



Volume 66 No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 28, 2021

The Lofts at WB in Historic Vistula Neighborhood



Ambrea Mikolajczyk of ARK Restoration & Construction

In This Issue...

Perryman
Page 2



YWCA Stand Against Racism
Page 5

Cover Story:
ARK Construction
Page 7

Men's Health Network
Page 11

Book Review
Page 13

Classifieds
Page 14

Business and
Health Expo
Page 16



Don't Exhale Yet!

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

The Truth Contributor

We have many reformers, few transformers.

- Jean Toomer



For the first time in many years, our collective attention was riveted on a courtroom. We nervously watched for the verdict in the prosecution of the nine-minute and 29-second murder of George Floyd.

Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

I share in the sentiment expressed by most people that the three guilty verdicts were correct. Former policeman Derek Chauvin was appropriately held accountable for his loathsome actions.

However, there was another current of thought, though, that I found enlightening. Many people expressed it, but perhaps the most notable person to give voice to this idea was the United States president.

President Joe Biden said he was "relieved" at the verdict.

That fact alone—standing on the side of the road while the celebratory parade goes by—is proof that we have exponentially more to do.

Think about it. That case. That evidence. That crime. And we were merely relieved to see Chauvin convicted?

The question—which history will answer—is whether this verdict represents a singular exception or a turning point on the road to the radical systemic transformation of our police system and our society.

One White former police officer is found guilty of killing a Black person, and then six more police killings of unarmed Black people take place in the next 24 hours. The State-sponsored slayings included a Black girl in Columbus who was shot simultaneously as the nation sat raptly waiting for the verdict in the

Minneapolis Courthouse.

Anyone who is "alive to the moment in which we are now living" knows that merely being "relieved" won't cut it. The continuing unjustifiable slaughter of unarmed Black men, women, and children by law enforcement has us living in a perpetual state of emergency.

The total systemic transformation of the police is long overdue. I am hopeful that this event will signal a pivot in how we are policed. Individual officers must be consistently held accountable for the crimes they commit while wearing their badges.

The sun has risen and set more than 55,000 times since the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified, and we are still demanding to see its promise kept:

No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

There's a more significant idea that I believe is being neglected in the pursuit of equal protection. That idea is equality.

America was founded on many things, one of which was the dehumanization of people of African descent. From the "3/5" clause of the Constitution through slavery, the Civil War, reconstruction, Jim Crow, separate but equal, and all the way to that courtroom in Minneapolis, the idea continues to exist

...continued on page 4

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White Skin Privileges Primer

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

It appears to me that for the white people who are on the go with their busy schedules and frantic lives, that they would benefit from a simple easy to read primer on what are white skin privileges and how they benefit, indirectly and directly, from them.

Now, for those interested in a more exhaustive and full-blown discourse on the same subject, may I recommend the following superlative reads: Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, Stamped From The Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi and The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee.

At its core, white skin privileges are not a novel or new concept. It can be characterized as both an explicit and implicit society wide operating system (akin to Windows 10) and is adaptable via a host of software applications, to wit: judicial system, legislative decisions and the distribution of economic empowerment to its intended audience...i.e., white people.

White skin privileges draw its nourishment and longevity from the protections that it affords white people who seek its perks and benefits; but they must pay the societal wages of agreeing to its abhorrent tenets and stifling dogma or they can face expulsion or ostracism by those who rigorously reject any attempts at its elimination.

The chronological start of white skin privileges in and on the land that we call the United States of America is normally assigned the start date of 1619. That was the first recorded date of people of African descent being physically present in the American colonies.

From that date of notoriety, when slavers brought citizens of Africa to these shores and consciously bludgeoned them mentally, emotionally and physically into people of no value, America has not recovered from the Big Lie that people of color were sub-human and not worthy of respect or equal treatment. Notions of white skin privileges skillfully and with great nuance and effect, infected the white citizenry with non-Biblical concepts of what is human worth and value and tried to portray people of color as the spawn of the devil.

White skin privileges can only succeed and prosper when what it gives to its followers is of greater value than the propagated fear that those "others" are not like you and never will be; and you must be diligent against their efforts to be reckoned as equal alongside you and your family.

White skin privileges tell a wicked and evil tale that the native Americans (aka: Indians) and people of color are not able to exhibit a standard of civility and proper civilization; and thus, it is incumbent upon white people the burden to lead the way and educate them in the finer things of life.

For White America, if that education required the use of slavery, chronic mental and emotional abuse, killings, denial of equal rights and subjugation by an indifferent and callous police force, so be it.

White skin privileges employed the many genres of a corrupted educational system to reinforce the supposed inferiority of people of color, a law enforcement apparatus whose main mission was and is to protect the property rights of the "ruling class" and apart-

heid like laws that held in check any chance of revolt or challenge.

White skin privileges means that you can call the police on innocent black people gathering in a public park, but you lie and state that they are causing a disturbance.

Those same privileges affirm the irrational behavior of educators who denigrate the intellectual ability of black people and scorn their advancements as being accomplished at the expense of other whites.

White skin privileges simply assumes that if a non-white has achieved anything of note or value, that it must be suspect and not a quality product as would be produced by a white person, even of a lesser status.

At the core of white skin privileges is the dire and haunting fear that unless people of color are lessened or diminished, white people will become a minority group in America by the year 2045.

That fear has as its twin, the irrational ghost of revenge by people of color for centuries of wrongs, yet unrequited, that would be inflicted upon whites in this country.

The past legal doctrine of separate but equal was a futile attempt to legislate racial separation in the hopes that people of color would be satisfied with a half of a bone rather than a three-course dinner paired with a dessert and a brandy.

White skin privileges automatically assumes that all goodies and perks of this American economic system are and were deliberately designed for their continuous enjoyment and any infringement upon those entitlements should be met with force to prevent "others" from entering in.

White skin privileges says that you can call a black person who has earned a Ph.D., by his first name only and never call him or her, Doctor.

It is a system of thinking based upon the Big Lie that white is always right and that Black, needs to get back.

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Lafe Tolliver



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Guilty! Guilty! Guilty! I Fist Pumped Too

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

As I sit here watching the verdict (you know what verdict I'm talking about) and MSNBC's coverage and commentary, I'm struck by Michael Steele's comments. Steele, a conservative, Republican, black commentator – and former national chairman of the Republican Party – opened his comments by saying “when I heard the verdict, I fist pumped.”

I fist bumped also. Here in my home office, all by myself, I fist bumped. And I cried. And I turned on my Facebook page to see all the comments from others who had fist bumped and cried. My cousin in Charlotte thanked Jesus. A friend whom I knew when I lived in Minneapolis, one of my favorite places, spoke of tears.

And we wept! Justice finally.

Sometimes it feels as if it is the first time justice has been done. It's not part of a pattern. It's not a harbinger of things to come. It's not retribution for all the times that justice has not prevailed. It's just a little something.

But it feels so damn good. Finally!

Part of is relief also. Part of it is relief that had a not guilty verdict been rendered, the violence in so many places might have spiraled out of control – as I write this, it still might. But I'm momentarily relieved.

What was the difference? Why finally, in such a high-profile case, has a white officer been found guilty of murdering a Black man?

It was the face. Derek Chauvin's face. We hadn't seen that face before.

We have seen blurry images of Black people being attacked and shot – sometimes running away, sometimes the image obstructed by car doors, or police bodies over them flailing away. We rarely have seen the face close up



George Floyd



of the victim at the time he meets his Maker.

But we have never seen the face of the perpetrator so intimately as we saw Derek Chauvin as he committed murder. And when we saw it, we didn't see his panic. We didn't see his anger. We didn't see his fear of the crowd. We didn't see disgust, or hate, or malice.

We saw casualness.

We saw a man with his hands in his pockets and a face that was so clearly unconcerned by his surroundings and so unconcerned by the life he was snuffing out. We saw a man who for nine minutes and 29 seconds told the world, this is not a big deal. This is not an important matter. This man whose neck I am kneeling on is of no concern to me or to anyone else.

Derek Chauvin so casually brought to an end the life of George Floyd, while keeping his hands in his pockets and a look on his face that revealed his total lack of concern for anything that mattered in terms of the life he had taken, a life he had sworn to protect and to serve. The life of George Floyd.

The prosecutor acknowledged as much in his closing argument. The defense, he argued, had failed to make the case that George Floyd died because his heart was too large. He died because Derek Chauvin's heart was too small.

And we could all see it.

Perryman... continued from page 2

that black lives are worth less than white lives.

Until we confront that uncomfortable truth, we cannot hope to dismantle the system that it created.

Therefore, we must speak the truth, persistently and courageously. We need a collective voice that includes everyone willing to confront ugly truths and demand that we abandon older inequitable simplicities for a new day.

The last year has opened eyes and changed minds. Thankfully, a new generation has taken the baton and is increasingly pressuring corporate America to take a stand on racism and bigotry.

...continued on page 6

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The "Stand Against Racism" Two Day Conference

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio convened a two-day conference starting on April 22 entitled, "Stand Against Racism," which featured speakers and panelists who spoke about the trauma of systemic racism and how it affects the Black family. The conference was hosted virtually and incorporated points of engagement through chat features. YWCA President and CEO Lisa McDuffie opened the conference with reflections and call to action.

"I am honored to welcome you to our conference, which is timely because we're two days out from the trial in which Derek Chauvin will forever be known as the murder of George Floyd," McDuffie said during opening comments. "Why are Black people overrepresented in diabetes, cancers and even Covid-19 hospitalizations? Why are we underrepresented in homeownership, and kindergarten readiness? Why is a five-number zip code linked to living fewer years of life? It's called systemic racism. The YWCA Stand Against Racism Conference is our signature event. For 151 years the YWCA of Northwest Ohio's mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. We've committed ourselves to this work in justice for all. Our theme today acknowledges that systemic racism harms all people of color."



Lisa McDuffie



Barbara Love, PhD

Barbara Love, PhD was the first presenter of the conference. Love is a speaker, consultant, coach and writer who focuses on diversity, social justice, liberation and transformation. She's a professor emeritus of Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and spoke to the virtual audience about their vision and her vision for society.

"My vision is categorized by justice and equity, a better world for black people. A world where every black child and family can reach Wakanda, never have to question righteousness of self, know that

every moment of their lives matters and that their lives matter. A world where they never doubt their mind or what to change their skin or hair on their head.," shared Love.

Michael Waters, PhD, was the second speaker of the first conference day. Waters is the founder and lead pastor of Abundant Life African American Episcopal Church in Dallas. He's an author, professor, social commentator and two-time National Wilbur Award winner for non-fiction writing.

Waters opened his presentation by explaining a book titled, Ten Little Nigger Boys, and its impact on society before explaining his recommendation on how to prepare children for conversations on racism. The book that he mentioned explains through counting how 10 Black boys die through a series of death-

related scenarios including bodily injury, insects, animal encounters and stroke.

"According to the Atlanta Black Star, this book was one of several nursery book series that taught White children how to count in the late 1800s. Let's take a minute, imagine a world where we teach young White children how to read, write and count by teaching them stories of how young Black boys die tragic deaths. To prepare our children, have intentional conversations about what they see and experience. Allow your children to participate in rallies, demonstrations and marches. Read books together that speak not only of our struggle but of those who have and who continue to courageously resist. Finally expose our children to historic sites and museums," explained Waters.



Michael Waters, PhD



Jawanza Kunjufu, PhD

Jawanza Kunjufu, PhD was the opening speaker on the second day of the conference. Kunjufu is a guest lecturer, best-selling author and has been featured on several television shows including BET and MSNBC. He explored stereotypes with the audience that is connected to racism, including education, parental involvement, and incarceration.

"Why are Black girls suspended six times more than White girls for the same infraction? Why do so many schools have problems with Black female

hairstyles? This past week a father withdrew his Black student from school because the teacher cut the student's hair," explained Dr. Kunjufu.

The conference also featured Yulise Reeves Waters, Esq. the Deputy Director of Lone Star Justice Alliance. She was awarded the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' Equity and Inclusion Award in 2018. The conference involved local leaders to discuss racism trauma in various systems.

The panel was moderated by Crystal Allen, the senior director of Strategic Consulting of Casey Family Programs, and included the following as panelists: Robin Reese, executive director of Lucas County Children Services to

...continued on page 6

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Rep. Hicks-Hudson Says Budget Fails to Invest in Working People, Families and the Communities where They Live

Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued the following statement on the House passage of House Bill 110, the state's two-year budget. House Democrats largely opposed the bill, saying it was a missed opportunity to invest in everyday Ohioans still struggling amid the health and economic crisis.

"This 2759-page document reflects the limited vision as exhibited by the funding decisions made. It is a shame that when given the opportunity to fund bold policies that would help working families, seniors and young children, this budget gives a tax credit that benefits the wealthy and negatively impacts local governments and public libraries," said Rep. Hicks-Hudson.

Democrats also noted that the Republican-backed \$380 million tax giveaway that largely benefits the wealthiest Ohioans could threaten hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding under the American Rescue Plan.

Democrats offered a number of amendments on the House floor Wednesday, including measures that would:

- Put more money back in the pockets of working people by making the earned income tax credit partially refundable and investing in local governments and public libraries;
- Increase access to publicly funded childcare to allow more Ohioans to get back to work;
- Prioritize coronavirus relief, including investments in public health, rental assistance and waiving unemployment benefit overpayments made to Ohioans during the pandemic.
- Restore Republican cuts to H2Ohio funding to invest in clean water infrastructure.
- Raise wages for home health care workers and allow them to collectively bargain for better wages and benefits.
- Invest in programs to make college more affordable to lower-income Ohioans.

- Invest in maternal health and morbidity data reporting to improve health outcomes.

- Increase funding for AIDS prevention services at Ohio Planned Parenthood and removes funding from crisis pregnancy centers.

Republicans rejected each amendment.

After passing the House, the bill moves to the Senate for consideration.



Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Perryman... continued from page 4

Simultaneously, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is being torn down in statehouses across the United States.

Still, I am not without hope. But I don't view hope as a passive pursuit. Progress will only be made with action and not by a docile going "quietly into the night."

As a community and as a nation, we should demand that Congress passes *The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act* (H.R. 1280), which:

- Bans chokeholds on a federal level and some no-knock warrants, especially in drug cases.
- Lowers the criminal intent standard – from willful to knowing or reckless – to convict police for misconduct
- Limits qualified immunity used by police as a defense in private civil action, enabling families to sue more ably and quickly for unconstitutional actions against them
- Provides the Department of Justice with administrative subpoena power in investigating police misconduct
- Ends racial and religious profiling
- Improves transparency by collecting data on police misconduct and use-of-force

It is uncertain if our deeply divided Congress can make *The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act* (H.R. 1280) a reality. History shows us only incremental progress written in the books of law and not in our hearts. The powers that be have promised people "someday" for so long that it has begun to sound hollow.

For once – in a lifetime – the courts convicted a white policeman in the murder of a black man. Feeling "relieved" is not enough.

Instead, the final benchmark is this: Did the conviction make a difference? Did it change the course of America? Did it transform the system? Did it lead to justice and equality?

When that happens, then we all can breathe a sigh of relief.

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

Stand Against Racism... continued from page 5

speak about child welfare; Marvin Whitfield, PhD, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio to speak about law enforcement; Treva Jeffries, assistant Transformational Leader of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion of Toledo Public Schools to speak about education; Celeste Smith, director of Government and Community Affairs for Health Partners of Western Ohio to speak about healthcare, and Judge Denise Cubbon, an administrative judge since 2007 to speak about juvenile justice.

The final speaker, Adrienne ElHai, director at The Cullen Center for Children, Adolescents and Families at ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital spoke about treating the trauma and the root cause.

The conference provided moments of engagement with the featured speakers and panel by including question and answer portions, and specific chat function question for attendees through the Hopin platform. The conference sponsors were: YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Lucas County Children Services, Owens Corning and Casey Family Program.

For additional information about the YWCA of Northwest Ohio's resources and updates on racial justice and civil rights, visit www.ywcanwo.org

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A Groundbreaking Development in the Historic Vistula Neighborhood

By Ambrea Mikolajczyk

Guest Column

April 1, 2021 will forever be etched in my brain.

It was the day that cast a dark cloud and overshadowed the sacrifice, as well as all the good, and hard work done over 15 years that my husband Kevin and I have spent building the community and having a positive impact on housing throughout Toledo.

Before I share my disappointment, allow me to first tell you about my background and journey as one of the first Black female developers in the region.

My name is Ambrea Mikolajczyk and I was born and raised in Toledo in the BUMA neighborhood on Goodale and Macomber. I met my husband Kevin while we were teenagers working at the athletic apparel store Finish Line. I later discovered we attended the same high school, Roy C. Start. I earned an academic scholarship through Toledo Excel and Helen Cooks, PhD, and graduated from The University of Toledo with a Pharmacy Administration Degree. I studied and made connections in order to land a career that spanned 15 years as a pharmaceutical sales manager for Pfizer, and then Genzyme.

Curious about real estate, Kevin and I attended an auction and purchased our first distressed properties: a house and a duplex. Not having experience in the fields of construction nor real estate, we attended meetings, watched videos, read, and researched everything we could to gain a better understanding of these industries. We partnered with experienced professionals to assist us in our efforts.

... continued on page 8



Ambrea Mikolajczyk



The future of the old Wonderbread building



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Development... continued from page 7

With each project we placed our livelihood on the line, using every dollar of our personal savings, 401K and Roth IRA plans, loans and all the sweat equity we could muster to invest in our neighborhoods. Fast-forward to today, we have renovated over 20 structures, improved property values in desolate communities, and own and manage, with our team, nearly 200 apartments.

In 2017, I felt a calling to leave my successful career in pharmaceuticals to launch our construction company, where I am majority owner. Kevin and I had acquired the knowledge necessary to help clients with their construction needs and we wanted to pursue this new venture full-time. I named the company ARK, because very much like Noah in The Bible, I knew our novel career journey would be challenging, yet necessary. I knew the move would require tremendous faith in order to see it through to have any success. I also knew that starting the company would be difficult to navigate especially as a Black woman, as we are a scarcity in this male-dominated field.

So let's revisit my dark cloud. It came when the Regional Council of Carpenters Union showed up to protest at the former Wonder Bread Factory, an 80,000 square foot factory located in the Historic Vistula that ARK is renovating. The protest came as a complete surprise and was aimed at KCS Contracting, a contractor that I've hired to complete the carpentry.

Although disappointed the picketing took place at all, I have since sat down with Mike



The ARK Crew (Left to right): Kevin Mikolajczyk, Jennifer Vanderham, Josh Rucki, Steve Kalinoski, Zach Lewis, Tony Andrews, Eon Nugent, Tiffeny Darden, Jeff Betts, Julius Cheers, Jackson Starr, Cathy Troup, Anthony Andrews, Sean Mariucci, Charmaine Brown, Herman Scott Jr, Gerrell Talley, Ambrea Mikolajczyk

Gibson, Senior Representative Council of Carpenters and Dan Morey, Area Representative Council of Carpenters and had a successful meeting in which we discussed ways to move forward.

Then I read the opinion piece about me published April 6 in The Truth. The article was prompted as

a response to the protest at the former factory. The article came across as if I do not value workers' rights, treatment and wages, which could not be further from the truth.

I was shocked by the words and phrases used to describe me and the situation involving me. For example, the article described me as "emotional" and the phrase "get in bed with" were used. Unfortunately, these sexist descriptions are commonplace when it comes to women in leadership roles. These words are never used to describe men occupying the same roles.

I thought those words to be ironic published in a newspaper titled "The Sojourner Truth," a publication named after a former slave and women's rights activist who in her "And, Ain't I a Woman" speech said, "if a woman have a pint, and a man a quart - why can't she have her little pint full? You need not be afraid to give us our rights for fear we will take too much, for we can't take more than our pint'll hold."

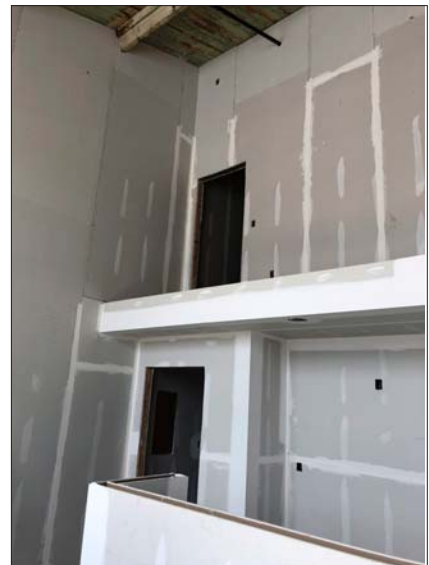
ARK Restoration & Construction, a minority-certified construction business, provides quality construction services for residential, industrial, and commercial clientele. As a locally-grown business, we support our workforce, many of whom are people of color, because ARK strives to provide economic opportunity for our family of employees.

As we wait for the Carpenters Union, the group which staged the well publicized protest outside our development to provide their minority workforce numbers, here are mine:

- Nearly 50 percent of my workforce are Black
- 30 percent are Women
- With a combined 100+ years' experience in construction, our team possess the skill, training, safety, and dependability for absolute customer satisfaction. We specialize in construction management, general contracting, masonry, carpentry, historic rehabilitations, and consulting. arktoledo.com
- Our company has long utilized a healthy mix of both union and non-union workers for our projects.

To provide more in-depth context: Last year, I was in opposition to legislation proposed by the Carpenters Local Union. I believed would negatively impact Brown and Black people from pursuing careers in construction. My advocacy was falsely characterized as anti-union, which is utterly false.

Instead of putting barriers in place, we should be building



... continued on page 9

A 2 bedroom loft under construction

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Development... continued from page 8

bridges for workforce entry. At the time my motivation was specific to one of my most loyal employees who rode a bike to work, the late Rayshard Brooks who lived close to ARK's major project, the former Wonder Bread Factory. I was concerned that with the passage of the ordinance, Ray would not be able to access training facilities located outside of Toledo, a proposal in the legislation.

I was concerned about Ray's ability to provide for his family and get his driver's license and car one day. I hire, mentor and meet people where they are, from the onset I knew I wanted to be the type of employer who not only provides a paycheck, but one who invests in the entire individual. Ray was able to get a license and a car after working with us for a couple months. Although the ordinance did not pass, I was not able to help Ray entirely after all, he was shot and killed in Atlanta by police in a highly publicized incident in a Wendy's parking lot. His death brings me great pain today.

I want to make it abundantly clear since ARK's inception we have proudly partnered with both union and non-union local companies to foster a diverse workplace and ensure we are responsible developers.



What a 2 Bedroom loft will look like when completed

Every company involved with the project including KCS Contracting has taken the utmost care and safety precautions to ensure all employees are safe and the project is following every building code set forth.

The Lofts at WB is a groundbreaking development in the Historic Vistula neighborhood in Toledo that has long experienced disinvestment and structural barriers to capital and development. Moreover, it will attract additional investment and amenities to a community with residents, many of whom are Black or other people of color, that have faced racial and economic inequities.

The restoration of the building signifies the diverse nature of the Historic Vistula. The building will be converted to 33 new apartments with office space on the first floor. The Wonder Bread project will greatly add to the economic development plans of The Downtown Area and the overall growth of our community and region. The development of this historic building represents hope and progress and evidence of our community's beautiful history.

I believe in supporting and championing causes that ensure the pro-



A Room with a View



Coming soon

gression of the community, realizing that I can only do my small part, but it is worth doing nonetheless less. Every decision made I keep this top of mind, I currently mentor young ladies as well as volunteer and serve on several impactful boards, such as:

The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce: I believe in supporting businesses and championing causes to remove the hurdles and barriers that exist;

The University of Toledo Alumni Association: I believe in the power of higher education and its influence over my own life;

The Toledo Warehouse District Association: I believe we should have a strong downtown like other major cities, where people can choose to live, work and play, my work here helps revitalize the city;

Mosaic Ministries: whose mission is to eradicate poverty in dire neighborhoods in Toledo through education and ministry.

I do not do this work for recognition, but rather to show what is pos-

...continued on page 10

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Development... continued from page 9

sible for generations of Black and Brown little girls that will soon come after me.

I recently read a quote, "You can't be what you can't see" by Marian Wright Edelman.

The impossible is in fact possible, regardless of the industry or what is deemed an acceptable career path for women. To show we are more than the box that we are placed in. To normalize women leading as change agents for their communities and economic growth drivers.



ARK Foreman Tony Andrews, Carl Mikolajczyk, Kevin Mikolajczyk

Finally, I regret feeling as if I have to justify the sanctity of our project as a proud Toledoan investing in my community. I remain committed to the progress of this project and ARK's mission rings true today and every day thereafter to innovatively restore and build the communities we serve.

Ed. Note: The Lofts at WB will be completed and ready for occupants this fall, in October, says Ambrea Mikolajczyk. ARK Construction is running ahead of schedule. Apartment rent per month will range from \$700-\$2000. Readers can view apartment layouts, amenity information



Kevin Mikolajczyk, Ambrea Mikolajczyk, Kaden Mikolajczyk, Karson Mikolajczyk, Rowan Mikolajczyk, Reagan Mikolajczyk

and additional cost details at wondertoledo.com. Readers can view the company's entire apartment portfolio and availability at arkrealestateservices.com and specific information regarding our construction company at arktoledo.com. The leasing office's phone number is 419-246-9693 and email is office@arktoledo.com.

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Fighting for Health Equity Year 'Round: National Minority Health Month

By Armin Brott

Guest Column

April is National Minority Health Month, making it the perfect time to focus on the often-significant disparities in health and wellbeing that affect racial and ethnic minorities across our country. But it's important to remember that these inequities exist every single day of the year, not just in April.

What do we mean by "disparities" and "inequities"? Well, according to the Commonwealth Fund, compared with the general population, members of racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to receive preventive health services and often receive lower-quality care. They also have worse health outcomes for certain conditions."

Here are just a few examples. Black Americans are more likely than the general population to have hypertension (high blood pressure) or asthma, to be overweight or obese, and to develop cancer. They're also less likely to have health insurance, which means that they're less likely to get the treatment they need to improve their health. Similarly, Hispanic Americans and American Indians and Alaska Natives are more likely than the general population to have diabetes and hypertension, but less likely to have insurance.

And let's not overlook the health issue that's been on everyone's mind for the past 13 months: COVID-19, which has killed more than 550,000 Americans. But COVID hasn't affected all communities equally. While one in 1,040 Asian Americans and one in 665 White Americans has died from the virus, one in 565 Pacific Islander Americans, one in 555 Black Americans, and one in 390 Indigenous Americans have died, according to APM Research Lab's "Color of Coronavirus" project, which tracks the differences in how COVID-19 affects different communities. Put another way, Indigenous, Black, and Pacific Islander Americans are more than twice as likely as the general public to die from COVID.

What causes these disproportionate outcomes from COVID-19 and other causes? Certainly, access to healthcare (which is in part driven by whether one has health insurance or not) plays a role. But so do poverty, lack of education, unemployment, housing problems, unsafe neighborhoods, shortage of playgrounds and full-service supermarkets (where people can buy healthy food), and other factors. The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has funded more than 100 studies

related to these and other disparities.

As we focus on the disparities in healthcare experienced by many minorities, Men's Health Network (MHN) points out one minority that's often overlooked: males. While there's no question that certain ethnic and racial groups do better, health-wise, than others, there's also no question that within every one of those ethnic and racial groups, boys and men do far worse than girls and women.

For example, on average (counting all racial and ethnic groups), women's life expectancy is a bit over 81 years; men's is just 76. Among African and Native Americans, women's life expectancy is over 78 years, while men's is around 72.

Focusing just on COVID-19, According to GlobalHealth5050.org, men are less likely than women to be tested, to test positive, and be vaccinated, but they're more likely than women to require hospitalization and admission to intensive care units (ICUs), and to die. This is true in nearly every age group.

The good news is that many communities around the country are trying to address some of these inequities by doing special outreach—and making vaccines available—to those minority communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID. The bad news is that boys and men—who are more severely affected than females—aren't given priority.

To celebrate National Minority Health Month, we urge you to let your elected officials know about the health inequities—including the ones that disproportionately affect men—that exist in nearly every community in this country. But you can't just wait around for everyone else to act, which is why MHN urges you and your family to take the first step: try to get more exercise, eat more fresh fruits and veggies, cut back on red meat, limit your alcohol, and quit smoking. And if you're male, pick up the phone and make an appointment for a complete physical. At the same time, as long as COVID is an issue, wear your mask when you go out, wash your hands, and get vaccinated. The life you save may be your own.

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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Welcomes New Commissioner and Additions to its Leadership Team

Special to The Truth

Joaquin Cintron Vega, LMH President & CEO, announced that the agency is welcoming a new Board Commissioner, Reverend Michael Hanck and several new members to its leadership team. Pastor Hanck holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and is an alumnus of AmeriCorps having served in Tacoma, Washington and Jacksonville, Florida. In 2020, he was one of the recipients of the Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio of Compassion Award. Currently, he is the pastor of Salem Lutheran Church and part of a national network of pastors who seek to innovatively minister to people who feel that they are on the margins of society.

LMH also announced that the follow individuals have been named to leadership positions within the agency.

Shimeako Cole, Chief Financial Officer

Shimeako Cole is now the Chief Financial Officer for LMH. She is responsible for the accounting and financial functions of the agency as well as the management of the finance team. She has been with LMH, since 2018, serving as the Accounting Manager.

Prior to joining LMH, she served as the Director of Finance for the Lucas County Auditor and also held a financial management position with the City of Toledo. In 2020, while she was serving as the Interim Chief Financial Officer, LMH was awarded the Ohio Auditor of State award. "Our agency financial condition is paramount to maintaining a level of excellence in the services we provide to our communities," said Cintron Vega. "Under Ms. Cole's leadership, our Finance Department has already achieved important milestones, and I am looking forward to her continued success."

Cole is a life-long resident of Toledo, and holds a BA in Accounting and Finance, and an AA in Business from Lourdes University.



Shimeako Cole

agency experience, and was most recently employed at the United Way of Greater Toledo in the Community Impact Department.

While working at United Way of Greater Toledo, she had the opportunity to work with over 45 community partners across Lucas County focusing on delivering programming in the areas of education, financial stability and health. She partnered closely with Toledo Public Schools on multiple initiatives including the Schools as Community Hubs strategy to support children and families.

Schoen has experience managing state, federal, local and philanthropic dollars. She has her Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma and enjoys using the tools to effectively and efficiently manage projects and processes.

She attended the Ohio University for her undergraduate degree and received her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Toledo.

Vivian Crawford, Associate Vice President of Resident Services

Vivian Crawford is now the Associate Vice President of Resident Services. Prior to starting this position, she was the Assistant Manager of Resident Services for LMH. She has also been a ROSS Service Coordinator at numerous sites including sites for the elderly



Vivian Crawford

and families. She began her tenure with LMH as the Coordinator of the Maurine Simmons Family Investment Center where she managed the day-to-day operation of the center. While in that capacity, she developed, implemented and managed numerous programs and services for children, families and seniors throughout Lucas County.

Crawford holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership, a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Public Administration and Human Resources Training and Development, and an Associate's Degree in Social Service Administration. She also holds numerous certifications and awards for her work with those less fortunate. In 2015-2016, she was named Service Coordinator of the Year from the National Alliance of Service Coordinators in Affordable and Assisted Housing.

"Lucas Metropolitan Housing has one of the best Resident Services Department across the nation," stated Cintron Vega. "Our Resident Service Coordinators are essential to achieving our mission to create and maintain sustainable, affordable housing opportunities, provide pathways to a better quality of life, and empower vibrant communities. Ms. Schoen and Ms. Crawford will lead these efforts while we continue to work hand in hand to build stronger and expansive partnerships."

Libby Schoen, Vice President of Resident Services

Libby Schoen has been named Vice President of Resident Services. She has more than 15 years of government, community-based and non-profit



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Buses Are A Comin' by Charles Person with Richard Rooker

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your seat has been reserved.

You're excited about this trip, but also nervous; you've never been where you're going and you hope this is a one-and-done trip. Still, going there is necessary for you and for the future so grab your bags.

Author **Charles Person** says *The Buses Are A Comin'* and you're on-board.

He didn't know it then, but Charles Person grew up in poverty.

His family was rich in love, wealthy at mealtimes, affluent when it came to lessons, they had an abundance of fun, but he was in tenth grade before he realized that his extended family lived in a tenement on the south side of Atlanta, in Buttermilk Bottom. His father worked two full-time jobs to make ends meet. His mother was a domestic and, in effect, had "two families." He'd never thought about the facts until then, and it shamed him.

Two years later, when he was about to graduate from high school, he was enraged when he had to turn down his preferred college because of lack of money. It seemed to be the final insult after a lifetime of insults and he railed against it, until his grandfather asked Person what he was "going to do about it." Papa demanded an answer. Person decided on an HBCU that was close to home, one he could afford.

c.2021
St. Martin's Press
\$26.99 / higher in Canada
304 pages

After walking three miles from his home to Morehouse, the first day was awkward but Person stayed. He wanted the education, wanted to follow the words of John Kennedy, who asked what he could do for his country. As it happened, at this same time, the indefatigable Civil Rights leader Lonnie King was in Atlanta, too.

When told by an Atlanta department store owner to go home and take his fellow protesters with him, Lonnie vowed to come back in the fall with "thousands."



Author Charles Person Courtesy of the Author

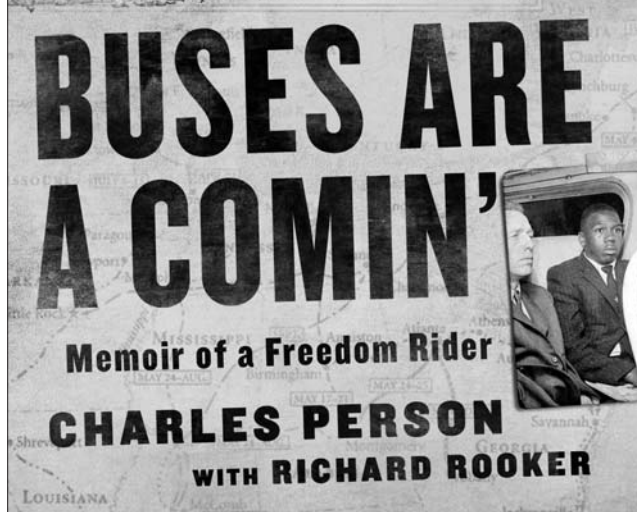
And, says Person, "I was one of them."

Sometimes, it seems that in a haste to tell the story, history glosses over a lot of details. *Buses Are A Comin'* sets many omissions straight – after it tells a tale so intimate and so filled with joy-cum-despair that it nearly takes your breath away.

Indeed, author Charles Person tells his own story so well that you can feel the floorboards sway in his "tenement" home. Surprisingly, he writes about the many elders who didn't want their children to march, seeing the danger; and those who did, despite it. There are details here that aren't discussed much, and other details that add to the national story.

And then Person turns "memoir into memorial" by turning his sights on Lonnie King, who was obviously a giant in Person's eyes. King, he suggests, is one of the Civil Rights Movement's most unsung heroes, but Person doesn't forget others who marched for change – including his contemporary, John Lewis.

This is a book you hand to readers too young to remember the Civil Rights Movement. It honors and it sings out names. Read it; *Buses Are A Comin'* will keep you in your seat.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

April 28, 2021



NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEYOR

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to strengthen our community's neighborhoods. In 2015, the Land Bank finished a property-by-property survey of 122,000 sites in the City of Toledo. Now is the time to update this survey, and we need your help! You can get paid to walk our neighborhoods, evaluate property conditions, and update this data set for a new decade of investment.

The Neighborhood Surveyor will complete a standard survey of properties in the City of Toledo from the sidewalk. The Surveyor works outdoors and is expected to complete between 10,000 and 15,000 individual property surveys during the course of the employment.

This is a temporary full-time position paying \$18/hour with an opportunity for a cash bonus, paid holidays, and paid time off. Multiple positions will be hired starting in early June for work to last up through October.

To learn more and to apply, visit <https://lucas-countylandbank.org/job-opportunities>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

COMMUNITY HUB DIRECTOR

The Community Hub Director is responsible for leading the coordination of the majority of activities, programs and supplemental services implemented at the Wayman Palmer YMCA site. This position is a full time position and often requires hours outside the traditional work day for programs and services inside the center and also outreach throughout the community. Candidates must possess a 4-year college degree in a related field and at least 3-5 years of related experience in youth development, community development, or family service. For application instructions please visit www.ymcatoledo.org/main/employment/ or email Debbie Frison at dfison@ymcatoledo.org.

SUMMER INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

University of Toledo - Upward Bound/UB Math Science Programs seeking summer F2F instructors (\$25 hr, 14-17 hours per week) Math, Economics & Sociology-teaching certification required, English, Spanish; summer virtual instructors for English and Science (\$25, 14 hours per week); live-in residential coordinator (\$3,600); 6 live-in residential assistants (\$2,880), 2 tutor assistants (\$10/hr, 20 hrs week) and a nightwatch (\$10/hr, 11PM-7AM), Temporary positions: June 6-July 16, 2021. Must be available for training June 3-4, 2021. Background check required, experience working with high school aged students, Education/Social Work degrees preferred. Send resume to pamela.rogers@utoledo.edu or edu@mailto:pamela.rogers@utoledo.edu. Place "Application" in the subject line.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Remove Runway, Shift/Realign Taxiway C, and Rehabilitate General Aviation Ramp project located at Toledo Executive Airport at 28331 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, Ohio 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's opinion of probable construction cost is approximately \$1,914,000.00.

Sealed bids will be received at the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 11:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via conference call. Conference call-in information will be shared in addendum no. 1.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM, this meeting will be held online via Zoom Video Conference. Prospective Bidders interested in joining in the Pre-Bid meeting should contact Russell Boroski (Russell.Boroski@rsandh.com) at RS&H Ohio, Inc. for a copy for the meeting invitation to be used. This meeting invitation will include a link to the video conference as well as separate call-in numbers to join either by video or by phone. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions to RS&H Ohio, Inc., Russell Boroski at Russell.Boroski@rsandh.com by Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org Thomas J. Winston President and CEO Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—LUCAS COUNTY GSB

The Lucas County Guardianship Services Board ("GSB") is currently seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director. The GSB administers a public, adult guardianship program serving mentally incompetent and/or developmentally disabled wards of Lucas County as provided under Chapter 2111 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Executive Director is accountable to the GSB for the accomplishment of the Board's goals, ensuring that the Board's operation is compliant with all Federal, State & local laws, effectively managing the Board's resources, & supervising Board staff.

Lucas County GSB is an equal opportunity employer.

For job description and information for application please see the following website: <https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/Jobs>



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) and its affiliate Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC) located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Resident Advisor, Maintenance Mechanic III, Maintenance Mechanic I, and Renovation Specialist. For complete details, visit www.lucasmha.org and click on careers. Deadline to apply: 05/09/2021. This is a Section 3 covered position(s). HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMH 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.



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EXPO... continued from page 16

Care, The Huntington National Bank, The Toledo City Paper, Claudia's Health Food Store, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper, The Toledo Blade, The Toledo Journal, The 419 Rise and Grind Morning Show and 13ABC ACTION NEWS WTVG.

Thanks to the awesome staff members Debbie Harris, Bonita Brazzel and Danielle Schoenegge for all their help with making this Expo a great success.

Contact Information for Donnetta Carter, MSW, Event Organizer-Planner (419) 367-9765 or email address: thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com



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The 10th Annual Business & Health EXPO

On Saturday April 24, 2021 the 10th Annual Business & Health EXPO was held at a new location and larger venue at St. Clements Hall in West Toledo. Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's event was canceled and rescheduled and safety procedures were put in place such as mandatory face masks, temperature checks and social distancing.

The Social Butterfly Brand is celebrating its 10th year anniversary for Expo's and Fundraisers. Also, the Brand will be celebrating 10 EXPOS in 2021 at several locations to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. The next Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Tremainsville Hall 2439 Tremainsville Rd. Toledo, OH from 10-3:00 p.m. Admission is free. You can follow the Social Butterfly on social media Facebook Page under LIKE PAGE "The Social Butterfly Public Figure - Donnetta Carter" for future shows dates.

There were 75 vendors in attendance and another 62 on a Waiting List. Mercy Health conducted health screenings. Among the vendors were New School Explorers Academy, Heaven On Earth Salon, Simply



D'Vine Boutique, Joy Massage, New York Life, United Health Care and direct sales and health wellness vendors in attendance. JoJo's and Cobblers on the Move Food Trucks and Trina's Nails to Go Mobil RV on site.

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... continued on page 15





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