lights may also confuse the person.

Use Technology to your Advantage: Record and send a holiday video greeting to family and friends. Schedule a time for several households to watch a favorite movie and share comments over the phone. If not gathering in person, determine who is best to coordinate and assist all with being able to manage the technology and participate.

Take Extra Precautions for In-Person Gatherings: If you choose to include older adults in an in-person holiday gathering, it is critical to weigh the risks to their health. Even when precautions are taken, close contact with anyone outside of your household increases the risk of spreading COVID-19. Consider the following if you choose to include older adults in a face-to-face gathering:

- Do not attend or host a gathering if you have been (or think you have been) exposed to COVID-19.
- Ask attendees to avoid or strictly limit contact with others for 14 days prior to your gathering.

The Alzheimer's Association is available 24/7 to answer these and other questions. For immediate help, call the Association's Helpline at 800.272.3900.



Raven Wright
Urbannature4kids
Earth Science
Lesson Plan

Earth Science for
Elementary School
Aged Children

Urbannature4kids Earth Science Lesson Plan ebook for children in grades K-4 available on Amazon. The book is authored and created by the Founder and CEO, Raven Wright
UrbanNature4Kids.com

Toledo Black Agenda... continued from page 7

Reserve Survey of Consumer Finances published in 2016

The latest Census and Federal Reserve data show that White Americans make up 60.1% of the population but account for 82.3% of the assets owned while Black Americans account for 13.4% of the population but only account for 4.7% of the assets owned. Census data also shows that White Americans account for 71.3% of debts owed (while accounting for 60.1% of the population) and Black Americans account for 8.5% of the debt owed (while accounting for 13.4% of the population).

When digging into the data it shows that White Americans hold most of their debt in lower interest rate mortgage debt (69.2%) while Black Americans hold most of their debt in higher interest rate consumer credit products (43.3%). Income is also a huge factor in the wealth gap.

In Ohio the average household income for a White American family is \$54,200 while the average household income for a Black American family is \$29,000. This household income disparity holds true for Lucas County where the average household income for a White American family is \$50,700 while the average household income for a Black American family is \$22,700.

In 2016, 26% of White Americans received inheritances, while only 8% of Black Americans received inheritances. Obtaining education is a means to accumulating wealth individually, however, the byproducts of systemic racism can even pose a challenge to this basic freedom. Closing the wealth gap between Black and White Americans will take investing in entire communities.

The latest Census Survey data shows this by highlighting that the median net worth of a White American family with no bachelor's degree is \$98,100, while the median net worth of a Black American family with a bachelor's degree is \$68,200.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Investing in the neighborhoods with the most need and in well-constructed Opportunity Zones are key components to revitalizing communities. Instead of investment, we find that community hubs like the Frederick Douglass Center have been abandoned at worst or have garnered inconsistent support, at best. The work needed to revitalize other higher need neighborhoods to be economically sustainable has been unfunded. In thriving communities, transferring wealth from one generation to another is seamless.

Businesses are at the center of thriving communities; this was on display during the height of the Dorr Street Corridor. Businesses should be in neighborhoods. There is a need to rebuild the small business backbone in the Black community through innovative means like business incubators and an investment in technology.

The first business incubator in the US began in 1959, and they rose in popularity in the 90s. Businesses such as, Dropbox and Air BnB, have benefitted from being a part of business incubators in their early days. When starting a business incubator, we must have all the elements to help participants succeed and scale. Some of those elements include research and determining viability of business, business development, mentorship, funding, and team development.

Established programs and organizations that are fixtures in the Black Entrepreneurial Community like Assets Toledo, the Port Authority, the Toledo Urban Credit Union, University of Toledo's Minority Business Development Center and University of Toledo's Minority Business Assistance Center Program should have the adequate funding to assist everyone who needs help. Financial education at places like the Financial Opportunity Center and Premier Bank (formerly First Federal Bank) should be leveraged for future entrepreneurs and businesses to gain sound financial footing. Innovative new programs like Jumpstart and Afro-Tech initiatives need room to grow and be embraced to propel Toledo to become a hub for Black technology businesses and investments in technology.

Investing into a business takes time, expertise, most importantly capital. Historically, Black businesses have an incredibly hard time accessing capital. Investing in Black businesses is not only impactful to the entrepreneurs and the Black Community, but to the overall markets. The most recent census data shows that 28.79% of small businesses are minority owned and 9.35% black owned. In Ohio 13.56% of small businesses are minority owned and 8.97% black owned. In Lucas County and Toledo, 17.58% and 25.67% of businesses are minority owned. From 2007-2012 the number of minority small businesses grew 38%, showing that these businesses have the resilience to grow during economic downturns even though 80% of black small business owners state that access to capital is their largest business challenge. The current Toledo capital landscape includes Community Development Financial Institutions, Super Regional Banks, Community Banks, Credit Unions, The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Minority Business Development Divi-

sion (MBDD). Each one of these entities has a role to play to support the Black community and Black entrepreneurs. They could create a new loan fund specifically for entrepreneurs of color or for businesses which hire primarily people of color. A fund like this could provide loans (average size \$50,000 to \$150,000) to businesses which cannot secure conventional bank financing. There is also a need for local funding/venture capital pitch opportunities and small business loan opportunities geared towards or inclusive of black business owners.

A community-wide push to increase deposits and enhance the offerings at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, would allow them to become more impactful business lenders to the community and deploy those funds in the forms of more small loans to the people and businesses that need them. Larger financial institutions should leverage their Community Reinvestment Act dollars to support underserved communities and Community Development Financial Institutions to ensure that there is the appropriate access to capital.

For Black Americans who do not want to pursue their own businesses but would like to pursue the American dream by earning a living wage and having successful careers working for a business or a governmental entity, pipelines into high wage-earning careers & trades need to be highlighted. Pipelines into professions & trades should be available to all Americans. However, for Black Americans, discrimination and historical injustice have created significant barriers to opportunities. Pathways should not only be into education institutions but also into trades. In research from Strata Institute, revealed that 43% of college graduates from 2010-2017 worked in jobs that did not require a degree. Focusing on career pathways that lead to a living wage and low debt is key.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statics, 56% of African-Americans find themselves in supportive roles rather than directive roles compared to 43% of the general population being in supportive roles as opposed to directive roles. In 2016 the median estimated annual income for a person in a directive role was \$68,914 compared to \$32,232 in a supportive role. Initiatives are needed that highlight career choices for Black Americans at an earlier age and promoting programs and educational choices that focus on mentoring Black American students like University of Toledo's Excel and Historical Black Colleges and Universities. Investments in career education and awareness can ensure that the pathways that members of the Black American community choose are pathways to careers that help with the progression up the socio-economic ladder.

...continued on page 13



Perryman... continued from page 2

more people in an impactful way. Somebody talked to me and said 'you need to run for a council seat!' I said, 'No, I'm not a politician at all. Maybe I'll run for school board one day.' Then the unfortunate incident happened where they had to seek replacements. I submitted my resume and then thought, 'oh no, Judge Puffenberger ain't gonna pick me.' Puffenberger had been my mama's judge. But I had an interview and our conversation was interesting because he was so excited about me being an educator. And the next thing you know, that Wednesday I got the call from Judge Puffenberger and then Thursday evening I got a call from Council President Matt Cherry. He said, 'You got city council.'

But before I even put in for city council, I talked to my mom and my brother because my story is my family's story.

People are going to ask who I am and where I come from. I come from the hood. I come from struggle. I come from drug addiction. I come from gang violence. I come from drug dealing. I don't have a record myself, but a lot of close people do. So, I had to talk to my family first because our lives have significantly changed. My mother, on December 31st, will have been clean for nine years.

My family said, 'You were sent here to make change so do what you gotta do.' When I got city council my biggest concern was for my family and they were all right with it, so that was it.

Perryman: What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure on city council?

Williams: I just want to make sure that every move is intentional and impactful for my community because I don't come just from one area in Toledo, I come from a lot of different areas. District 4 has so many different types of backgrounds and I want us all to come together and understand that we all can live and thrive together.

Perryman: What are your largest priorities?

Williams: Youth programming is the biggest one, followed by affordable homes and a grocery store in District 4. I shop at Seaway on Cherry and Bancroft, but grocery stores are few and far between in our district. Whereas other districts have several grocery stores.

Affordable housing is another big issue. I had the privilege of passing that Source of Income ordinance the other day and it hit home for me. I've received so much backlash from it but my mother was a Section 8 voucher holder and we could live in one area only because nobody was taking Section 8 vouchers. So, the people that don't want to take Section 8 vouchers, that means you're turning me away also.

Perryman: How do you feel about downtown investment?

Williams: I like what is going on now because it meets the needs of so many diverse groups, but we need to have more down there so that it accommodates everyone.

Perryman: Do you think that more emphasis has been placed on downtown than investment in our neighborhoods?

Williams: The Arts Commission does an awesome job connecting art to the neighborhoods, but I think it can be further extended. I think that

we have an arts entertainment district that needs to come on down into the neighborhoods as well. We need to get our kids more involved in arts.

Perryman: If you received an unrestricted \$2 million grant, how would you use it and why?

Williams: I would fix Savage Pool. That's the focal point of that neighborhood and people don't understand how important that pool is and has been to so many people. However, when you ride past the pool all you see is death and all you feel is depression. I feel like we need to definitely start investing more in those type of things. Guess what? Two million dollars is not enough, give me 10 million. I want ten because after I'm done with that pool guess what we will have? We will have baseball and soccer in the parks. Tennis is also big in the black community but it's not pushed enough. And, why don't we have volleyball in the parks? Sports teach discipline. Sports teach teamwork. Sports teach accountability. It doesn't even have to be strictly athletics, it can be mind sports. You have chess over at Gunckel Park. You can have a connect four tournament and it teaches structure, discipline, teamwork and accountability.

Perryman: Okay, last question: Do you involve residents in your decision-making?

Williams: Yes, definitely. One thing that I always say and you can quote me on this, 'Don't do anything for me without involving me.' I am very open and accessible so if anyone has a problem and they desire or need to speak to me, I'll come and sit on the porch and we'll talk.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Ohio Celebrate Kwanzaa 2020

Local Kwanzaa Committees from around the state have been meeting this year to plan a virtual Kwanzaa celebration for the Great State of Ohio. Ohio Celebrates Kwanzaa 2020 will be a statewide celebration charting our culture and legacy.

CELEBRATING KWANZAA ONLINE, FOR THE FIRST TIME

Kwanzaa is an African American harvest celebration. In Kiswahili, the words "matunda ya kwanza" mean first fruit. The extra a, at the end of Kwanzaa, was added to accommodate the participation of the 1st 7 children to celebrate Kwanzaa. It was first celebrated by the US organization, in 1966. Children were a primary focal point in the beginning and are represented by a number of the symbols of Kwanzaa, including the Mazao (crops) and the Muhindi (ears of corn representing each child of the host family).

Kwanzaa is a non-religious and non-heroic celebration. The intent is that African American people of different ages, faiths and beliefs come together to celebrate the harvest or successes achieved during the year based on the seven principles of Kwanzaa known as the Nguzo Saba. The value and practice of

ingathering of the people is the first and foundational aspect of African first-fruits and Kwanzaa celebrations. It is a harvesting of the people, a bringing together of the most valuable fruit, its living human harvest. Kwanzaa promotes community, sharing and renewal of bonds, guiding principles, and plans for the new year.

With the advent of COVID 19, a rising infection rate and death toll, coming together as a community is not possible. This year will mark the first time communities, all over the world, will come together holding virtual Kwanzaa celebrations. From Cincinnati to Cleveland, Dayton to Youngstown and Toledo to Columbus, Ohio communities will share their virtual Kwanzaa celebration on GNJ.Media.

OHIO CELEBRATES KWANZAA 2020 SCHEDULE

The schedule for each day of the Ohio Kwanzaa celebration will be as follows on <<https://gnj.media/https://gnj.media/>> under the Kwanzaa 2020 tab:

- * 9am-10am, Drum Call and Opening Ceremony
- * 10am-12pm, Health and Wellness Activities
- * 12pm-2pm, Kwanzaa Time for Watoto (Children)

* 2pm-4pm, Warriors Speak on Principle of the Day

* 4pm-6pm, Nguzo Saba for Nation Builders and Elders, featuring Principle of the Day

* 6pm-8pm, Local Kwanzaa Celebrations <<https://gnj.media/channel>><https://gnj.media/channel>

For more information email Ha2tim@gyenayamejourney.com or call 1-330-207-4710

Christmas Miracle... continued from page 16

Michelle McMaster, her cousin, her guardian and also the founder and leader of Groomed for Greatness, a group of girls whom McMaster mentors in subjects such as etiquette, financial management, preparing for adulthood, says of her charge: "It's always important to give back to the community - my mother and grandmother always taught me that and that's how I was brought up, so I'm trying to pass it along to the girls."

McMaster's Groomed for Greatness group took that lesson a step further on Saturday, December 19 as they got together at Scott High School to distribute essential items such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, wipes, paper goods to the community.

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Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume by Kwame Alexander

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Uh-oh! Everybody's watching.

They're all looking at you and now what? Your voice won't work when all eyes are pointed your way. You can't sing like that, can't say your lines, so how can you play your part? You can barely even move when everybody's watching, so try this: sleep on it. In the new book *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume* by Kwame Alexander, pictures by Tim Bowers, that might work.

As she helped clean up the park near her house, Indigo Blume was a happy girl. The Garden City Community Festival would be held soon and she was going to sing for the Festival. It was exciting – until it wasn't.

Her friend, Elijah, said that the whole school was coming to hear Indigo sing! Mr. Woody said he saw posters everywhere, and Samantha said that hundreds of people would probably come. Noooooooo, that was too much for Indigo.

Her mom said that Indigo was "the bravest songbird" she knew.

Indigo's dad said she should, "Be brave. Be a star. Believe."

As Indigo went to bed that night, she couldn't believe how scared she was. Still, she managed to fall asleep and she fell into.... a barn! It was Acoustic Rooster's barn and his band members were all there. She loved his book. She loved Acoustic Rooster; his band could play anything! So there she was, and even though Chickee Minaj said it was "a closed rehearsal," Acoustic Rooster gave Indigo a tambourine.

But then a "hurritrain" came and blew everything all over. The barn was scrambled, it was a mess, but Indigo remembered how her neighbors cleaned up the park, so she suggested that Acoustic Rooster's band members clean up their area. In fact, maybe it was a good time to have a "Barnyard Boogie" benefit concert.

And it might have been, if Dairy Parton hadn't lost her voice and Duck Ellington hadn't quacked up. In that case, somebody had to be brave. Someone needed to be courageous. Someone had to be a star...

Chances are you've seen videos or TV shows featuring young performers that've blown your socks off. Believe it or not, at some point in their lives, chances are they've had stage fright. It happens to children of all ages, making, Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume a perfect read.

Kids who live to make music and dance but hate the pressure will love the story here because there's not a shred of outside push inside this book. Instead, author Kwame Alexander lets his main character shine because of

c.2020
Sleeping Bear Press
\$16.99 / \$21.99 Canada
32 pages

a dream-sequence she had, which leads to a satisfying ending that she already owned. This makes young readers smile, and parents confident in an easily-absorbed lesson; add colorful, happy illustrations from Tom Bowers and you've got a book that'll make kids and parents both sing.

Based on the Kennedy Center Musical, this is a great confidence booster for kids ages five-to-eight, especially the occasionally cold-footed performer. They'll crow about Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Blume, just watch.



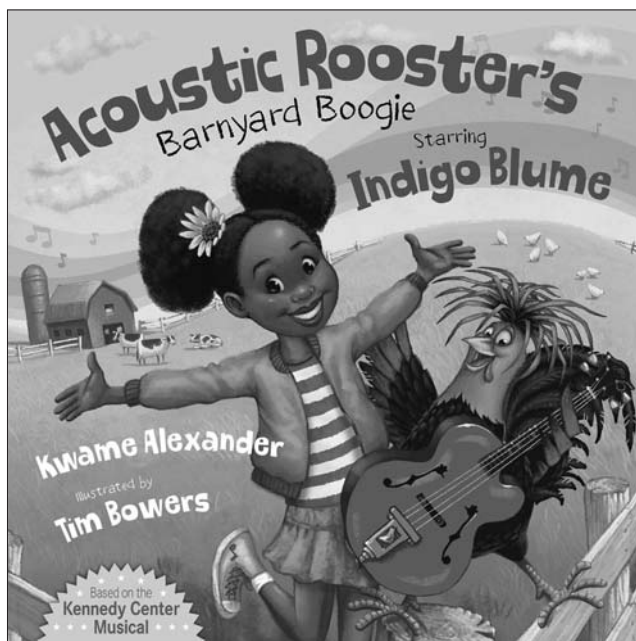
Acoustic Rooster author

Toledo Black Agenda... continued from page 1

SUMMARY

Here are the key points of our Economic Justice Pillar:

- Invest in plans that truly change neighborhoods and that are created with the neighborhood voice (not just created about the neighborhood). An example of this type of plan is the Junction Plan.
- Establish neighborhood based Black Business/ Entrepreneurship Incubators (example location-Frederick Douglass Center).
- Substantially invest in Community Banks and in funding their economic empowerment programs and capital to provide loans to people and businesses in underserved communities. Increase access to capital for black businesses.
- Establish and ensure that there is a continuum of pathways into professions & trades.
- Establish teen & college entrepreneurship exposure programs, promote HBCU (Historical Black Colleges & Universities) education and support youth pipeline programs into high paying professions (Example pipeline programs: NSBE Jr. Chapters (National Society of Black Engineers, for engineering) and ACAP-Ohio (Ohio's Accounting Careers Awareness Program presented by the National Association of Black Accountants, The Ohio Society of CPAs and The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business).



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Health Awareness
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DeVonn
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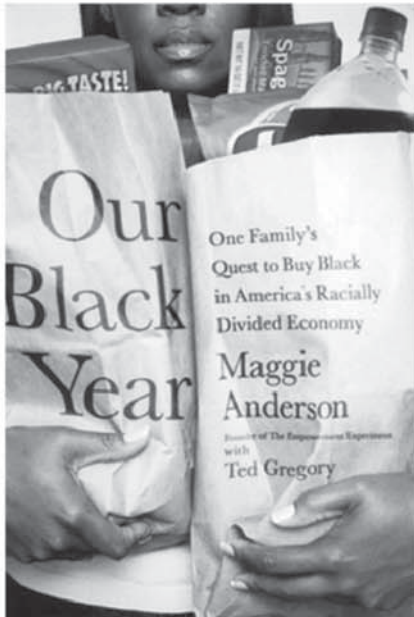
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Our Black Year

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Maggie Anderson
Founder of The Empowerment Experience with Ted Gregory



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ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:
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www.ToledoBlackMarketplace.com

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Free Wi-Fi, Light refreshments available, Safe and secured lighted parking, Accommodations for parties up to 45.

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"Come and enjoy comedy, spoken word, music talent and more"

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24 HOURS

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

CRUSADERS for CHRIST CHURCH Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

When: Every 4th Sunday
Time: 11:00 am

Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
910 Woodbine Rd.
Toledo, Ohio

Emmanuel Tifany Reynolds

Bishop Joseph Mitchell Jr., Pastor
Emmanuel Cakes, Michelle, First Lady

Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed

Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

CLASSIFIEDS

December 23, 2020

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HEARTLAND OF PERRYSBURG JOB OPENINGS

1. Heartland of Perrysburg has immediate openings in their Dietary Department. Openings are for FT Cook, PT Cook, FT/PT Dietary Aides. Wage is based on experience. We offer flexible scheduling, excellent benefits. For more information please call 567-336-4015.

2. Heartland of Perrysburg has immediate openings in their Housekeeping Department. Openings are for FT Floor Tech, FT/PT Housekeepers. Wage is based on experience. We offer flexible scheduling, excellent benefits. For more information please call 567-336-4015.

VENDORS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Lucas County, Ohio, is soliciting competitive bids from qualified vendors for behavioral health crisis services. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on January 18, 2021. All questions are to be submitted to Administration@tbdolutions.com. Details regarding the project deliverables and submission criteria are located on the MHRSB's website: <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

RFQ ELEVATOR SAFETY UPGRADES

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-29, Project #1130-21-236. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Elevator Safety Upgrades/Improvements/Replacements Project. Construction Cost: \$1,300,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise' Konecny, RFQ FY21-29, Project #1130-21-236, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or bring directly to the University of Toledo, Plant Operations, Room 1060, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. DATE: Friday, January 15, 2021, TIME: 2:30 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/construction/> or <http://ofcc.ohio.gov>. Please reference Inquiry # FY21-29, Project #1130-21-236, Elevator Safety Upgrades/ Improvements/Replacements on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 1 (one) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Park Maintenance at Swan Creek Metropark.

HS Diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license required. Moderate level of specialty maintenance experience required. 40 hrs/wk. \$18.45/hr. Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com for complete job requirements and to apply. EOE

RFQ/MECHANICAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-26, Project #1130-21-233. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Mechanical System Improvements Project. Project Construction Cost: \$2,000,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise' Konecny, RFQ FY21-26, Project #1130-21-233, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or bring directly to the University of Toledo, Plant Operations, Room 1060, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. DATE: Friday, January 8, 2021, TIME: 2:30 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/construction/> or <http://ofcc.ohio.gov>. Please reference Inquiry # FY21-26, Project #1130-21-233, Mechanical System Improvements Project on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 2 (two) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

RFQ/BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEM

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-27, Project #1130-21-235. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Building Automation System Upgrades Project. Project Construction Cost: \$1,500,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise' Konecny, RFQ FY21-27, Project #1130-21-235, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or bring directly to the University of Toledo, Plant Operations, Room 1060, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. DATE: Friday, January 8, 2021, TIME: 2:30 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/construction/> or <http://ofcc.ohio.gov>. Please reference Inquiry # FY21-27, Project #1130-21-235, Building Automation System Upgrades Project on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 1 (one) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

RFQ/CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-28, Project #1130-21-234. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Classroom Renovations Project. Project Construction Cost: \$1,600,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise' Konecny, RFQ FY21-28, Project #1130-21-234, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or bring directly to the University of Toledo, Plant Operations, Room 1060, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. DATE: Friday, January 8, 2021, TIME: 3:00 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/construction/> or <http://ofcc.ohio.gov>. Please reference Inquiry # FY21-28, Project #1130-21-234, Classroom Renovations Project on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 2 (two) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

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



Call to place your ad:
419-243-0007
www.TheTruthToledo.com

A Lot of Giving in the Glass City

It's a Miracle – A Christmas Miracle!

Miracle Williams, entrepreneur, hosted a Christmas gift giveaway on December 15 at the Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church. Her company, Miracle's Magnificents, a body butter business, donated new toys, clothing, masks and hand sanitizers from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"I sell natural body butter," said Miracle of the business that has enabled her to be so generous with the greater community. "Some people can't buy their own," she has said, recognizing that so many parents are out of work.

Miracle, by the way, started her business three years ago when she was ... 11 years old. You read that right. The savvy business owner is now a ripe old 14 years, and an eighth grader at Grove Paterson.

... continued on page 12



Baskets Full of Food and Christmas Spirit At Simply D'Vine

Terri Cook, proprietor of Simply D'Vine Boutique, brought together her Gamma Phi Delta sisters and the Competition Corvette Club to assemble 60 baskets of Christmas food treats for families in need. Turkeys, mashed potatoes, stuffing and the rest of the holiday treats were part of the package.

The generous folks opened the doors to the boutique at noon on Saturday, December 1.



Taylor Kia Provides Some Holiday Cheer to MLK Academy for Boys Families

Terry Crosby, community ambassador for the Taylor Family Automotive brought some holiday goodies to a group of Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys students and their families last week with a donation that provided gift baskets filled with toys and clothes.

The teachers of MLK Academy suggested students, whose names were then selected randomly by the staff and a lucky 10 were the recipients of the Taylor holiday spirit.

Sheila Annette Cook, MLK Academy's community/family resource coordinator, performed the fun tasks of shopping and wrapping.

The Academy was also provided with donations from other sources, such as New Life COGIC, City of Zion and A.B.L.E. (A Better Life to Embrace) to put together a several dozen Christmas food baskets for additional families.

