

The *Sojourner's* Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 20, 2021

Toledo Commemorates MLK Day!



Earl Mack, Suzette Cowell, Bishop Daniel Thomas,
Anita Madison

Austin Channing Brown

The Storm, the Whirlwind and the Earthquake

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Chaos or Community?

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

The Truth Contributor

Where do we go from here?

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Just before his 1968 assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asked in the title of his last book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*

King wrote during the most politically turbulent and socially traumatic years of the 20th century in the United States. Increasing antiwar sentiment, rising racial tensions and waves of violent protests intersected with the strong political influence of segregationists such as George Wallace, repressive police tactics and assassinations of politicians and black leaders.

Today, 53 years later, the nation finds itself in similarly unprecedented times. A rampaging COVID-19 has infected over 25 million in America and claimed more than 407,000 U.S. lives. The disease disproportionately affects people of color and low to moderate-income workers.

In addition, American democracy itself, was attacked on January 6, 2021 by armed insurrectionists who attempted to mount a coup against the American peoples' electoral will.

As newly-elected President Joe Biden takes office, America remains in conflict over whether it will continue to be a democracy or become an authoritarian autocracy.

I spoke with noted Martin Luther King Jr. biographer Stewart Burns to view our 21st century "new normal" of disease and domestic terrorism through King's lens. The following is our discussion.

Perryman: White supremacists recently attacked the U.S. Capitol Building in an attempt to overturn the election results. Of course, Martin Luther King had to deal with white supremacy every day. What are your thoughts?

Burns: One way to think of it is that what happened at the Capitol was the white supremacists' last desperate effort to prevent the changes that are taking place.

Perryman: What changes are you referring to?

Burns: From the supremacists' perspective, the U.S. now has a black woman as Vice President, they've got Biden, and they've got a real commitment (I hope) to deal with racial justice. The supremacists also see the looming demographic changes that probably terrify them. As one commentator wrote, 'the engine of history is on the side of this majority-minority society that we're moving toward and that these diehard opponents are going to be sort of overtaken by events that they're not going to be able to fight this off.' This country will be very different and they just can't tolerate the fact that it's not going to be a white country anymore.

Perryman: None of us can really speak for King today, but how do

you think Martin Luther King would've responded to the insurrection that took place on January 6?

Burns: You may recall that in the spring of 1968, just a few weeks before he was assassinated and in the course of organizing the Poor People's Campaign, he felt that we were on the eve of a fascist takeover, especially if there was another summer of uprisings and rioting. On the other hand, he was hoping that the Poor

People's Campaign could be a way to head off fascism.

Perryman: So, would King have been surprised?

Burns: I think he saw fascism even when he went to Chicago and saw mobs in the Chicago suburbs that were more vicious than anything he had seen in the South. King definitely had a sense that there was a white supremacist core that might only have to be a fuse that would just need to be lit for these white mobs to be more active.

So, you were facing the combination of the white supremacist mobs in the North and the Johnson administration escalating the Viet Nam war and sending troops to Detroit and Newark and all the repression that was coming down to quell black protest. When you combine all of that with the conspiracy trials for the draft resistance leaders as well as the Chicago 7, Chicago 8, he could see that this was coming. So, I don't think he would've been all that surprised. I do think he would've been surprised by the extent of complicity by people inside the government.

Perryman: That was my next question. What do you think about the collaboration and coordination by inside law enforcement and legislators?

Burns: King didn't have illusions about the white supremacist's essence of the supposedly liberal Democratic government. On the one hand, President Johnson is pushing legislation that is essentially social democracy, unlike anything, at least since the New Deal.

On the other hand, Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI and COIN-TELPRO and the infiltration of both the Black Movement and the New Left, we don't know how much he thought that the effort to assassinate him was coordinated or managed from the highest level.

So, I think in a way he probably wouldn't have been that surprised because he already knew that there were people in the government at the highest level who wanted him dead. By the time he was approaching his own death he had seen it all with the death threats that he constantly got and the maneuvering of Army intelligence, FBI, and CIA. All of them were out to stop the black movement and you have to include the killings - the killings of Malcolm and later the attack in Oakland of the Black Panthers.

I think that's partly why he felt that things were really in a more critical situation than most people realized, including people even on the left. He was trying to wake people up and become aware of how serious white supremacy was.

Perryman: How do you think King would've responded to the events on January 6?

Burns: First of all, King would do everything he could to explain why there's all the difference in the world between a mass nonviolent protest where they are not going to harm anybody. Instead, they're going to re-



Stewart Burns

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Yes, It's Quiz Time Again

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

So, I think that my not giving quizzes on a regular basis has made my readers very, very lazy and they have allowed their brains to take a rest. There is no rest! You must be always vigilant and be on the watch for the slacker virus to attack you when you least expected.

With that said, you have five minutes to answer the following quiz questions. Remember the rules: (1) no collaborations with others (2) no resorting to outside news sources and (3) there could be more than one correct answer, so remember to circle all the possible answers.

Ready? Go!

QUESTION ONE: Which person has shown the most hypocrisy about voting to challenge the verified electoral college votes?

- (1) Ted Cruz
- (2) Josh Hawley
- (3) Kevin McCarthy
- (4) Snoop Dog

QUESTION TWO: If a Black person were found on camera mercilessly beating a cop with an American flag, what would happen to him or her?

- (1) Would be nicely told to stop it.
- (2) Would be gently escorted out of the room.
- (3) his body parts would be unable to be found after 60 slugs brought him down.
- (4) he could say he was a patriot and his actions would be excused.

QUESTION THREE: Who would be called out if thousands of Black folks descended upon the Capitol with BLM flags and they bum rushed the buildings?

- (1) Local police with riot gear and shot guns.
- (2) The National Guard with armored trucks
- (3) 82nd Airborne paratroopers dropping onto the White House lawns.
- (4) Four battalions of battle-tested Marines with loaded AR-15's.

QUESTION FOUR: If Black people invaded the Capitol and shouted about hanging the Vice President or shooting the Speaker of the House, what would happen?

- (1) All exit doors blocked off and everyone arrested and charged with treason and insurrection.
- (2) Told that they were simply exercising their First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and allowed to continue.
- (3) Each protestor stripped down and searched and arrested on the spot and taken to detention centers.
- (4) Each protestor jailed with no bond due to the severity of their acts.

QUESTION FIVE: If the Black people were jailed and they said that they could not eat jail food for religious reasons but demanded soul food to eat, what would happen? (clue: one of the arrested white protestors told the judge that he could not consume food that was not organic!).

- (1) They would be told, "Eat it or nothing!"
- (2) The police would frantically scour the local restaurants and bring take out soul food meals to the jails for the protestors.
- (3) The ACLU would file court cases protesting inhumane treatment of not giving the Black inmates corn bread and greens and fried pork chops with cucumbers and tomatoes on the side.

QUESTION SIX: What would be the final fate of any convicted Black protestors?

- (1) President Trump would grant a blanket pardon for all of them and say that he loved them!
- (2) They would lose their jobs.
- (3) They would be placed on a no-fly list.
- (4) They would be hailed as patriots and heroes and sheroes!

QUESTION SEVEN: If Black folks were found taking property out of the Capitol Building, what would be their fate?

- (1) Cheers for simply liberating property wrongfully held by, "Da Man".
- (2) Photos taken of smiling liberators and then being charged with minimal crimes.
- (3) Hundreds of bodies strewn on the Capitol grounds with the statement by President Trump: "When the looting starts, the shooting starts!"

Well, there you have it. Read the questions first and answer the best you can and when finished, send me a non-traceable money order for \$19.79 (shipping and handling included) c/o this newspaper and I will send you the secret decoder for the correct answers. Do it today!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

United Way 2-1-1 to Assist in COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registrations

In partnership with the Lucas County Health Department (LCHD), United Way 2-1-1 will be assisting individuals who have a disability, no access to technology or are experiencing technical issues in completing LCHD's online "COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration" form, which notifies submitters of when they can receive a vaccination.

Someone who meets any qualifiers above can simply dial two, one, one to speak with a Community Resource Advisor. You must call during the following times and hours to pre-register: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The form itself can be found by visiting LCHD's website at LucasCountyHealth.com.

"We want to ensure that 2-1-1 is used as a resource for those who have zero access to a computer or smart device, which is needed to fill out this form. Additionally, if someone has any kind of condition that limits their capacity to use various technology, or if they are experiencing technical issues, we also encourage them to call 2-1-1," said Sandra De Steno, 2-1-1 director for United Way of Greater Toledo.

"Again, it's important that if you do have access to a device and can fill out the form yourself, that you do not call 2-1-1. We want as many lines open as possible for those who truly need assistance," said De Steno.

LCHD began distributing vaccines in late December to those in the "1A category," which includes demographics such as healthcare workers and emergency medical staff; nursing home, psychiatric and assisted living residents and staff; and those with a disability, mental disorder or health disorder.

Governor Mike DeWine recently announced moving on to the "1B category," which includes those 65 and older, K-12 staff and people with severe congenital, developmental or early-onset medical disorders that make them particularly vulnerable.

"To ensure that the Health Department is able to pre-plan, and have a better understanding on the number of individuals interested in getting a vaccination – pre-registering through their online form is essential to those processes," said Wendy Pestrue, president & CEO of United Way of Greater Toledo.

"We have already experienced a dramatic spike in 2-1-1 calls, so we ask for patience. If there is a wait time, you will be offered a call-back option. Our Community Resource Advisors are working as quickly as possible to get folks signed up," said Pestrue.

United Way 2-1-1 is a free, 24/7, 365-day health and human service resource available to anyone in Lucas County. United Way 2-1-1 is also available to those in Ottawa and Wood County, and United Way staff are in discussions with other health departments in its three-county footprint.



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CSRN's Response To Domestic Terror Attack

White Supremacy Will Not Win

As we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day, CSRN would like to challenge each and every person who reads this message to heed Dr. King's words "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021 the National Capitol was stormed by domestic terrorists (white supremacists), insistent on the destruction of the Black Lives Matter Movement and attempted to disenfranchise millions of Black voters by challenging a legal and fair election. Our justice was openly and unapologetically threatened. We collectively stand in defense of Black Lives and the hypocrisy of the treatment of the men and women on January 6th who were attempting to overthrow the government was met with peace and understanding, whereas the fight for Black equality was met with tanks, tear gas, violence and bullets shows the faulty premise of equality for all men and women.

White Power is Terrorism. Black Power is Equality.

The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo has been standing up collectively and fighting for the liberation of our people for six years. Black Lives Matter has been a revolutionary call to action to support Black Men and Women in every facet of their life. We would like to declare, unequivocally,

that white supremacy and those who champion it will never win. Our resolve and dedication to Freedom, Equality and Justice for All of our people is too strong.

We have remained unapologetic in our position of calling out politicians when their decisions harm our communities and in that vain we celebrate the second impeachment of Donald Trump, a racist, homophobic, xenophobic and hateful individual. He successfully peeled back the thin veil of civility and exposed the ugly, underbelly of American "patriotism" to the surface. All of his followers who refuse to denounce his hateful rhetoric are as much a part of the problem as he is.

Every single man and woman who: planned, supported, turned a blind eye or helped facilitate the storming of the Capitol on Wednesday are complicit and deserve to be charged and found guilty of Treason and designated as Domestic Terrorist.

As a result, CSRN is NOT going anywhere and the belief that a white supremacist ideology will scare this movement into submission is faulty at best and asinine at worst. We are moving from protest to progress and there are millions with us in this fight. We cannot be stopped and we will not be stopped. Justice Or Else. Expect US.

Public Statement from the Board and Staff of The Fair Housing Center

What happened last week was not just an attack on our Capitol building, it was an attack on the fundamental rights and freedoms upon which our democracy is built.

We emphatically condemn the actions of a violent, mostly white mob that desecrated the seat of our government in an attempt to subvert a sacred institution and overturn a lawful election. Everyone involved should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law-those who directly participated, as well as anyone who incited and enabled this insurrection to take place.

Free and fair elections lie at the heart of our democracy, and enable us to exercise and preserve our civil rights. Our leaders should make every effort to protect this process from attempts to undermine it, which includes addressing America's long history of suppressing the rights of voters of color.

The images that flashed across our screens are another painful reminder that systemic racism and white supremacy are not just part of our nation's past, but continue to represent a dangerous and powerful threat to equity and justice every day. We must hold accountable not only those whose words and actions perpetuate racial injustice, but those whose silence allow it to continue unchallenged. The responsibility lies with each of us to create opportunities for inclusion, to refuse to tolerate hate, and to be willing to disrupt the status quo.

We recognize that our ability to be informed about last week's events is only possible because of the dedication and integrity of journalists who strive to uphold truth, often while risking their own safety. The press will continue to serve a critical role as our nation takes steps towards unity, as there can be no healing without truth.

We echo the sentiments of President-Elect Biden who reminded us that democracy is fragile. Democracy is not just something we have to fight hard to win, it's something we have to keep fighting for every day to keep. With vigilance, we can ensure America is a place where "we the people" truly means all the people.



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The 2021 MLK Unity Day Celebration – A Virtual Experience

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The 2021 Unity Day Celebration to commemorate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., PhD was held virtually on January 18. The celebration was organized by the City of Toledo Human Relations Commission and the University of Toledo and streamed live on YouTube.

The celebration opened at 10:00 a.m. with Alexis Means of 13abc serving as mistress of ceremonies. "I want to thank and welcome everyone who is joining this live stream today. This is a special day of remembrance as the 20-year anniversary."

The program featured videos of Dr. King, presentation of the Honor Guard by the Lucas County Sheriff's Department, and two pre-recorded welcome addresses.

"The University of Toledo is proud to partner with the City of Toledo to celebrate Dr. King's legacy and celebrate 20 years of this partnership," UT Interim President Gregory Postel, M.D.

"For 20 years the University of Toledo and City of Toledo have partnered to bring this celebration," said Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "This year we gather in an unusual time – not able to get together in person and taken place virtually. COVID has changed our lives but other things create dark environments including the incident at the U.S. Capitol and even the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd. It's important that we unite right now. It is important to gather to listen to Dr. King and listen to his call for unity."

Toledo Opera vocalist Olivia Johnson and Toledo Opera pianist Emily Morin presented the National Anthem and the Black National Anthem. The celebration recognized the contributions and life of deceased Congressmen John Lewis, a theatrical reading performed by local community leaders, public recognition of guests, dance presentation by Tahyay Dance Studio, and spoken word presented by Davion Williams.

Several dignitaries delivered greetings including: Willie McKether, PhD, the University of Toledo Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion; Rev. Willie Perryman Jr, DMin, the incoming Toledo NAACP president; Erin Baker, City of Toledo Human Relations Commission president, and two elected officials.

"It's a pleasure to speak to you today. This celebration since its conception has been about the life and mission of Dr. King. He has inspired generations of change makers," shared Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

"The man we are here to honor today understood the power of the tongue,"

shared U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown.

The program also announced the recipients of the University of Toledo's MLK Scholarships:

- Jordan Bye, a junior, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, plans to lead a team of other strong engineers toward a common goal in an effort to become financially stable and help support his mother and future family.
- Kourtnee Dallas-Robin, a junior, majoring in finance and management, plans to complete an internship in summer 2021 with Key Bank's Financial Analyst Program, earn a graduate degree in special education and own a non-profit organization to provide a safe space for young children to follow their passion and enjoy sports.
- Selena Farmer, a junior, majoring in Medicinal and Biological Chemistry with a pre-med concentration, plans to attend medical school to become a neonatologist or anesthesiologist in hopes of working at metropolitan hospital in order to help patients from all backgrounds.
- Rylee Harper, a junior, majoring in Psychology, plans to become a therapist to help others especially minorities who feel like they can't relate or connect to therapists due to lack of representation in the field.
- Marie Jackson, a senior and Corporal in the Ohio Army National Guard

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Austin C. Brown

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as a Motor Transport Operator, majoring in Recreational Therapy, plans to work for a VA hospital as a recreational therapist helping veterans.

- Shadae Lee, a sophomore, majoring in biology, plans to pursue a masters degree in Physician Assistant studies at University of Toledo.

The annual celebration featured speaker was Toledo native Austin Channing Brown. She is a media producer, author and speaker who focuses on racial justice in America. Her first book was released in May 2018, became a bestseller on Amazon, the New York Times, and USA Today bestselling author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in business management degree from North Park University and Masters of Arts degree in social justice from Marygrove College in Detroit. The featured presentation was facilitated by Rev. John C. Jones of HopeToledo.

Brown talked about her experiences growing up in Toledo, the first few chapters of her book that explain how her perception about society was shaped.

"Toledo was a great place to grow up. I have wonderful family and friends. I knew everyone in Toledo but after graduating from Central, I moved to Chicago and now I live in Detroit. I actually return to Toledo about two to three times per month. I discovered early on that I had a boy's name. While at Reynolds Corner library a librarian took my card and asked if I was sure about my name. I asked my mom why was I given that name, she explained the family history, but I still asked why was the name chosen for me. She said that anyone who saw my name but hadn't met me would think that I was a white man, and that would at least ensure that I made the interview."

Rev. Jones commented on several themes throughout the discussion including whiteness, dealing with racism and four key traits of allies.

"We would rather believe racism is individuals and that we just need to change the hearts and minds of people," said Jones. "As long as you're not storming the capital, then you're considered a good white. Whiteness lives in our world and in systems. It's difficult to compare today to the earlier civil rights moment. Dr. King and that civil rights moment focused on legislation which was necessary, by focusing on legislation it was easy to determine if we won or lost. It's difficult for people today to know where to begin. I tell people to ask yourself 'what are you passionate about?' and begin there."

"People of color should be specific about what you need in an ally and raise expectations. Think about your needs. An ally should be less concerned about being nice and more concerned about being courageous; an ally must

understand that I'm not the work; an ally should ready to assist, fund and support existing current movements; and an ally should be both teachable and committed."

The discussion closed with a message for students from Brown.

"My question is what do you want. My duty is to clear the way so you can demand what you want. It matters how you foresee the future for yourself. You deserve equal education, healthcare, clean air and water, and a safe place to live," said Brown.

"Thank you for joining us today. You are an inspiration and a product of Toledo. I am 100% confident that our world is better because you're in it. It's been a pleasure to speak with you, Austin Brown today," shared Jones during closing remarks.

The event was sponsored by the following community partners: Platinum Sponsor is ProMedica; Gold Sponsors are Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio and Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Silver Sponsors are MercyHealth and Toledo Lucas County Public Library,

Perryman... continued from page 2

spect their adversaries even while they are trying to maybe block doors or entrances or whatever they might do. However, make it very clear they will not harm anybody and that they are going to have compassion for their adversary. And they're not going to demonize their adversary.

Perryman: Totally different from all the things that the terrorists last week were doing.

Burns: Last week was an illustration of how once you engage in violence there's no limit to how bestial you might go. Once you open the floodgates to violence there's no end to it. Last week, it was like the violence opened the door to a kind of madness. Whereas one of the great virtues of disciplined nonviolent protests is that it will prevent you from doing anything where you will lose your sanity and your equilibrium.

Perryman: King was able to bring about a lot of social change due to nonviolent tactics. Why is nonviolence more effective than, perhaps, a violent insurrection?

Burns: It's ironic because people on the left were saying that after King died nonviolence died with him and that there was no hope for that tactic. But in fact, if you look at the next 60 years there was one success after another, especially in other countries. Although there were some horrible exceptions like Tiananmen Square in China, in many other countries, the Velvet Revolution in eastern Europe and the mass nonviolent action proved to be incredibly effective even in overthrowing oppressive

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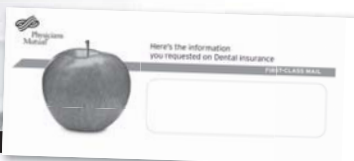
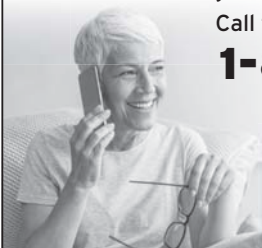
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Resolve to Read

Did you know a frequent New Year's resolution people make is to read more books? Reading can transport you to another world, providing escape from life's everyday stresses – which we could all use right now! Increasingly, research also shows that reading may offer some real benefits for health and well-being such as:

- reducing stress levels (which can contribute to illness and disease)
- slowing cognitive decline
- improving sleep
- increasing social skills and empathy

Let the Library help you resolve to read with Winter Read!

- Make a resolution of how many books you want to read in January and February.
- Track what you read online, or with a paper bookmark tracker (pick up in the lobby of any Library location or download online.)
- Collect a prize for reading and logging at least two books: one-size-fits

most TLCPL touch screen gloves for adults and kids, or red mittens for little ones (while supplies last.)

- Every additional book you read and log also increases your chances of winning a grand prize. You can log up to 10 books before Feb. 28.
- Grand prizes include memberships to local organizations such as Imagination Station, Metroparks, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo Zoo, and a Toledo Symphony gift voucher. There are also Amazon gift cards, LEGOs 484 piece classic set, Build a Fort kit, Magna-Tiles 100 piece set, Kindle PaperWhite, Cricut Explore Air 2, and a Nintendo Switch Lite. Winter Read grand prizes generously provided by the Library Legacy Foundation.

If you track your reading on a bookmark instead of online, you must contact your neighborhood Library or call 419-259-5200 before Feb. 27. Library staff will log your reading online to be eligible for the grand prize drawings. All prizes must be picked up at your neighborhood Library by March 27, 2021.

The Library is here for you to help you achieve your reading resolution! Visit toledolibrary.org/winterread or call 419.259.5200 or any location for help.

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regimes.

Perryman: Specifically, in what ways is nonviolence more effective?

Burns: Part of it was that you have these nonviolent, sort of a vanguard of nonviolent activists or protesters. Because of the way they comported themselves, the way they acted, the way they treated their adversary, the values that they were living out, you'd win more and more support from the larger public. What happened last week, instead, alienated and turned people off those even who had been supporting Trump.

Whereas with a mass nonviolent protest, it would snowball and continue to build support because people could see the contrast between the virtues expressed by the demonstrators, the protestors and the brutality of the regimes. That contrast would just build more and more public support behind their goals so that the regimes or whoever it was they were up against would realize that they had to change because they were losing public support.

Perryman: How about King and COVID? Can you project a response from King, had he been here, dealing with COVID's disproportionate negative impact on low income and people of color?

Burns: King would've been the leader that we needed. This is where a charismatic leader can make such a difference. This past year, we didn't have anybody remotely close to his stature who could really speak against the Trumpian narrative. King could have, in his powerful way, really questioned and attacked the Trump administration in a way that would've built a whole lot of public support around perhaps an alternative way of dealing with COVID. There would've been a powerful national voice that would be able to take Trump to task and challenge him every step of the way.

Perryman: Talk about King's response to combat the misinformation, disinformation, the use of propaganda and lies that has been used to maintain oppressive power.

Burns: Not only was there so much force in King's rhetoric, but he would speak very clearly and specifically and lay out facts that would be harder to dismiss as fake news. Today, there is no national voice that could stand up to Trump. King could have had rallies too and would've been able to rise above the cacophony of voices on social media and be heard.

Perryman: So, to use the title of King's final book, where do we go from here?

Burns: Yes, Chaos or community? I think that we have to really think about reimagining American Democracy and think about it in terms of creating an alternative to the party system, which I think is a big part of the problem we face. The party system is dying. At one time it was more participatory, but right now it's moribund at the local level and at the top level its oligarchy. What happened to Bernie Sanders is, case in point, of how the party system will eat up any kind of truly progressive voice.

I think we need, instead, to create an alternative through organizing grassroots democracy as if it was a fourth branch of government. We need to organize the grassroots instead of having people going in all dif-

ferent directions and lacking real coordination. We need to have that whole force of 'the people' be organized in a way that can serve as what the party system has been doing for almost 200 years.

I think we need something new to organize popular forces.

Ed. Note: Highly regarded historian of the Civil Rights Movement, author or editor of eight books, Stewart Burns served as an editor of the King Papers at Stanford University, where he also taught U.S. History. His first book Social Movements of the 1960s (1990), still in print, has been the most widely used college text on the subject. His documentary history of the Montgomery bus boycott, Daybreak of Freedom (1997), was made into the HBO feature film Boycott (on which he consulted), winner of the NAACP Image Award in 2002.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org

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Alpha Phi Alpha 's 26th Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

This year's various celebrations of Founders' Day for black fraternities and sororities – the Divine Nine as they are known – are taken on a different tone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual Alpha Phi Alpha celebration, the 26th MLK Scholarship Breakfast presented by the local Alpha Xi Lambda chapter, did take place on Saturday January 16 but, as with so many events over the last 10 months, it was a virtual presentation.

The men of Alpha Xi Lambda presented scholarships to five outstanding area students, honored Wendi Huntley with the Drum Major for Justice Award and introduced the audience to Candi Castleberry-Singleton for the keynote address.

The fraternity, said Dr. Michael Stubblefield, DDS, scholarship chairman, during his introduction of the scholarship program, is "looking for young men who follow the precepts of Alpha Phi Alpha" in their lives and studies. This year's awardees are Dominic Barnes, a senior at Springfield High School; Mekhi Henderson, St. John's Jesuit; Kevin Foster, Start High School; Kam'Ron Jones, St. John's Jesuit and Thomas "TJ" Winston, Jr, Anthony Wayne High School.

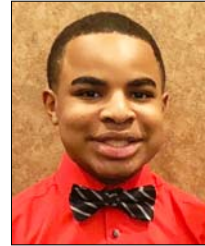
Dominic, the son of Mark and Asha Barnes has been involved in music, gymnastics and track and field. Because of his love of science and music, he will be majoring in mechanical engineering when he starts college, with a minor in music.

Mekhi, the son of Michael and Stephanie Henderson, is a member of the Diversity Committee and Culture Club, along with his involvement with Upward Bound. He will have a major of psychology in college.

Kevin, the son Marvella Foster and Elijah Jones, is a football and track



Wendi Huntley,
Connecting Kids to
Meals CEO



Wendi Huntley,
Connecting Kids to
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TJ Winston



Candi Castleberry-
Singleton



Kevin Foster



Dominic Barnes

... continued on page 9

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MLK Scholarship Breakfast... continued from page 8

star, a participant in Upward Bound and a member of the National Honors Society. He will attend Northern Ohio to major in mechanical engineering and continue his football career.

Kam'Ron, the son of Tia Wright and grandson of Greg Wright, has been a member of the cross country and track teams and is an All-Academic in the conference. He is part of Toledo Excel and an active volunteer with a number of programs. He will major in civil engineering.

Thomas, the son of Thomas and Kelli Winston, plays football and basketball, participates in Jack and Jill of America, Youth Leadership Toledo and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club. He will attend Butler University, major in biology and play Division I football.

In his introduction of Huntley, this year's Drum Major honoree, John C. Jones, breakfast committee chairman and chapter vice president, called the honor, "the highest award we give within the community." Martin Luther King, Jr. "spoke about the qualities one needs to be connected to greatness," said Jones. He cited a King quote: "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Huntley is the CEO/executive director of Connecting Kids to Meals. A Notre Dame Academy graduate, she earned an undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University and a law degree from The Ohio State University.

"We serve the underserved," said Huntley of her agency, which provides healthy nutritious meals for thousands of Toledo area youngsters year round. "It's a privilege to work with my staff who are so committed and really care about the children in our community."

Huntley expressed her evident pleasure at being honored and explained the reason for her commitment to working to help those in the community.

"I am humbled to receive this award and humbled to be called a leader. I have a service heart and that comes from my parents. They instilled in me the care we have to have for one another. We are part of the tapestry we call this community."

This year's mistress of ceremonies, Kristian Brown of 13 abcTV, called



Kam'Ron Jones

Huntley, "the epitome of a phenomenal woman."

This year's speaker, Castleberry-Singleton, is vice president of Diversity Partnership Strategy & Engagement at Twitter and the founder of the Dignity & Respect Campaign and other innovative programs on diversity and inclusion, employee and community engagement, and work-life integration. She has developed successful strategies and initiatives in technology, telecommunications and healthcare with Xerox, Sun Microsystems, Motorola and UPMC. She is well-known for her commitment to organizational behavior change and inspiring people and communities to work better together.

Castleberry-Singleton earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, an MBA from Pepperdine and completed the Stanford Executive Human Resources program.

John Jones introduced Castleberry-Singleton and conducted a question and answer session with her. Opening their discussion Jones asked Castleberry-Singleton what she would have described as a "low-low" for the past year and what she had experienced as a "high-high."

Of course, the answer to the "low-low" was easily anticipated.

"If you have not been touched personally [by COVID], you should feel grateful," she said. "It doesn't feel like the US where we all expected to grow up in."

Castleberry-Singleton's sister is a physician, she explained, and the ter-

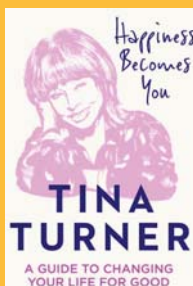
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WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



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by JaQuavis Coleman

How to be an Artist
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Happiness Becomes You
by Tina Turner

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Social Security Column

Five Ways SSA.GOV Saves You Time

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

Our online tools and services save you time and make your life easier. Often, there's no need to contact us. Here are five of our webpages that can make your life easier:

1. With your own personal my Social Security account, you can request a replacement Social Security card, verify your earnings, get future benefit estimates, obtain benefit verification letters, and more at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.
2. Need answers to your Social Security-related questions? Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page at www.ssa.gov/faq.
3. You can complete and submit your online application for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement.
4. Access our publications library with online booklets and pamphlets, including audio versions, on key subjects at www.ssa.gov/pubs.
5. Check out our blog for Social Security news and updates at <https://blog.ssa.gov>.

Please share these pages with your friends and family.

Three Ways to Fight Scammers Who Target Your Social Security Benefits

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents and other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you can do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information, money, or retail gift cards.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov immediately to Social Security's law enforcement team at the Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says there's a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to Social Security, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

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Increasing Wealth in the Black Community

By Paul Hubbard
Guest Column

Detroit and Toledo area African Americans rank among the bottom five

average credit scores in the US. This millennial generation is facing unique, systemic financial obstacles; including high student loan debts, challenging job market, possible criminal records, poor credit score, poor educa-

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Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio
The Truth Contributor

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is your voice at the IRS. TAS is required to report annually to Congress under Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

National Taxpayer Advocate introductory remarks to Congress- 2020 Year Annual Report

Despite the IRS's overall success in managing the filing season and accurately paying the significant majority of Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), some taxpayers experienced major problems, and the agency was not always fully transparent about its struggles. Four areas stand out:

1. Millions of taxpayers experienced lengthy delays in receiving their tax refunds. The significant majority of taxpayers who file tax returns receive refunds, and the average refund in recent years has exceeded \$2,500. Particularly for low-income taxpayers, timely receipt of refunds can be critical. In 2020, there were two significant sources of refund delays. The first was the IRS's inability to timely open and process the roughly 16 million paper tax returns it received. The majority of these taxpayers likely were entitled to refunds, yet they had to wait many months longer than usual to receive them. According to an update posted on the IRS website, there were still 7.1 million unprocessed individual returns and 2.3 million unprocessed business returns as of November 24, with some dated as early as April 15 — more than seven months earlier.

A second source of refund delays resulted from the IRS's fraud detection filters. Each year, all returns claiming refunds are passed through filters designed to detect fraudulent wage or identity theft-based claims. For many years, the filters have generated high false positive rates, leading to refund delays for those returns flagged. The problem was compounded in 2020 because the IRS notifies taxpayers of refund holds by written correspondence, and the IRS was delayed both in sending notices and in processing taxpayer responses. Overall,

the IRS's fraud filters flagged 5.2 million returns claiming refunds. For about 25 percent of the returns flagged for income verification, refunds took longer than 56 days. For about 18 percent of the returns flagged for identity verification, refunds took longer than 120 days. While we support the IRS's goal of identifying and preventing fraudulent refund claims, we encourage the IRS to continue to refine its filters to detect fraudulent claims with greater precision.



2. Millions of eligible individuals did not receive some or all of the EIPs for which they were eligible. Last spring, the IRS took the position that it generally would not correct EIP mistakes in 2020. We pointed out that the CARES Act directed the IRS to pay EIPs "as rapidly as possible," and we urged the IRS — both internally and externally through our mid-year report and in blogs — to correct EIP underpayments in 2020. As 2020 progressed, the IRS agreed to fix some categories of EIP problems, focusing on problems that could be corrected through automation. The IRS did not create programming to allow manual adjustments of individual accounts until September, and even then, only a limited number of issues could be manually corrected. While the IRS's inclination to use automation wherever possible is understandable in light of its human resource constraints, its approach left taxpayers frustrated and without the funds some of them desperately needed.

The IRS is quickly issuing the second round of stimulus payments authorized by the COVID-19 relief provisions included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, signed into law on December 27, 2020. I am optimistic the lessons learned from the first round will make the process go more smoothly in 2021, and to the extent there are any inconsistencies or errors, taxpayers will be able to address them with the filing of their 2020 income tax returns rather than waiting for the IRS to correct erroneous payment amounts.

3. Millions of taxpayers received late notices bearing dates that had passed and, in many cases, response deadlines that also had passed. During the time crucial IRS functions were shut down last spring, the IRS automatically generated more than 31.2 million notices. By the time the IRS was ready to mail them, the dates on the notices had passed, some by several

... continued on page 12

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MLK Scholarship... continued from page 9

ror her family has felt on a day-by-day basis kept them "literally praying."

Given the inconsistent impact of COVID on minority communities and the government's uneven response, she noted that "COVID showed us who we really were in America – it put a spotlight on many things we are fighting for."

She replied that if there was a high point for the year it was the benefit of forcing so many to learn to use technology. In Castleberry-Singleton's family, they structured a weekly Zoom call "to stay informed and connected," a practice they are committed to continue, well past the time that COVID is no longer an all-consuming issue.

"What can we do to address the issue of inequi-

ties?" asked Jones of Castleberry-Singleton.

She replied with a three-part answer – a thorough examination of how she feels the world can begin to change.

First, "we have to develop a level of respect for people who are different from us," she said. "We should be treated with dignity and respect And we should treat everyone with dignity and respect ... and equity and inclusion begin with treating everyone with dignity and respect."

Second, she said, we have to get out of our comfort zones. People have a tendency, said Castleberry-Singleton, "to interact only with people like us – we have to reach out, make new friends." She stressed that if an individual was constantly going into rooms where everyone looks like him or her, it's time to reassess the social situation. "Become

allies of people who are different from us."

Third, get "evidence that you are more than an accomplice." She advised people to "have courage." The courage, she said, to stand up for change, "having courage to just not be a bystander."

Overall, Castleberry-Singleton asked people "to understand that intent does not equal impact ... gain an awareness of what happens." She noted that an entire community can be offended by remarks even though the speaker might have had the best of intentions with his statement or comment.

Pastor Brandon Tucker is the chapter president of Alpha Xi Lambda and Richard C. Jackson is the Breakfast Committee co-chairman.

This year's MLK Breakfast was coordinated by the Touchdown Agency, a certified MBE. Thaddeus Washington is the president.

Increasing Wealth... continued from page 10

tion, etc. White and Asian millennials are not experiencing these problems on the same level.

However, the US economy will have a lot of future opportunities after the virus with a new president and vice president along with Democratic control of Congress.

Now is the time for African-American millennials and African Americans in general to start thinking and planning about generating wealth. You do not need a lot of money to get started in order to generate wealth. Let's take a look at some areas we can consider.

Stocks: Doesn't take a lot of money to get started if you invest right. Get a financial planner to assist you. You may be able to get started with \$500 to \$1000. Look at tech stocks, social media stocks, self-driving cars stocks, cashless payment stocks.

Bonds: Earnings on many bonds are tax free because you are investing in government improvements.

Options: Takes a little more money to invest

but this is a way to cut down on your risk. You pay a fee to buy stock if it increases to a future price. If it doesn't increase, you don't have to buy the stock but you lose your fee.

Bitcoin: Cryptocurrency .This is online currency that replaces money. People buy and sell it as they do with stock. You can also use bitcoins to buy products and services online. If you buy bitcoins you want the value to increase.

My son, Paul A. Hubbard, who is in the health care industry says that this is a good industry to invest in.

My daughter, Melissa Winbush, who is a wealth manager, says, "Our community needs to do a better job preparing for our next generation. We need to explore avenues that foster generational wealth like estate planning."

Real Estate: This is one of the easiest ways to start wealth growth. We have to live somewhere so why not own where we live instead of paying someone else. There are a lot of programs that can help us buy real estate. There are a few, down payment assistance programs, first-time home buyer grants, bridge loans and grants, and VA



Paul Hubbard

zero down loans. If you have a low credit score, a credit repair program can help. You can invest in rental property to rent out. You can buy houses that need repair at a low cost and sell them at a higher price (flipping). Get a real estate agent to assist you.

Where there is a WILL to increase your WEALTH there is a way. There are also people and programs that can assist you.

Improve IRS... continued from page 11

months, and some notices included response deadlines that also had passed. Nevertheless, the IRS mailed 18.9 million notices (after purging the balance). The IRS included an "insert" with about 1.8 million notices because it needed to give taxpayers an extension of time to act. However, the IRS failed to include these inserts with other notices that should have contained them and had to issue supplemental letters informing affected taxpayers of additional extensions.

Late notices caused considerable confusion and anxiety for taxpayers who feared they had missed critical response or payment deadlines. At the time I first blogged about this situation in June, we believed it was a one-time occurrence. We were wrong. During November 2020, the IRS was un-

able to timely mail out over 11 million additional notices after they were automatically generated. Like the first time, the IRS purged millions of notices that could not be mailed timely. The nearly five million remaining time-sensitive notices are being mailed in December and January. This time, the IRS is including yet another insert extending the response time. The IRS must take steps to ensure this does not happen a third time.

4. Public information about the status of IRS operations and processing backlogs was insufficient. While the IRS took some steps to keep the public informed about COVID-19-related delays, particularly later in the year, taxpayers often did not understand what was happening with their tax returns, refunds, balances, or EIPs. Many taxpayers called the IRS or TAS simply to get information because they did not have access to the IRS website, did not know how frequently the IRS updated its website information, or did not know where to

turn to obtain information. The IRS could have placed a "COVID-19 Dashboard" on its website and updated its estimate of the number of returns it was processing weekly and the anticipated time for payment of refunds.¹¹ It could have issued weekly news releases to publicize this information. Similarly, the IRS could have posted a chart listing the major sources of EIP problems and indicating which ones it would address and when. It also could have provided more detailed information about the status of its operations.

For much of the year, relatively limited information was released, and comments made by IRS officials often were incomplete or misleading. For example, IRS officials stated the agency would reopen facilities in all states by mid-July. Many observers reasonably interpreted those statements as indicating the IRS would be fully operational. In fact, some operations continued at limited capacity, bringing only a small percentage of employees into offices at a time to allow for adequate social distancing. As we enter the 2021 filing season, I strongly urge the agency to widely disseminate weekly updates on any processing delays and on the status of agency operations both on its website and through weekly news releases.

The challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic will continue through the 2021 filing season and possibly for months longer, affecting both the IRS and taxpayers.

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Kamala's Way: An American Life by Dan Morain

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

One step at a time.

That's how you get anywhere: methodical, with purpose, one foot in front of the other until you get where you're going. You never waver. You never take shortcuts, side roads, or easy-outs, and as in *Kamala's Way* by Dan Morain, you keep your eyes on the goal every minute of the journey.

At this point in time, Kamala Harris almost needs no introduction.

Much of what you need to know is summed up in this: says Morain, she "misses little and forgets even less." Still, a lot of things about her life were left out of her biography, *The Truths We Hold*, or ignored by most articles written about her.

Much has been said about Harris' mother but little has been said about her father, for example. Harris herself has said that they were "not close," and Morain offers reasons why, as well as some background on Harris' paternal side.

Outside of California, Harris' rise to political fame might be perceived as meteoric, but the truth is that it took more than 30 years of focus. While studying at Howard University, Harris worked as an intern in Senator Alan Cranston's office; after passing the California bar exam, she became Deputy District Attorney at the Alameda County District Attorney's office and she got a peek at politics; she worked in "the hothouse of San Francisco criminal justice politics," was later elected to the office once held by Cranston in the Senate and is now in the second-highest position in America. Along the way, as one can expect from a no-nonsense woman, there were controversies.

Morain shares little-discussed details of Harris' relationship with bigger-than-life Willie Brown, former mayor of San Francisco. He writes deeply of Harris' vow not to call for the death penalty on any California inmate. He explains the strange tie between Harris and Kimberly Guilfoyle. And he writes of Harris, who gets things done and doesn't "care that she had ruffled [someone's] feelings."

The first time you see *Kamala's Way*, hold it in your hands, and think a minute. Did you read her biography *The Truths We Hold*? If so, then you've already read about 30 percent of this book; indeed, author Dan Morain liberally uses quotes from the bio. Is the other 70 percent – the parts you haven't read – worth reading?

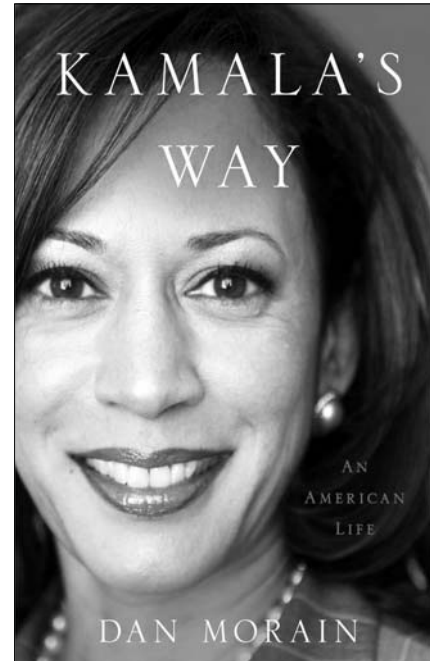
Probably, yes, if you're excited beyond measure to have Kamala Harris as

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Vice President, because Morain gives details on Harris' life that will be new to a good number of readers, especially political outsiders and non-Californians. These are the things Harris herself has avoided discussing, but Morain hasn't.

They're not all hot-button, though; in fact, Morain shares stories of Harris when the cameras are gone, and he does it in a way that's not sensational or tabloid-ish. Instead, it's thorough, honest, and a quick-to-read education about our new Second in Command, so if you think you don't know much about her, add it to your Must-Read pile.

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You can use your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to get an instant estimate of your future retirement benefits. You can also see the effects of starting your retirement benefits at different ages.

Benefits for family members may also be important to you. When you start receiving Social Security retirement benefits, members of your family may also qualify to receive benefits on your record. You can learn more at www.ssa.gov/benefits. Please share this information with family and friends to help them prepare for retirement.

*Produced at Taxpayer Expense

SSA.GOV... continued from page 10

There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov.

Four Questions About Social Security That Can Help You Plan Your Retirement

Social Security benefits are part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker. If you're among the many people covered under Social Security, you should know what your future benefit may be. These monthly payments may be a vital part of your retirement income.

We base your benefit payment on how much you earned during your working career. Higher lifetime earnings result in higher benefits. If there were some years you didn't work or had low earnings, your benefit amount may be lower than if you had worked steadily. Even if you have never worked under Social Security, you may be able to get spouse's retirement benefits if you are at least 62 years old and your spouse receives retirement or disability

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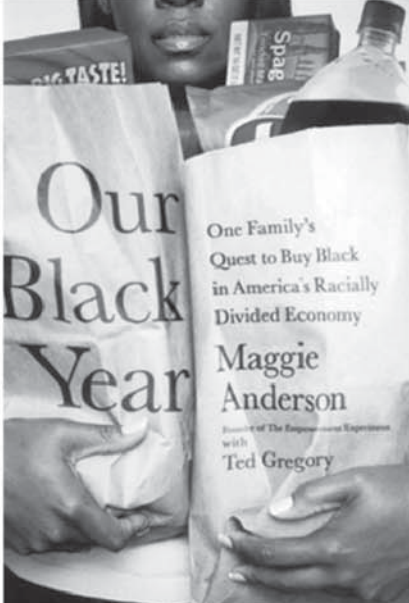
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Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

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

Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
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Toledo, Ohio



Evangelist Tiffany Reynolds
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BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!



CLASSIFIEDS

January 20, 2021

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FREE JOB TRAINING - Earn your Manufacturing Skill Standards Council **CERTIFIED PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN** certificate in 8 weeks. Classes start January 25th (9am-1pm Mon - Fri). Call Sue at 419-243-9178 for more information or to register.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Vice President of Resident Services. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 02/05/21. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



RFQ BUILDING ENVELOPE/WEATHERPROOFING PROJECT

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Building Envelope/Weatherproofing Project. Project Construction Cost: \$2,000,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise Konecny, RFQ FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232, 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 # FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232, Building Envelope/Weatherproofing Project on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 1 (one) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

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FRONT DESK ATTENDANT

The City of Fremont is accepting applications for a part-time Front Desk Attendant at its Recreation Department.

- Starting pay \$8.80.
- Work hours will vary and may include evenings, weekends, and some holidays.
- Work is normally performed under the supervision of a permanent/full-time employee.

Please direct any questions to Recreation Department Superintendent, Cody Bischoff at 419.334.5906. A properly completed online application must be submitted in order to be considered.

SEEKING A VISUAL AND QUALITATIVE REPORT

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) seeks to fund an individual or organization to develop a visual and qualitative report and presentation based on quantitative data collected by the MHR SB. This information will be used as a baseline report to the community on the MHR SB's health equity efforts. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on January 22, 2021. All questions should be submitted to crs@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Details regarding the project deliverables and submission criteria are located on the MHR SB's website: <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/public-notice/>.

PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Lucas County Children Services is seeking a PC Support Specialist. If interested review requirements and apply at www.lucaskids.net. EOE Valuing Diversity

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HPOG is part of a study funded by the federal government which is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people improve their skills and find better jobs. During the study, all new eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to participate in these training opportunities. Not all eligible applicants will be selected.

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.



The Sylvania Township Fire Department is seeking candidates for a Full-time Administrative Assistant to provide the department with a variety of confidential, administrative support service, including, but not limited to the preparation of monthly reports and Agenda items for the Board of Trustees meetings; coordination of repairs and maintenance for all fire stations; preparation and monitoring of budget accounts; and coordination of the hiring process of fire department personnel.

Additional information concerning this position is available at www.sylvaniatownship.com. Three -Five (3 - 5) years' executive administrative experience is preferred. An Associate Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or a closely related business field is also preferred.

Please submit cover letter, resume, references, and salary expectations by 4:00 pm Friday, January 29, 2021 to: Human Resources, Sylvania Township 4927 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 or by e-mail to: HR@sylvaniatownship.com.

Sylvania Township, an Equal Opportunity Employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, political beliefs, marital/family/parental status, or other protected classes under state or federal law. Sylvania Township is committed to an inclusive welcoming work environment with cultural diversity and a drug-free, nicotine-free workplace.

The Toledo Diocese Honors Its Drum Majors

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Toledo Catholic Diocese celebrated Kingdom Day, a day of living the dream, at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Sylvania on Sunday, January 17 and presented its Drum Major Awards to Suzette Crowell, CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union; Earl D. Mack Jr., president of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers and retired law enforcement officer and Anita Madison, community activist, adjunct professor at Owens Community College and retired Toledo police officer.

According to the Diocese the honorees "openly and actively, support social justice causes, call for peace where there is conflict, serve the community and strive for racial equality."

"Today, it was an awesome lifetime achievement and honor to receive the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 2021 Drum Major Award. Dr. King, was the Drum Major for justice; he was the Drum Major for peace; and he was the Drum Major for righteousness; Dr. King was also the moral compass of a nation. I am so honored to receive this award in representation of Dr. King and what he stood for," said Mack.

"As the leader of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers, I receive this awesome honor, standing on the shoulders of our members as well as the shoulders of our supporters. Your unwavering commitment and dedication to peace and enhancing the quality of life for children and their families in the communities we serve, is the reason for this recognition."

Madison spoke of the Word the Toledo Diocese, Bishop Thomas delivered before the ceremony. "His message was simple yet profound. He said, 'during these times of a pandemic, civil unrest and political chaos, we should hear with our ears but listen with our heart, we should look with our eyes but see with our mind and soul.' That really struck a chord with me! We should all strive to apply those principles as we continue in the work of serving our community."

The Bishop had a special blessing and encouraging words of gratitude for each of us! "



Earl Mack, Suzette Crowell, Bishop Daniel Thomas, Anita Madison

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Toledo Museum of Art Reopens for MLK Unity Day

On Monday, the Toledo Museum of Art reopened its doors in time to help the community celebrate MLK Day. Hundreds of families waited in line outside in the cold to gain access to the museum's exhibits, particularly the

"Radical Tradition: American Quilts and Social Change."

This quilt by Bisa Butler is titled "The Storm, the Whirlwind and the Earthquake." The large piece of art (88 inches by 50 inches) is a portrait of Frederick Douglass and is crafted from cotton, silk, wool and velvet – quilted and appliqued.



Bisa Butler