

# The Sojourner's Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

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# The Art of Leadership

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

The Truth Contributor

*The hope of leadership lies in the capacity to deliver disturbing news and raise difficult questions in a way that people can absorb, prodding them to take up the message rather than ignore it or kill the messenger.*

- Martin Linsky



The Rev. John E. Roberts, one of Toledo's most influential African-American church leaders, was elevated to Pastor Emeritus on Sunday, June 6, in an inspirational appreciation ceremony and worship service at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church.

Roberts is the community's longest continuously-serving religious leader. He will relinquish his hectic schedule after 56 years of preaching, attending community events and performing pastoral care activities. For decades, Roberts has also been an unofficial advisor to several leaders and political office-holders.

His longevity illustrates that religious leaders can indeed be impactful without having to become a martyr.

Roberts arrived in Toledo in 1944, migrating from rural Mississippi, where his family had been sharecroppers. After serving as a church officer at Indiana Avenue MBC, founded in 1946, he acknowledged his call to the ministry in September 1962 and became pastor in 1965. He credits the mentorship of older Baptist pastors such as Rev. J.A. Dotson (Calvary), Rev. L. F. Perryman (New Home), Rev. S. M. Coleman (Mt. Pilgrim), and Rev. G. J. Johnson (Friendship), for schooling him on Toledo's political context and helping to define his pastoral leadership role.

In the early 1970s Roberts began to evangelize and recruit members from Bowling Green State University where his son Derrick was attending. Many of the students, looking for a black church experience, began showing up and were incorporated into the church's ministry. The church established basketball leagues and other activities to reach out to and involve youth.

Indiana Baptist also erected a banquet hall and supported community programs, many begun by members such as the Josh Project, an attempt to build basic swimming skills, knowledge of water safety and prevent drowning. Roberts was a constant fixture on ball fields, basketball courts, and at high school athletic contests. Several members went on to prestigious college and professional athletic careers under Roberts' spiritual leadership.

With the church experiencing rapid growth, politicians then began ap-



Rev. John Roberts



Tracy, Derrick, John, Bernice and Jeffrey Roberts

proaching Roberts and Indiana Baptist looking for votes. Counter to the theology of his more conservative-minded colleagues, Roberts began to welcome politicians to the church. Eventually politicians became a fixture at the church not merely during election season but year-round.

"Our church always attempted to help people," Roberts once explained. "My motto was 'I don't mind you (politicians) coming by, but if I help you, then I want you to help me, and I am looking for help with jobs and people who have trouble in the courts. If I support you, then treat us right.'"

Under Roberts' leadership strategy, Indiana MBC reached its peak membership of 4,800 members in the late 1980s. Many congregants were middle-class and upper-middle-class blacks incorporated into mainstream public, private, and educational institutions. These members had quietly used networks established by Roberts to advance into those positions and to transcend complex social issues prevalent in the African-American community.

However, a singular event seemed to take Roberts leadership from merely a congregational function to a public role as he increasingly became the person the white power structure looked to communicate on behalf of the black community.

In 1988 a group of ministers seized the seats of council members during a meeting in City Hall to protest what they considered to be the unjust firing of Pete Culp, a black municipal employee. Although helping to orchestrate the protest, Roberts did not participate. He was criticized by a few black pastors and later explained that he had worked behind the scenes on behalf of the ministers and the fired employee.

"I try to be the peacemaker rather than arguing or fussing," Roberts explained to me in a 2011 interview. "Anyway, somebody's got to stay out of jail so we could take care of the issue."

Roberts insists that he did take care of the problem. "I was in the middle of it with the attorney and City Manager negotiating in the background. And that's what pushed me into the limelight because the city leaders saw that I wasn't a part of being arrested but available to negotiate," he further elaborated.

Although Roberts' moderate, non-confrontational approach to effecting change without "rocking the boat" has its critics, his rearing in racist rural pre-civil rights Mississippi provides the clue to the longevity of his effectiveness.

Born and raised in segregated Mississippi during the terror of Jim Crow, Roberts learned how to work with power from an economic and entrepreneurial "transactional" perspective when organized black challenges or individual acts of defiance often ended with the brutal death of the protester.

In dealing with established power, he became an expert in expressing defiance in subtle ways. I have noticed that Roberts has a unique gift of

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## The Sojourner's Truth

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# Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Build Black Wealth and Narrow the Racial Wealth Gap

One hundred years ago, the thriving Black community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as "Black Wall Street," was ruthlessly attacked by a violent white supremacist mob. An estimated 300 Black Americans were killed and another 10,000 were left destitute and homeless.

The destruction wrought on the Greenwood neighborhood and its families was followed by laws and policies that made recovery nearly impossible. The streets were redlined, locking Black Tulsans out of homeownership and access to credit. Federal highways built through the heart of Greenwood cut off families and businesses from economic opportunity. And chronic disinvestment by the federal government in Black entrepreneurs and small businesses denied Black Wall Street a fair shot at rebuilding. These are the stories of Greenwood, but they have echoes in countless Black communities across the country.

Because disparities in wealth compound like an interest rate, the disinvestment in Black families in Tulsa and across the country throughout our history is still felt sharply today. The median Black American family has thirteen cents for every one dollar in wealth held by White families.

Today, on the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Biden-Harris Administration is announcing new steps to help narrow the racial wealth gap and reinvest in communities that have been left behind by failed policies. Specifically, the Administration is expanding access to two key wealth-creators – homeownership and small business ownership – in communities of color and disadvantaged communities.

The Administration will:

- \* Take action to address racial discrimination in the housing market, including by launching a first-of-its-kind interagency effort to address inequity in home appraisals, and conducting rulemaking to aggressively combat housing discrimination.

- \* Use the federal government's purchasing power to grow federal contracting with small disadvantaged businesses by 50 percent, translating to an additional \$100 billion over five years, and helping more Americans realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

The Administration is also releasing new information regarding President Biden's American Jobs Plan proposals to create jobs and build wealth in communities of color:

- \* A new \$10 billion Community Revitalization Fund to support community-led civic infrastructure projects that create innovative shared amenities, spark

new local economic activity, provide services, build community wealth, and strengthen social cohesion.

- \* \$15 billion for new grants and technical assistance to support the planning, removal, or retrofitting of existing transportation infrastructure that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

- \* A new Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit to attract private investment in the development and rehabilitation of affordable homes for low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners.

- \* \$5 billion for the Unlocking Possibilities Program, an innovative new grant program that awards flexible and attractive funding to jurisdictions that take steps to reduce needless barriers to producing affordable housing and expand housing choices for people with low or moderate incomes.

- \* \$31 billion in small business programs that will increase access to capital for small businesses and provide mentoring, networking, and other forms of technical assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses seeking to access federal contracts and participate in federal research and development investments.

**Taking Action to End Racial Discrimination in the Housing Market.** The Biden-Harris Administration is announcing additional steps to end discrimination and bias in the housing market. More than 50 years since the Fair Housing Act's passage, access to wealth through homeownership remains persistently unequal.

In his first week in office, President Biden issued a memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address discrimination in our housing market. Today, the Administration is announcing that it is taking critical steps towards realizing the President's directive.

HUD has now sent both its proposed rule on countering housing practices with discriminatory effects and its proposed interim final rule on the legal duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing to HUD's Congressional authorizing committee in the Senate and the House of Representatives for review and will publish them in the Federal Register next week. These proposed rules will align federal enforcement practice with the congressional promise in the Fair Housing Act to end discrimination in housing and will collectively provide the legal framework for HUD to require private and public entities alike to rethink established practices that contribute to or perpetuate inequities.

## U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Applauds President Biden's Announcement on Prioritizing Government Contracting Goals

*Updates to federal contracts will support America's Black-owned businesses*

The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC) is pleased to support President Biden's announcement to increase the Small Disadvantaged Busi-

*...continued on page 5*



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## “My Truth”

# Don't Start Tripping about Washing Your Hands

By Cheryl Smith

Publisher of I Messenger Media

Texas Metro News

Guest Column

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, we received mixed signals. One constant message was, “wash your hands.” Even before the mandate to wear masks, health officials were stressing the importance of washing your hands. The Centers for Disease Control instructed, “To prevent the spread of germs during the COVID-19 pandemic, you should also wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol to clean hands.”

I loved that directive because I have always wondered about people who didn't wash their hands. Go into any restaurant and you'll find signs instructing employees to wash their hands. The CDC gave explicit instructions: Follow these five steps every time.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Someone has to tell you, an adult, this? What the heck? Weren't you raised right? Didn't you learn at an early age to wash your hand when you finished your business? Someone really had to tell you to wash your hands after wiping your behind? Really?

### Which brings me to my truth.

Yes, there were times when I didn't act like I had home training. I did things -- things that I definitely didn't want my parents to find out about. But this washing my hands thing? Basic hygiene practices? Nah, didn't roll like that. No one has ever had to tell me to wash my hands but I sure as

heck have had to tell people to wash their hands especially before coming into my kitchen.

Actually, to avoid cussing someone out, I made it a point of having an ice maker on the door of my refrigerator because then when someone came into my kitchen and wanted water, they never had to open the refrigerator door and I didn't have to treat them like a child.

So as we seemingly make our way to the other side of the pandemic, some things we did before we will never do again and other things we never did before will become standard practice in our lives. Now if the CDC says you will no longer have to wash your hands, I'm going to have to call them wrong on all fronts. And sadly, just like how folks have fought the call to wear masks, there are probably some who are being irresponsible and not washing their hands. Just the thought is disgusting! The CDC says, “Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.” Face it, washing your hands doesn't just help with the spread of Coronavirus. It's the right thing, the healthy, and the decent thing to do!



Cheryl Smith

## ProMedica Announces Summer Concert Series

ProMedica<promedica.org> is pleased to announce the return of the summer concert series. The ProMedica Summer Concert Series Presented by Coors Light will kick off on Friday, July 9 at Promenade Park with American rock bands, Collective Soul, Better Than Ezra and Tonic. There will be weekly concerts through September featuring a variety of musicians, local and national, and musical genres, including alternative, country, pop, rock, R&B, soul, bluegrass and hip hop.

Tickets go on sale Fri., June 11 at 10 a.m. at [www.promenadeconcerts.com](http://www.promenadeconcerts.com).

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*Perryman... continued from page 2*

humor and wit that obscures his principled tenacity. He has learned to strategically use comedy and satire in a way that allows others to be comfortable in dealing with him.

Equipped with the church's moral authority and a scandal-free personal life, Dr. Roberts' preference for negotiation over confrontation has enabled him to serve as a bridge of communication between the white power structure and the black community while attracting resources for congregants and constituents.

Contemporary leadership has two possible strategies to pursue a legacy of benefits, rights, advancement and resources to the black community. One method challenges the system (usually from without) for the resource-

es, while the other approach attempts to cleverly find ways to work within the system.

Roberts found success chipping away at the system for 56 years from within rather than attacking the system from without. The change may have come incrementally and quietly, but it was no less significant.

After all, for some leaders, the task is to "be effective, remain alive and therefore to eschew martyrdom."

For that reason, Dr. John E. Roberts deserves a "Well Done!" for effectively leading his congregation and community with finesse, dexterity, and cleverness.

Contact Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

*Black Chambers... continued from page 3*

ness (SDB) contracting goal from five percent to 15 percent (approximately \$100B over five years), which will increase the share of federal contracts for small minority businesses.

"For over a decade, USBC has been tirelessly advocating for the inclusion of Black-owned businesses in our country's economic infrastructure, which includes opportunities to receive federal contracts," said Ron Busby, President and CEO of USBC. "As the Black community moves forward past the painful history and current realities of racial injustice and institutional inequities, USBC is committed to ensuring that the Biden Administration continues to keep racial equity at the center of its mission to build back better."

"This announcement is a major victory for USBC, but is only the beginning of ensuring equity in government contracting. We will remain diligent in our efforts to see this bold agenda implemented as well as push back against government tendencies to consolidate contracts that often leave out

black-owned businesses."

During the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, President Biden announced an intentional measure to advance and support the nation's Black-owned businesses. This announcement comes as the Black community reflects on the carnage and economic devastation that brought down Greenwood, a prosperous African American community, which included Black Wall Street.

The full White House Fact Sheet outlines President Biden's historic remarks, which included aims to: 1) increase in the share of federal contracts for small, disadvantaged businesses; 2) reverse two Trump-era housing rules and 3) launch an initiative to address inequality in-home appraisals, among others.

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the Office of Government Contracting & Business Development manage more than two dozen Cabinet and Federal agencies in meeting the contracting goals as it relates to SDBs and economically disadvantaged firms.

*ProMedica... continued from page 4*

[com<http://www.promenadeconcerts.com>](http://www.promenadeconcerts.com).

Other artists and bands confirmed to perform at Promenade Park as part of the concert series include:

July 9	Collective Soul, Better than Ezra & Tonic
July 16	Kool and The Gang
July 23	38 Special & Pat Travers
July 30	Warrant & Winger
Aug. 6	Josh Turner & Lauren Alaina
Aug. 13	Vanilla Ice, Young MC, All 4 One, CNC Music Factory
Aug. 26	Third Eye Blind
Aug. 27	Old Crow Medicine Show

Previously announcement as part of the 2021 Solheim Cup Opening Ceremony Celebrations:

Sept. 3	Gwen Stefani
Sept. 4	Chris Young

This year's generous sponsors include: Buckeye Broadband, Coors Light, City of Toledo, Creadio, Destination Toledo, Great Lakes Sound, Hylant, iHeartRadio, Laibe Electric/Technology, Lucas County, Owens Corning, Paramount, Snapple and Stevens Disposal.

In 2019, ProMedica hosted 12 concerts representing 13 music genres. Almost ninety-thousand guests attended from 39 different states. 565 community members volunteered and 32 companies sponsored the series. Fifteen non-profit organizations received a commission/portion of beverage sales. The 2020 concert season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the events will be entirely cashless. The tickets will be digital and only credit/debit cards will be accepted at all food, beverage and retail locations.

The health and well-being of our community are of the utmost importance to ProMedica. ProMedica will continue to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 within our community and communicate with state and local health officials to determine if each concert can proceed as planned.

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# Juneteenth at Ohio University

Ohio University will host its first annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19, with community events scheduled throughout the day for the OHIO community.

Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19 every year. Long celebrated by the African American community, this historic day is mostly unknown to many Americans.

According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (opens in a new window), Juneteenth marks the day when 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state on June 19, 1865. This occurred two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on Jan. 1, 1863, as implementation generally depended on the advance of Union troops to Confederate-controlled places.

The most remote slavery state, Texas, was one of the last states to abandon chattel slavery. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment, ratified near the end of 1865, did emancipation end slavery throughout the entire United States.

Events for the Juneteenth Celebration, hosted by OHIO's Division of Diversity and Inclusion (opens in a new window), will start out with a Health Walk starting at 10 a.m. along the Athens bike path. Registration is required.

"We are excited to celebrate Juneteenth at Ohio University as a proud celebration of African American freedom," Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Gigi Secuban said. "Juneteenth highlights education, achievement, and the pursuit of social justice, all of which are core values here at OHIO. I am grateful to the organizing committee for their tremendous work on this effort. We invite all Bobcats to join us for the events."

The chairs for the 2021 Juneteenth Celebration are Travis Gatling, artistic director in the School of Dance (opens in a new window), and Vanessa Morgan-Nai, coordinator for multicultural advising and African American student success in the Office for Multicultural Student Access and Retention (OMSAR) (opens in a new window).

"We are proud to be a part of this historically significant celebration dating back to 1865," Gatling and Morgan-Nai said. "We look forward to joining alumni, friends, colleagues, and members of the Athens community for Ohio University's first annual Juneteenth event – Education Through Celebration: Our History, Our Hope!"

A Juneteenth Festival, with live music, food, vendors, celebratory remarks and children's activities, is set from 3 to 6 p.m. in OHIO Parking Lot 55 on South Green. Participants are asked to bring a personal hygiene item or beauty product to donate. All donated items will be available to OHIO students of color via the Being Black in College program (opens in a new window) sponsored by OM-SAR. Registration is also required.

For more information about Juneteenth, the schedule of events as well as registration links, visit [www.ohio.edu/diversity/juneteenth-celebration](http://www.ohio.edu/diversity/juneteenth-celebration) (opens in a new window).

Tags:

Diversity and Inclusion

## Find Your Happy with Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Summer Read

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is encouraging fun and reading this summer with outdoors games, free materials and activities, and the return of Summer Read.

Summer Read participants can log their reading accomplishments to redeem rewards and for a chance to win prizes. To participate, readers need to read or listen to a book 30 days between June 1 and Aug. 7 and track their progress on a reading folder, available at all Library locations and as a downloadable PDF on the Library website, or digitally using the Beanstack Tracker app.

Thanks to the generosity of The Library Legacy Foundation, readers can redeem a variety of rewards, including a Summer Reader yard sign, a free book for kids and teens, and a Find Your Happy mug for adults (while supplies last). Everyone who completes the program and enters virtual tickets in the random

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By Sojourner's Truth Staff

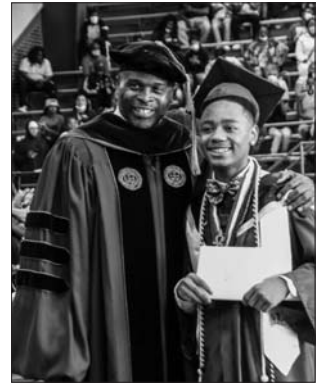
The last two weeks were graduation time and the times were back to normal – almost normal, that is. A touch of pre-pandemic normal. Students gathered together, inside field houses and on lawns, unlike last year when the members of graduating classes had to pick up their diplomas individually and rush away, only immediate family members in tow.

Masks were still on display and social distancing continued to various degrees, but the applause and cheers of supporters, friends and extended family were back in an abundance.

Toledo Public Schools' graduations, from Monday morning, May 24 at the Stranahan Theatre with the Toledo Early College High School students until Wednesday afternoon, June 2, at the Waite High School Field House, were clearly a much more raucous and joyful celebration than those of a year ago.



Salutatorian Sakiah Porchia



Principal Carnel Smith and Valedictorian Rayvon Brazier



Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD



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## Malachi Wattley Is One of the Newest Pilots in Northwest Ohio

Malachi is a 2021 Graduate of Toledo Public Schools' Aerospace & Natural Science Academy of Toledo (ANSAT).

He earned his pilot's license mid-February at age 17, just before his 18th birthday. His instructor says "getting a pilot's license is extensive, but so is the program here at ANSAT. He's been working six days a week- evenings and weekends at times- with us, to complete his training," Richard Navel, Aviation Director said.

Malachi has known he wanted to be a pilot since the age of seven. "In Saint Kitts they don't have gates, they have stairs. So when you get off the plane you walk by and you see all the planes right there on the ramp and it was just a great experience," he said.

In 2017, Malachi was expelled from Central Catholic for refusing to cut his dreadlocks. His family is from the Virgin Islands and dreadlocks are a large part of his cultural heritage. They gave him the option to cut them, or be expelled. The school administration even went as far as to have the police escort him off the school's property. Rather than remain angry, he used it as fuel to achieve his lifelong dream. He left the school and enrolled at ANSAT. "it just made me a better person and it taught me more about life," Malachi said.

Last week, he walked across the stage to receive his diploma. He has been accepted into 30 different colleges and seeks to earn his commercial pilot's license next. We are excited to see Malachi soar!

After graduation he'd like to attend Jacksonville University in Florida, but that's just the start. "At the age of 22 or 23, my plan is to be flying regional airlines. Probably Skywest," he said. "Probably build up hours and then go to Delta or American. Whoever takes me".

It's a goal that has him aiming to be on top of the world.

Malachi also wanted to be sure to thank Toledo Public Schools and superintendent Romules Durrant, EdD, for taking him in and giving him a place to succeed.



Malachi Wattley

*Summer Read... continued from page 6*

drawing is eligible for Summer Read grand prizes.

Summer Read is free and open to all ages and is sponsored by Buckeye Broadband, The Blade, Friends of the Library, Directions Credit Union, and The Library Legacy Foundation.

In addition to Summer Read, the Library is also providing free Activities to Go kits, learning packs, reading toolkits, and outdoor games for onsite use at Library locations. Visitors are also invited to enjoy the Library's various community gardens, I Spy windows, sidewalk activity courses, and StoryWalk® at 19 locations.

Don't forget, TARTA is free this summer with many Library stops!

Details and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the Toledo Library website at [toledolibrary.org/summerread](http://toledolibrary.org/summerread).

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# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc®, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Awards \$6,000 in Scholarships

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc®, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter has awarded six outstanding young ladies one thousand dollars to attend the college or university of their choice. Andrea Price MHA, FACHE, president, Treva Jeffries Ed. D, vice president, and Marie Bush, Ph.D., Scholarship Committee Chairman announced the winners:

... continued on page 10

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## Join TARTA's Virtual Public Meeting June 16, 2021

Last year, we started reinventing ourselves, as many people did. We decided to put the health and safety of our communities first and continued to empower people to make connections.

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# CSU Extension Hosts Free Grape Vineyard Establishment Workshop

*Special to The Truth*

Designed for beginning farmers, Central State University Extension (CSUE) is partnering with the Agriculture Incubator Foundation (AIF) Farm in Grape Vineyard Establishment to host a free training on how to establish a grape vineyard at 10 a.m. on June 26, at the AIF Farm located at 13737 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, OH, 43402.

In addition to learning about different cultivars of grapes that grow well in Northwest Ohio, participants will also learn how to install the posts and anchor the end row, how to space the vines, and how to install the wires.

Michelle Wallace, CSUE agriculture and natural resources educator, will lead the workshop and share her expertise. "Learning to construct a grape trellis can help beginning farmers save money rather than outsourcing services," Wallace says. "Northwest Ohio has favorable conditions for growing grapes and growing them (grapes) can help diversify produce options for small farms." According to Wallace a single vine once established can produce around 20 pounds of fruit each year for 20 years.

The Grape Vineyard Establishment Workshop is free and open to the public. Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/3vebhTbMhb> For more information about the Grape Vineyard workshop contact Wallace at [mwallace@CentralState.edu](mailto:mwallace@CentralState.edu).

AIF's mission is to develop a partnership of northwest Ohio agribusiness representatives, researchers and educators committed to establishing programs that will stimulate interest in and respect for agriculture as a mainstay in the area economy. Central State University Extension Central State University Extension engages diverse communities and transforming lives through community-based outreach and educational programs. For more information about any CSUE program across Ohio, visit [www.centralstate.edu](http://www.centralstate.edu).

Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is a regionally accredited 1890 Land-Grant University with a 133-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research and service. The University, which has been named HBCU of

the Year by HBCU Digest, fosters academic excellence within a nurturing environment and provides a strong liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

Central State University Land-Grant programs are sponsored in part by funding from the USDA-NIFA.



Michelle Wallace, Central State Extension Educator

*Alpha Kappa... continued from page 9*

1. Courtney D. Simpson, Start High School - Kent State University,
2. Selena Porres, Waite High School - University of Toledo,
3. Winter Richburg, Roger High School - Lourdes University,
4. Destinee Sample, Start High School - Kent State University,
5. Janiya Pettaway, Emmanuel Baptist - University of Toledo,
6. Emmanuela Ezekwemba, Woodward High School - University of Toledo

These high school students have demonstrated high academic honors and

*... continued on page 11*



Courtney D. Simpson, Start High School



Winter Richburg, Rogers High School



Emmanuela Ezekwemba, Woodward High School




Selina Porres, Waitie High School




Destinee Sample, Start High School



Janiya Pettaway, Emmanuel Baptist



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## Grape Vineyard Establishment Workshop

Thinking about starting a vineyard, but not sure how to get started?

The Agriculture Incubator Foundation (AIF) Farm is collaborating with Central State University Extension to host a Grape Vineyard Establishment Workshop. AIF is dedicated to promoting the development, advancement, and appreciation of agriculture systems in NW Ohio.

- Learn how to install the posts and anchor the end row
- Learn how to space the vines
- Learn how to install the wires
- Learn about different cultivars of grapes that grow well in Northwest Ohio

**Presenter:**  
Michelle Wallace, Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Educator, NW Ohio

**When:** Saturday, June 26, 2021  
**Time:** 10am-12pm  
**Where:** Agriculture Incubator Foundation Farm (AIF)  
13737 Middleton Pike,  
Bowling Green, OH, 43402

**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/r/3vebhTbMhb>

Central State University, an 1890 Land-Grant Institution, is committed to the full inclusion of all people, and does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, race, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status marital or family status, military status, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. If reasonable accommodations are needed, please contact the Department of Human Resources at 937-376-6540. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

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# Wilberforce Students Receive Degrees and Debt Relief

*Special to The Truth*

Wilberforce University graduated students with degrees in Master's in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and the adult education CLIMB program.

This year's socially distanced commencement combined the classes of 2020 and 2021 and began at 8:00 Saturday morning, May 29 in the Gaston Lewis Gymnasium at the Alumni Multiplex.

One of the highlights of the morning was President Elfred Anthony Pinkard revealing he had a special announcement. The graduates were informed their Wilberforce University fines and other debt owed to the university for 2020 and 2021 have been canceled to a balance of zero. The university's debt erasing dollars are resourced from various scholarships such as the United Negro College Fund, Inc., Jack and Jill, Inc., and other institutional funding to help students with their higher education finances. Last spring, during the initial COVID 19 pandemic outbreak, all Wilberforce students were relieved of financial pressure through the Higher Education Emergency Relied Fund (HEERF), set up through the CARES Act, which provided colleges and universities emergency financial aid.

New graduate Rodman Allen of Detroit said erasing his WU is a blessing. "I couldn't believe it when he said it. I know now God will be with me. Now I can use that money and invest it into my future."

Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded posthumously to civil rights



Rodman Allen and mom

and social justice pioneers Fannie Lou Hamer and Medgar Evers and a bachelor's degree was conferred posthumously to senior William Easton, who died in a car accident in his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida last month. William's parents attended the commencement and accepted his degree.

As of Saturday morning, there are now 166 new members of the Wilberforce University Alumni Association.

Wilberforce University, established in 1856, is the



nation's first, private, historically black college or university (HBCU). Located in Greene County, near Dayton Ohio, the four year, accredited university is a member of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Inc., the Ohio LINK Library Consortium, and the NAIA Conference. According to HBCU.com, Wilberforce is one of the top five HBCUs in the midwest.

*Alpha Kappa... continued from page 10*

provided community service. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter members wish each one great success as they embark on higher education.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. AKA is an international service organization founded on Howard University's campus in Washington, D.C., in 1908.

Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter was chartered in Toledo, OH, in 1952 and has been a viable and positive influence in the community. The Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter thanks the community for their annual fundraising support, allowing the sorority to give scholarships to worthy students.

## Tips to Keep Kids Learning and Having Fun All Summer Long

*Special to The Truth*

With the encouragement and support of parents, a love of learning can begin early and last a lifetime. To inspire kids to have fun while learning this summer, consider the following tips:

- **Reward Curiosity:** Children are naturally curious, and the way you respond to their questions, stories, and observations about the world around them is important. Be sure to reward their curiosity with your authentic attention.
- **Build Reading Confidence:** Literacy is the foundation of all learning, and you can help improve reading comprehension and fluency, while building spelling, vocabulary and writing skills, using tools that offer instant guidance and feedback. The interactive pages of the LeapReader Learn-to-Read 10-Book Bundle build reading and writing confidence by allowing kids to sound out letters and words, or follow along with the stories as they're read out loud. Each book includes lively character voices that spark interest, as well as activities that introduce vowel sounds, sight words, word blending, spelling skills and more. The LeapReader also helps kids build writing skills with stroke-by-stroke guidance and instant feedback using mess-free, no-ink paper.
- **Get Outdoors:** Whether it's a trip to the backyard or a vacation out of town, a change of scenery gives young minds an opportunity to absorb and process new information, while encouraging them to explore new sights and sounds. Be sure to mix things up whenever possible.
- **Introduce Learning Toys:** Games, puzzles and creative challenges are all interactive experiences that can enhance learning. Check out learning toys

... continued on page 12

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# Teachers and Their Students Remain Resilient Amidst the Pandemic

*Special to The Truth*

Throughout this past year, teachers have been tasked with conducting hybrid or fully remote learning while guiding students through a global pandemic and nationwide social injustices. Amid such challenges, teachers have developed unique ways to stay resilient, while also driving engagement for students.

One program in particular, The Lead4Change Student Leadership Program, provides free leadership curriculum along with opportunities for students to pilot service-learning projects through collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and reflection. Teachers are using tools like this program to encourage students in making an impact in their local communities.

Trenea Edwards, a teacher at Lithia Springs High School in Lithia Springs, Ga., explained how Lead4Change allowed her to gain a greater connection with her students.

"When I got back to school and discovered there were some students who were homeless, without food and clothes, and hurting emotionally, it opened my eyes that I needed to do what I could to make a difference," says Edwards. "Our high school is a Title I school where a large majority of the student population is on free or reduced lunch. We have a food bank located in the school to help those students. Ever since the pandemic began, it's been low on supplies."

To support their community, Edwards' students created a food drive to increase donations to local food banks.

At Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, Va., teacher David Thaw explained the whirlwind of teaching during the pandemic and how he ultimately rose to the challenge and learned from his students. "Most of us felt like we were jumping out of a plane and hoped our parachute would work when pulled," says Thaw. "But what happened was amazing. As much grace I showed my students, they showed me an equal amount of grace and more."

Among the many instructional obstacles of the past year, Education Week found that the two most prominent challenges for educators during the pandemic are motivating students (77%) and meeting the needs of diverse learners (58%).

Teacher Holly Hartman of Eastern Lebanon County High School in East



Lebanon, Pa., was able to reignite her passion for teaching. "Developing connections virtually is so difficult, but Lead4Change gave me and my students a reason to be in class," says Hartman. "It brought purpose to the work my students were doing, and they liked knowing they could still make a difference in their community, despite the challenges the pandemic posed."

This program has allowed educators to reinforce students' immense potential to make a difference on important issues facing their communities.

"We are inundated with research reports advising Gen Z students are clueless about societal concerns," explains Kenia Brown, a teacher at Plantation Middle School in Plantation, Fla. "I found just the opposite. Students were very aware of current events and civic mindedness and thanks to Lead4Change, I actually feel much better about the direction of society."

Brown's students formed the "Motivational Mondays" team, which promoted positive interpersonal communication within their community by spreading words of kindness on Mondays. The students' efforts were awarded by Lead4Change as one of the grand prize-winning teams of the Lead4Change Challenge, earning a \$10,000 grant for the nonprofit of their choice. However, the students' impact on the local community and leadership skills acquired were rewards in of themselves.

For more information about the Lead4Change Student Leadership Program, visit [lead4change.org](http://lead4change.org).

During one of the most challenging years in recent history, teachers and students are remaining resilient and driving positive change by being leaders in community service.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

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# *No One Succeeds Alone: Learn Everything You Can from Everyone You Can* by Robert Reffkin

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Everything you know, you learned from Mom.

And Dad. And Grandma, Grandpa, six cousins, three playmates, a neighbor, 31 teachers, a coach somewhere along the line, your spouse, and a kid or two. And if you're smart, you'll keep your eyes open because everybody has something to teach you. As you will see in *No One Succeeds Alone* by Robert Reffkin, that's the best way to get ahead.

Almost from the moment he was born, Robert Reffkin was encouraged to succeed: at bedtime, rather than wishing her son "Sweet dreams," Reffkin's mother told him to "have big dreams."

That wasn't easy for him, though.

Reffkin's Black father abandoned his family when Reffkin was young, his mother was a Jewish immigrant from Israel, and this mixed lineage caused Reffkin to feel "out of place my entire life," he says. Even his maternal grandparents spurned him but none of these things negatively affected Reffkin. He used them as inspiration to do better.

He was a small businessman in high school, first selling products on the bus to school, then launching a DJing business shortly after that. When it came time to apply for college, he used his successes and things he'd learned to strive for his dream college, despite that a counselor told him not to bother. His curiosity was strong; what he absorbed helped build his businesses, including Compass, a real estate technology company.

To succeed, says Reffkin, ignore haters, naysayers, and rules that are meant

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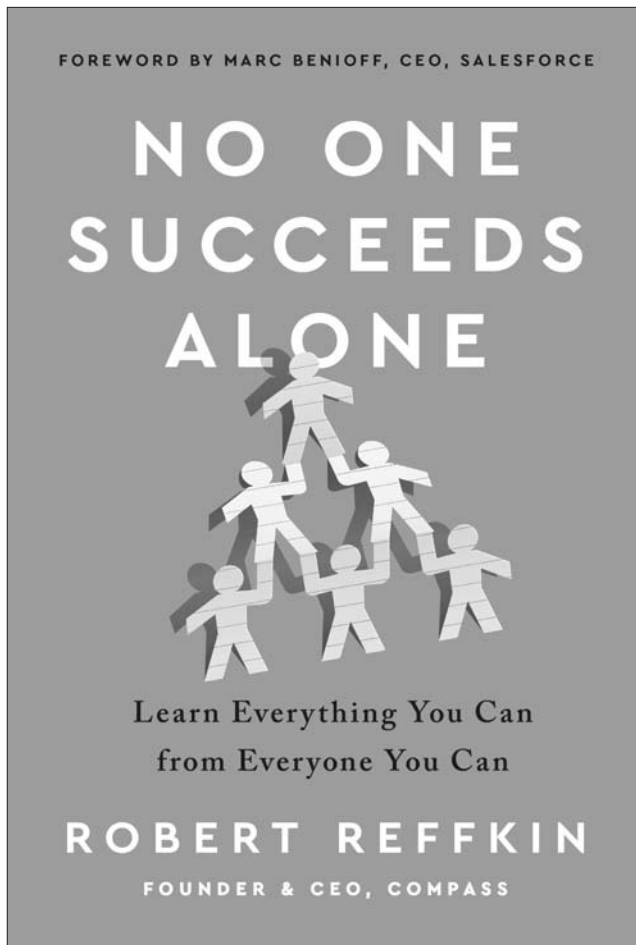
Robert Reffkin

to be bent. Be supportive of others, children, in particular. Thank those who support you, including your Mom, because "None of us got where we are on our own." Keep in mind that "The real rules of the game are never written down." To get help, be helpful. Don't be afraid to emulate the people you admire, or to try to copy their methods for success. And finally, do what Reffkin did with this book: "Turn your story into a beautiful narrative that inspires others."

The saying is this: There is no I in Team. There is in "WIN," though, and that's what you get when you read *"No One Succeeds Alone."*

For the entrepreneur who doesn't know where to start, author Robert Reffkin offers so much advice that you may feel overwhelmed: there's something to remember, highlighted and easy to find, just about every couple pages. These things fit seamlessly into this book, more in the way that a header for a biography might, which subtly makes the story-lessons stand out better amid the chatter here. Indeed, Reffkin indulges in a small amount of righteous humble-bragging, but he also shares enough stumbles to make his story relevant; this biographical aspect will appeal to a wide variety of readers, including C-Suiters, whether they're looking for business advice or not.

If your office is filling up again and your staff is now returning, this book might be a great way to ease back into the swing of things. For businessfolks and staff, *No One Succeeds Alone* might underscore everything you know.



## *Keep Kids Learning.... continued from page 11*

with these features built right in, such as the LeapStart Preschool Success interactive learning system from LeapFrog. It features touch-and-talk pages that help build math, reading, problem-solving skills and more. An expansive library of books, sold separately, cover a variety of preschool through first grade subjects, with more than 30 activities in every book. Many activities have two levels with over 50 key skills per grade level, so kids can play and learn at the right level and move up when they're ready.

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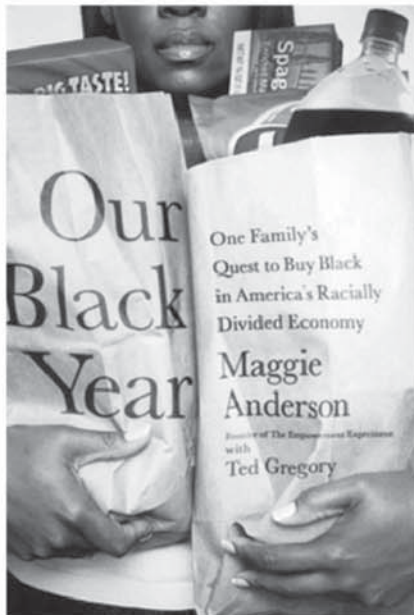
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# CLASSIFIEDS

June 9, 2021

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THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of construction of a 10 foot wide shared use path through Swan Creek Preserve Metropark. The new 10 foot wide path will consist of approximately 2,100 feet of aggregate path, 5,600 feet of asphalt, 580 feet of box beam "boardwalk" plus overlook, 2 steel truss bridges over Swan Creek, piling foundations with concrete caps, and concrete abutments. General construction includes clearing and grubbing; erosion control; storm drainage; aggregate and asphalt pavement; segmental retaining wall; concrete abutments and pier caps; steel pilings; steel truss bridges with concrete deck; box beams with concrete topping; railings. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at [www.newfaxcorp.com](http://www.newfaxcorp.com). Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$35 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, [jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com).

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

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David D. Zenk, Director

### Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project # 5002-21-1872  
Mulford Library Renovations  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

**Bids Due:** 2:00pm EST June 22, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**EDGE Participation Goal:** 15.0% of contract Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
General Contract – Mulford Library Renovation Project	\$494,000.00

**Pre-bid Meeting:** June 8, 2021, 10:00am – 11:00am via Webex. The Webex address is: <https://utoledo.webex.com/join/tracey.brown>

**Walk Through:** A walk through of the project site is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

**Walk Through Location:** Raymon H. Mulford Library, 3025 Library Circle., Toledo Ohio, 43606

**Bid Documents:** Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**More Info:** Project contact: Sonny Hamizadeh, Poggemeyer Design Group, Phone: 419-352-7537, E-mail: [SHamizadeh@Kleinfelder.com](mailto:SHamizadeh@Kleinfelder.com)

## THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS THIRD SHIFT HOUSEKEEPER

The Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio, seek applicants for full-time, third shift housekeeping positions. Working under the direction of the Environmental Services Supervisor, the Housekeeper performs cleaning services to provide a positive overall look and the general cleanliness of assigned buildings. In accordance with general directions, performs a variety of daily/routine and periodic cleaning tasks within assigned work areas. Follows established procedures, which result in a clean, healthy and safe work and community environment. The hours are 10:30 pm to 7 am. Competitive benefits package including health insurance, 403(b) with match, paid time off and paid holidays, tuition waiver for Lourdes University. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to [bbouyer@sistersosf.org](mailto:bbouyer@sistersosf.org) or mail to ATTN: Brandy Bouyer, Sisters of St. Francis, 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, OH 43560. EOE

## MANAGER OF MEMBERSHIP AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for a Manager of Membership and Special Projects position. The person in this position will inspire people to become lifelong supporters of Metroparks Toledo by planning and administering special donor programs and donor experiences including memberships, special events, memorial and tribute opportunities. College degree in Business, marketing, sales or equivalent level of education and work experience required. Moderate level of experience in development/fundraising/sales, donor engagement or comparable field and experience managing projects in these areas. Full-time with benefits. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to review entire job description and apply. Applicants must submit an online application and resume. EOE

## DIRECTOR OF GIVING

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Director of Individual and Corporate Giving. Bachelor degree or equivalent level of work experience required. Moderate level of experience in development/fundraising/sales, donor engagement field, managing projects in these areas. Minimum of five years of experience. Full-time with benefits. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to review job description and apply. EOE



### Job Posting

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular contracting resource providing mechanical, electrical, structural steel and boiler work for process manufacturing and industrial customers. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit [www.rlgbuilds.com](http://www.rlgbuilds.com).

GEM Inc. is seeking a Warehouse Bench Repair Associate in its Walbridge, OH warehouse. As a member of our team your responsibilities will include testing and repairing electric, pneumatic, and hydraulic tools coming in from jobsites and other tool room duties as assigned.

High school diploma or general education degree (GED) required. Previous tool room and small power tool repair experience a plus. Forklift certification a plus.

GEM Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Interested candidates may apply at [www.rlgbuilds.com/careers](http://www.rlgbuilds.com/careers).



### JOB POSTING

Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RLI) offers a complete range of project contract delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. Based in Toledo, Ohio for more than 60 years, RLI is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group of companies with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio, Ithaca, New York and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit [www.rlgbuilds.com](http://www.rlgbuilds.com).

We are seeking an **Accounting Assistant** at our Rudolph Libbe Inc Walbridge, OH office. This associate will report to the Accounting Manager.

Job responsibilities include accurate and timely billings, reconciliation of customer A/R balances, and assisting in month end closing cycle. Must have working knowledge of accounting principles, strong computer skills, and sales and use tax knowledge. At least 2 years accounting experience in the construction industry preferred.

Interested parties should apply on our website at [www.rlgbuilds.com/careers](http://www.rlgbuilds.com/careers).

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

# In Loving Memory

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MELZETTA ELAINE CORNETT THOMAS

JUNE 5, 1958 - December 26, 2020

You are forever in our hearts and minds. Your wisdom and beauty is in each of us. The journey with her may have come to an end but the love she gave has just begun.



## Melzetta Elaine Cornett Thomas

Melzetta Elaine Cornett Thomas, 62 of Mint Hill, North Carolina, affectionately known as "Laney", "GiGi", and "La La" was called home to God's Kingdom on Saturday, December 26, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. She was born June 05, 1958, in Toledo, Ohio to Wade and Ellena Cornett.

She graduated from Jesup W. Scott High School in 1975, joined the US Army on January 15, 1981, was honorably discharged in 1984, and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland on May 26, 1996. She was formerly employed at Lebanon Road

Love, your husband Arthur Sr., children Arthur Jr. (Farrahn), Melanie, grandchild Greyson, sisters Cassandra and Kathi, aunt, uncle, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Elementary School until her illness.

Elaine was a dedicated member of Henderson Grove Presbyterian Church and she played an essential role on the Women's Ministry. She enjoyed traveling, family, running, dancing, playing games, music and sports. Her parents, brother James, and sister Acquannetta (Nina) preceded her in death.

She is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Arthur "T" Thomas, son Arthur Jr. (Farrahn) Thomas, Atlanta, GA, daughter Melanie Thomas, Mint Hill, NC; grandson Greyson Thomas, Atlanta GA; sisters Cassandra (Lee) Byers, Houston, TX, and Kathi Cornett, Toledo, OH; aunt Mil-

dred (Mimmie) Hale, New Kensington, PA, uncle William (Bill) (Marcia) Cornett, Louisville, KY, brother in law William Felder, father in law Arthur White, sister in law Armita Thomas and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, bonus kids, and Godchildren.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family will not be hosting a repass.

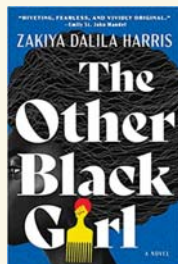
Burial will be held at the Georgia National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network or Alzheimer's Association.

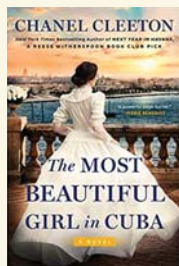
## WHAT WE'RE READING THIS SUMMER!



*On Juneteenth*  
by Annette Gordon-Reed



*The Other Black Girl*  
by Zakiya Dalila Harris



*The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba*  
by Chanel Cleeton



*A Sitting in St. James*  
by Rita Williams-Garcia



## DUE FOR YOUR Cancer Screenings?

These cancer screenings could **SAVE YOUR LIFE**. The earlier you catch it, the easier it is to treat. Talk with your family doctor about your personal risk and the schedule that best fits your needs.

### BREAST CANCER:

- **Women in their 20s and 30s:** breast exam at least every three years.
- **Women ages 40 and older:** an annual breast exam and an annual mammogram.

### CERVICAL CANCER:

- **Women ages 21 to 29:** Pap test every three years.
- **Women ages 30 to 65:** Pap test every three years OR combined Pap test and HPV tests every five years.

### COLORECTAL CANCER:

- **Men and women ages 45 and older:** begin screening and then have a colonoscopy every 10 years. (check with your doctor and insurance provider about screening based on your family history and other risk factors)

### PROSTATE CANCER:

- **Men age 40 and up:** talk with your doctor to make an informed decision on testing, based on personal risk factors.

### LUNG CANCER:

- **Men and women ages 50 to 80** with a high risk of lung cancer: ask your doctor if you could benefit from a lung cancer screening.



[promedica.org/cancerscreenings](http://promedica.org/cancerscreenings)