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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 12, 2022

Second Baptist Serving the Spencer Township Area



Senior Pastor And First Lady Jerry and Debra Boose

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Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's Inauguration

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dozens of elected and appointed officials, government employees, community leaders and residents filled the lobby of One Government Center on January 3 for the mayor's second inauguration.

Local entrepreneur Will Lucas served as the event's master of ceremonies, immediately followed by a spirited opening prayer delivered by north Toledo Pastor Perry Harris III.

"Welcome to the second inaugural of our mayor, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. This isn't the inauguration that was planned, but what we have for now," shared Lucas.

The national anthem was sung by Nikki D and the Browns, a group comprised of four singers Nicolle Brown, Gloria Brown, Belinda Brown and Tomika Webb. The ceremony continued with the reading of an original poem entitled 'To Work,' created by University of Toledo professor Joey Kim, PhD.

Judge Michelle Wagner, who has served as a Toledo Municipal Court judge since 2002 conducted the swearing in ceremony before Mayor Kapszukiewicz delivered his remarks.

"Even in light of recent events or national politics, people in Toledo haven't given up on local government. There isn't a democratic or republican way to shovel snow, we make common sense decisions on the local level. I want to thank the citizens of Toledo, who have given me a great honor," explained the mayor.

Immediately following the ceremony, Toledo City Council member took their oath of office in council chambers.

"This is a special day, not just for the mayor but all of us. The mayor fostered in new ideas four years ago, he wanted to make things happen and not just bureaucracy. The mayor appreciates dreams and sits people in positions to get those dreams done. It says a lot to have a city administration that makes the risks that entrepreneurs take bearable," explained Lucas.



Wade Kapszukiewicz is sworn in by Judge Michelle Wagner as his wife Sarah Weglian looks on



Pastor Perry Harris and Pastor Willie Perryman



Will Lucas and Councilman Sam Melden



First Lady Sarah Weglian and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



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TARTA and UToledo Team to Raise Awareness on Human Trafficking

Sojourner's Truth Staff

During a webinar on Thursday, January 6, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) and the University of Toledo announced a joint initiative to call attention to the ongoing issue of human trafficking and to help survivors.

A program, funded by a Federal Transit Administration grant to TARTA and UToledo, has been organized, including several events in January, which is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

A veritable who's who of local experts combating human trafficking took part of last week's webinar, including Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Ohio Senator Teresa Fedoras well as Celia Williamson, executive director of UToledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute and Amy LaGessee, co-chairman of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski facilitated the discussion.

Kaptur spoke of the urgency to impress upon the public the need to be "eyes and ears" to help those who may be victimized by traffickers and learn "how to inform others if we see" instances of possible trafficking.

Erica Krause, from Senator Brown's office, read a statement from the senator that pointed out that "there is a need to ensure victims have the resources to rebuild their lives."

Chelsea Golterman, from Sen. Fedor's office, read a statement from the senator speaking of what she has tried to do legislatively to protect victims during her time in the General Assembly.

"We now hold traffickers accountable," said Fedor. "We must support survivors without using the punitive criminal justice system [against them].

Along with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, Fedor has introduced the safe harbor bill, which would prevent young persons with being charged with prostitution if they were victims of human trafficking. She has stated it is a critical portion of tackling the problem. [12]

"Prostitution is the oldest oppression in the world," said Fedor. "Who could be against stopping human trafficking?"

Williamson is the founder of the Second Chance program (now called RISE) and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; chairs the Research and Analysis State Trafficking Commission, and is a founding member and president of the Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars. She has been named one of the most influential social workers in the nation.

During her time addressing the issue, Williamson pointed out the numbers of those affected – about one thousand human trafficking victim in Ohio at any given time and about 70 in Lucas County at any given time.

"There are hundreds of kids in our own Toledo area who have traded sex to meet their daily needs," she observed.

Williamson stressed the need for communities to adopt a village approach "where we care not only about our children but others' children and see who is manipulating them and who is coercing them."

LaGessee, of the LCHTC and the FOCUS Runaway Project, spoke of improving the red flags that warn of trafficking; educating oneself on those red flags and establishing an emergency fund for survivors. The current initiative, she noted, has such instructional capability to help with such goals.

Through several events in the month of the January, TARTA and the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute seek to raise the awareness of human trafficking with TARTA passengers and the general public. In addition to information posted on vehicles as well as TARTA's website and social media channels, events in this collaboration will include:

- Representatives of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition were at TARTA's Transit Hub on Thursday, January 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to distribute information and help people know where to reach out if they or someone they know needs help.

- A webinar Tuesday, January 11 from 10 a.m. to noon on human trafficking awareness and the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of survivors, was presented by the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

- A Human Trafficking Awareness Webinar on Wednesday, January 26, featuring Williamson.

- A training course for TARTA drivers to help them recognize the signs of human trafficking and understand the next steps.

- "Through its transformation in recent years, TARTA has stressed involvement in the community we are lucky enough to serve," Koprowski said. "Caring about our customers and being a part of that community includes recognizing when a member of that community is in trouble and knowing what we can do help."



Amy LaGessee



Celia Williamson, PhD

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"Quit Playin" The Promised Land Awaits!

By Vincent L. Hall
Texas Metro News
Guest Column

My loyal audience will testify that from time to time, I have sit-downs and one-on-ones with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is from this sacred desk that I transcribe our sessions and convey them to you. This editorial is another episode of our chats.

As Doc and I sit down and chat from time to time, I usually get ready for the conversation by plowing through the luminous and lofty oratories that he left us. For my part, I bring him the latest statistics on Black progress or the lack thereof in these "yet-to-be United States." Generally, I just dust off the previous year's report.

Unfortunately, there ain't enough change to make a difference. Before rendering the final transcripts to you, I generally scrub them to omit curse words that Dr. King blurts out. Don't get holy on me. Jesus wept as he succumbed to the sympathy that overtook him at Lazarus' graveside. Witnessing the continued mistreatment and inhumane treatment among mortals is more than a real saint can endure. Parenthetically, Dr. King confided that in retrospect, the "I Have a Dream" speech was merely a hallucination.

Looking back on it now, he knows full well that America would never relegate respect nor secure rights to a people that it so cruelly and callously despises. The former Michael King Jr. went on to say that he had "been to the mountaintop," but if he had told the whole truth about what he saw, it would've scared most of you to death.

Instead, King left us hope and a reason to believe. However, for our session in 2022, he pointed me to a speech he delivered just a few weeks before the American intelligence community had him killed. It was a personalized position paper intended for Memphis' sanitation workers and all workers in general.

On March 18, 1968, King "dumped the house" with a manifesto titled "All Labor Has Dignity." The Bishop Charles Mason Temple of the Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted a crowd of sanitation workers on strike and their supporters. Dr. King admitted that he thought about that speech after hearing a Dallas County Commissioner

who was defiant in positing that Black Lives won't matter until Black Commerce Matters. Doc had said as much before he got mid-speech in Memphis. "We know that it isn't enough to integrate lunch counters.

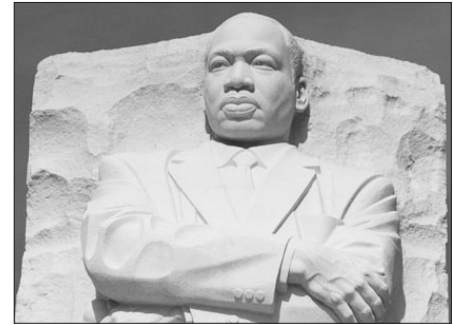
What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee?" Martin Luther King very well understood that in this America, in the cradle of capitalism; in the nation, with a history of the vilest slavery system in the world, Black Lives will never truly matter until Black Commerce matters. Therefore, we must support our own and demand our share. Hell, he said (hell is in the Bible, stay with me), America doesn't give a damn about poor whites or any people on the planet that lack the power and control that money and wealth allows.

And to that end, we got some Black folks who are just as guilty. "The Negro 'haves' must join hands with the Negro 'have-nots.'" And armed with compassionate traveler checks, they must journey into that other country of their brother's denial and hurt and exploitation. This is what you have done. You've revealed here that you recognize that the no D is as significant as the Ph.D., and the man who has been to no-house is as significant as the man who has been to Morehouse. And I just want to commend you." Dr. King was in rare form. He said he was proud of that Dallas preacher with the ankh in his church, in a building shaped like a pyramid. King was proud of him for calling for "100 Days of Buying Black."

However, he cautioned that Black businesses, like Black history, cannot be "featured" for a day, week, or month. Being proud and supportive of who God made us have to be a daily mantra. Dr. King ended his missive with a message that we still need to hear today. "Never forget that freedom is not something that is voluntarily given by the oppressor. It is something that must be demanded by the oppressed. Freedom is not some lavish dish that the power structure and the white forces in policy-making positions will voluntarily hand out on a silver platter while the Negro merely furnishes the appetite. If we are going to get equality, if we are going to get adequate wages, we are going to have to struggle for it." We must stop hallucinating about a mountaintop dream and get down to (Black) business.

Quit Playin': the Promised Land awaits!

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist and award-winning columnist.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Pastor Jerry Boose and Second Baptist Serving the Spencer Township Area

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Pastor Jerry Boose is the spiritual head of Second Baptist Church located on 9300 Maumee Western Rd., Monclova, OH. In March he will have served as senior pastor for 14 years with the help of his wife, First Lady Debra Boose. Under his stewardship the church itself has grown in ministry, community outreach and partnerships.

Second Baptist has also operated a large outreach facility just minutes down the road in Holland, OH.

Agape Second Chance Corporation has been operated by the church for the past eight years serving Spencer Township. It's located in Holland 225 S. Irwin Rd. across the street from the old Spencer Sharples High School.

The 10-acre land, that features a 65,000 sq ft building, was donated by the Lucas County Commissioners to Second Baptist. Formerly Irwin Park, the massive space has a baseball diamond, basketball court, playground, offices spaces and full computer lab.

"[The] County Commissioners got wind of what we were doing and they had this land they had no use for so they gifted the church the 10 acres of land. They basically gave it to us," said Boose.

One stipulation was that the church serve the community with the land, and the church does just that.

Agape Second Chance Corporation hosts weekly services for the community:

- **A full operating health clinic (partnered with Neighborhood Health Association)**

Monday – Thursday 8:30-4:30 p.m.

- **A free food giveaway (partnered with Food for Thought)**

The last Friday of every month 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (participants must bring ID)

- **Pathway, Inc. hosts a satellite office on location**

Every Wednesday noon – 4 p.m.

You don't need to be a resident of Spencer Township to participate. The services offered by Second Baptist and Agape Second Chance are open to everyone.

Prior to the pandemic, the organization also hosted a homework assistance program between 4-6 p.m. grades five through 12. Students were fed through Connecting Kids to Meals and Toledo Public Schools children were bused from the city and back. During the pandemic that initiative has been halted. Pastor Boose plans for the homework assistance program to continue in person when restrictions allow.

Boose also has big plans for the future: to build a new structure.

"Our plan is to partnership with the County Commissioners and the Port Authority because we want to build a new structure [Life Center]," said Boose.

The new structure will include more partnerships with area organizations. "We're in conversation with the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union because we want to bring banking to that community... Suzette Cowell has already agreed to be a part of the project."

"That will give almost a full service to that community [Spencer Township]," says Boose.

He emphasizes that Holland area represents a strong need. "We focus on mainly the Spencer Township area (Holland, Ohio)... because it is a low income area." Boose says that the area is a mix of habitat housing, public housing and homes built by residents themselves.

The focus in 2022 for Pastor Boose is expanding the outreach and growing partnerships further. Boose plans to achieve the initiative within the next two years with increased partnership with the Neighborhood Health Association, Pathway, Inc., Connecting Kids to Meals, an LMHA satellite office, and Area Office on Aging office to offer services to seniors. "This [expansion] will also focus on some of the townships around Spencer Township: Swanton, Whitehouse, Monclova, Holland so that it will be something that will be utilized from everybody in the vicinity," said Boose.

In addition to Second Baptist and Agape Second Chance, Pastor Boose serves as the Midwest Regional Overseer of Kingdom Density Fellowship International. An international organization that is a fellowship that focuses on pastors-- working with them and strengthening them. He oversees five states: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. They are open to fellowshiping with new pastors.

Every summer the church hosts an annual Golf Fundraiser: the EP ('Empowering People') Legacy Golf Scramble. This year the proceeds will go to Boys and Girls Club, Connecting Kids to Meals and the Jerry Boose Scholarship Fund that awards scholarships to those graduating from high school. Pastor Boose is a board member of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, LMHA (LMHSC), Neighborhood Health Association, Toledo Firefighters Health Plan and NAACP.

For more information visit SecondBaptistChurchOH.org and Agape Second Chance Foundation (@aagapescorp) on Facebook.

To get involved or partner with initiatives call Second Baptist Church 419-867-0903 or reach out to Pastor Boose directly at 419-320-5206.

Sunday services are in-person at the church located at 9300 Maumee Western Rd. at 10:45 a.m.

Outreach space and church gym are available for rent.



Pastor Jerry Boose

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Toledo Opera Postpones All Performances of The Opera Blue

Toledo Opera has postponed all performances of the opera *Blue* amid a spike in COVID cases and hospitalizations in our community. The staff and board of Toledo Opera believe that the safety of the community, performers and staff is the top priority and postponing the performances is the most responsible course of action.

Blue is the story of An African American couple in Harlem who anticipates the birth of their firstborn, a son, with both hope and fear. As the baby grows into a young man, the mother worries for his future, and the father tries to prepare his son for the realities of 21st century America, while wrestling with his own identity as a police officer, a "Black man in blue." When their deepest fears come true, the family is forced to navigate a devastating reality seeking answers and support from their church and community. Toledo Opera presents the Tony Award®-winning composer Jeanine Tesori and NAACP Theatre Award-winning librettist Tazewell Thompson's new opera inspired by contemporary events and Black literature. Influenced by gospel music and using vivid flashbacks, *Blue* places timely issues at the forefront of modern opera and invites audiences to the emotional epicenter of their impact. Chelsea Tipton, II returns to Toledo to conduct the opera and librettist Tazewell Thompson serves as the stage director.

The rescheduled dates for the performances of *Blue* are slated for **Friday, August 26, 2022 at 7:30 pm** and **Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 2 pm**. While postponing the opening of such an important show is incredibly disappointing, the relevance and invaluable nature of its subject matter makes the decision to do so imperative.

"Being a responsible community leader and taking our community's

concerns into account is part of who we are at Toledo Opera. *Blue* is too important of a project for us not to have a large audience benefit from the performances. It is well worth the additional effort to reschedule at this time. We will continue with our outstanding community programming focusing on *Blue* throughout the spring and summer months and August will be here before we know it," shared Suzanne Rorick, executive director, Toledo Opera.

Alyssa Greenberg, PhD, community engagement director, Toledo Opera added, "We developed a comprehensive public programming series aligned with *Blue* with guidance from our Community Engagement Advisory Committee members and community partners. The silver lining of rescheduling is that it allows us more time to host virtual and eventually in-person events, with *Blue* as a means of leading public conversation and critical engagement on contemporary issues impacting our community."

Toledo Opera's *La Traviata* will proceed as originally scheduled on Friday, April 22, 2022 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

A new virtual programming schedule to complement the future opening of *Blue* is being developed and will be released on a date in the future. All tickets purchased for *Blue* will be honored on the postponed dates. If you have questions regarding tickets, please contact rcamarn@toledoopera.org or call 419.255.7464.

For more information about *Blue*, please visit www.toledoopera.org/upcoming-performances/season-event/blue/. For more information on Toledo Opera, visit <https://toledoopera.org>.

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YWCA Announces Milestones 2022 Virtual Awards Event

Lisa McDuffie, YWCA President and CEO, announced the 2022 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women annual awards event:

Jennifer Jarrett – Arts
Marsha Manahan – Business
Mary Werner – Education
Perlean Griffin – Government
Joan Duggan – Sciences
Robin Charney – Social Services
Juanita Greene – Volunteerism

This marks the 27 th year that the YWCA of Northwest Ohio has recognized extraordinary women in the community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and contributed to the empowerment of women. Honoree bios and photos will be made available later this month on the YWCA website at: www.ywcan-wo.org

“The members of the YWCA and I are honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award,” said McDuffie. “We invite the community to join us and help pay tribute to this year’s Milestones Honorees.” The YWCA 27th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards will be held virtually on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Registration will open later this month.



Perlean Griffin



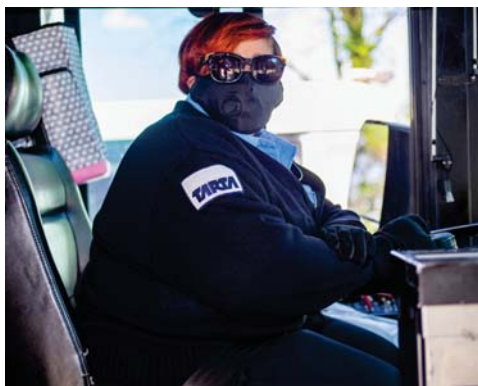
Juanita Greene



Robin Charney



Lisa McDuffie



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TPS Redefines The Three Rs – Restart ... Refocus ... Respect

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"Today is a conversation about action," said Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romulus Durant, EdD, as he led off a press conference announcing TPS new initiative, The Restart – Refocus – Respect Plan (or the Three Rs), designed to improve safety, discipline and student accountability.

Accompanying Durant were leaders or representatives from more than a dozen and a half community, religious and social action groups that are partnering with TPS on this initiative.

The Three Rs lays out the various ways in which TPS will be holding "students accountable for their actions while at school in an effort to ensure their safety," states the plan in its introduction, while calling for students, staff members and community members to report suspicious behavior that would impose a threat to that safety.

"We are coming together to be unified," said Durant of TPS and its community partners in their efforts to address violence within schools and in the community.

The Three Rs plan calls for behavior intervention on students' discipline by means of standards established through the Student Code of Conduct.

The plan, as Durant emphasized last week, will be partially enforced by ensuring that mandates regarding entry and transportation measures are in place. Metal detectors are in the high schools, Department of Public Safety officers are on the premises as K-9 units from the Toledo Police Department.

The plan bans outside food, unless it is part of lunch, puts limits of the use of cell phones and social media and addresses the issues of parent engagement and accountability as a "shared responsibility."



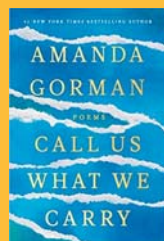
"According to the Centers for Disease Control, research shows that parent engagement in schools is closely linked to better students' behavior, higher academic achievement and enhanced social skills," reads the Three Rs report. "Parent engagement also makes it more likely that students will avoid unhealthy actions, such as sexual risk behaviors and substance use."

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing level of violence at various levels of society, TPS is planning on emphasizing the problems of students who are struggling with mental health and wellness issues.

In November 2021, the Toledo Board of Education passed a resolution to promote student wellbeing by prioritizing social and emotional learning for students and staff.

...continued on page 12

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



Call Us What We Carry
by Amanda Gorman



Hell of a Book
by Jason Mott



The Upper World
by Femi Fadugba



Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed: 15 Voices from the Latinx Diaspora
edited by Saracía J. Fennell

toledolibrary.org
419.259.5200



Toledo Library Extends Hours

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library has extended hours and Sunday hours have returned. Find your neighborhood branch here! (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/locations>)

Monday and Tuesday all locations open 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday all locations open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the following locations have extended hours to 8:30 p.m.

Heatherdowns, Holland, Kent, King, Main Library, Maumee, Mott, Oregon, Reynolds Corners, Sanger, Sylvania, Washington, Waterville, and West Toledo Friday all locations open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The following locations are also open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Heatherdowns, Holland, Kent, King, Main, Maumee, Mott, Oregon, Reynolds Corners, Sanger, Sylvania, Washington, Waterville, West Toledo.

The following locations are also open on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Heatherdowns, Oregon, Sanger, Sylvania

Chat is available Monday- Friday 8 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday noon – 9 p.m.

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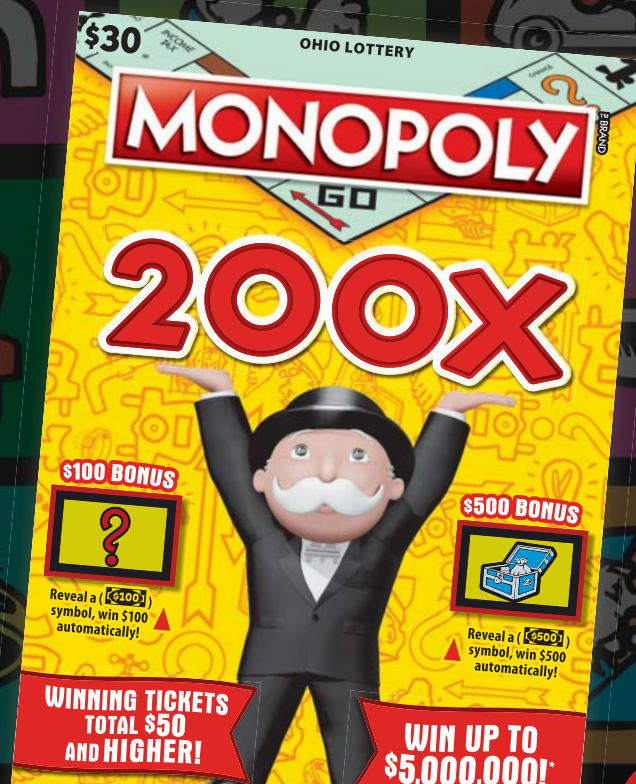
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Lifelong Learning Announces New Lectures

A new series of talks and classes offered by Lifelong Learning at Lourdes University will begin soon! The monthly lectures listed below are completely free and everyone is invited. Lectures are offered in person, with coffee and donuts, as well as online.

In addition to these lectures, Lifelong Learning offers fun and engaging classes. Most classes will be held on the Lourdes University campus, some will be offered online, and a few will be hybrid. There is a fee to join classes. For more information, call (419) 824-3707 or visit www.Lourdes.edu/Lifelong

The Digital Future of Currency

10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, January 21

The first crypto currency transaction was 13 years ago with Bitcoin, and ever since crypto currencies have become increasingly popular. Learn what these crypto currencies are and how they change the way business is done. What implications do crypto currencies have for our future economy and for the rapidly evolving technology associated with them?

Dr. Gregory W. Arburn teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in finance, economics, and international business at the University of Findlay. Dr. Arburn earned a BS from Purdue University and MS and PhD from Clemson University. Dr. Arburn is the President of the Wealth Management Society of Northwest Ohio and President and Treasurer of the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists.

Unexpected Connections Between Bacteria and Art

10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, February 18

Most people do not usually think of bacteria when they think of art, but bacteria is involved in the conservation as well as the creation of art. Select bacteria produce pigments which can be extracted to create long-lasting

paints. These bacteria may be used to create vibrant "living paintings" in petri dishes.

Bacteria also have a surprising use in the conservation of art. Older paintings can be cleaned by the application of select bacterial strains. The presence of microbes (fungus, mold, and bacteria) on paintings also has the potential to detect forgeries!

Dr. Elizabeth Wise is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physical Sciences at Lourdes University. Studies of the intersection between chemistry and art have included a fellowship for Dr. Wise to study painting conservation in Florence, Italy.

From Death into Life

10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, March 18

Joe D'Ambrosio was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1989. Always maintaining his innocence, his pleas for assistance fell upon deaf ears. Fr. Neil Kookoothe met Joe in 1998 while serving as spiritual advisor to several men on Ohio's Death Row. Fr. Neil holds degrees in law and nursing, as well as Masters degrees in Theology and Divinity. Fr. Neil's experience in theology, nursing and law drew his interest to the case and aided Joe in bringing attention to unresolved issues never addressed in court. Joe's case was ultimately heard by the Supreme Court of the United States and Joe was exonerated in 2012. Joe and Fr. Neil will tell this story from death row to freedom.

Designing a City: Norman Bel Geddes and Toledo

10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, April 8

Toledo was abuzz in 1945 when Norman Bel Geddes, one of the most celebrated designers in America at that time, was commissioned to produce a plan for the city. He called it Toledo Tomorrow and it was a bold proposal, intended to position Toledo to become a regional hub. Geddes was well-known for his ideas on the future of cities (flying cars! aerodynamic buses!), but this was his only proposal for a particular place. We look at Geddes' work, and how this plan, though never implemented, has had an impact on our city.

Sujata Shetty, Ph.D. is Director of the Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center and a professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo. Andreas Luescher, Ph.D. is a Swiss architect, who is currently Professor of Teaching Excellence, Professor of Architecture and

...continued on page 12



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Eberly Center to Honor 150 Years of Innovative Women at UToledo; Nominations accepted through January 23

The Eberly Center of the University of Toledo invites all to join in uplifting the accomplished, innovative and pioneering women of UToledo.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of The University of Toledo, the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women invites nominations for current and former women-identified students, faculty, staff, senior leaders and trustees whose innovative work on campus or in the community has opened doors and paved new paths.xq

The Center seeks a wide array of nominations across academic disciplines and university offices, and throughout "TU's"/UT's 150 years of history. They welcome nominations from campus and community members,

including self-nominations. Individuals may nominate multiple women.

All nominees will be celebrated during Women's History Month on March 3, 2022. A representation of these outstanding, innovative women will be determined by the selection committee to be featured.

Nominations are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 23.

For more information and to submit a nomination, go to <https://www.utoledo.edu/centers/eberly/programs/webforms/nomination.html>. Questions? Call or email Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick, Director, at 419-530-8574 or angela.fitzpatrick@utoledo.edu

Toledo Library Launches New Reading Challenges

Looking to read more in 2022? The Toledo Lucas County Public Library can help! With more than three million materials to borrow – without any fines – and three new Reading Challenges (and an old favorite) you'll be sure to have extra motivation to read more. Plus, you can win great prizes! Open to all ages.

Pick up tracker cards at any location or track online with Beanstack or with the Beanstack Tracker App on Google Play or Apple.

10 to Try: Read one book in each of 10 categories. Choose your own titles or try our recommendations. Complete all 10 categories by Dec. 31, 2022, to receive a backpack and be entered to win grand prizes.

8 Aloud: Read aloud eight chapter books (or listen to the audiobook) with a child, a class, a family, or a friend. Complete the challenge and receive a zipper pouch. Find your own chapter books or try our recommendations listed below.

101 Picture Book Challenge: Read our list of the best picture books which includes classics, new titles, and everything in between. Complete the challenge and receive a book for your home library.

50 More Picture Books Challenge: If 101 books weren't enough, or you want to start with a smaller challenge, this is for you! Complete the challenge and receive a book for your home library.

Forgivable Loans Available for Mercy College BSN Program

Mercy College of Ohio is exploring innovative ways to recruit more students to pursue nursing. four-year period.

In partnership with the Mercy Health Foundation - Greater Toledo, Mercy College will offer a limited number of forgivable loans to incoming Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students who are direct from high school. Incoming students can now apply <<http://www.mercycollege.edu/forgive>> for the Mercy Health BSN Nursing Forgivable Loan that will begin the fall semester of 2022.

While the selected students are enrolled in the BSN program their loans will be deferred and upon graduation and becoming successfully employed at Mercy Health, their loans will be forgiven over a

Susan Wajert, PhD, president of Mercy College says, "This is a great opportunity for students to finance their education so we are very happy to have more forgivable loans available for incoming students."

Visit [mercycollge.edu/forgive](https://www.mercycollege.edu/forgive) <<https://www.mercycollege.edu/admissions/financial-aid/forgivable-loans>> for complete details and the application process for the Mercy Health BSN Nursing Forgivable Loan and [mercycollge.edu/nursing](https://www.mercycollege.edu/nursing) <<http://www.mercycollege.edu/nursing>> for the array of options that Mercy College offers.



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Are Your Kids Using Social Media? Not Sure? Here's How to Protect Them

Special to The Truth

While most social media apps require that users be over 13 years old, this hasn't stopped many younger children from opening accounts, according to new research.

The recently-released C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health finds that 49% of parents ages 10-12 and 32% of parents of children ages 7-9 say their child uses social media. What's more, not all parents are monitoring their child's activities on these apps due to a range of factors, from lacking the ability to set up controls to not having the time.

"Social media use poses a number of potential safety threats to children. With more children using social media at a younger age, it's critical that parents ensure their safety and teach them how to be responsible digital and social media users," says Michele Havner, director of marketing at Eturi Corp., maker of OurPact, a leading parental control and screen time app.

Is your child using social media? Not sure? According to Havner, here are a few ways you can help protect them on social media apps and on other sites:

- **Open communication:** Keep the lines of communication open with your child. Listening and being respectful will encourage your child to be honest with you about their social media usage and what they're encountering online.

- **Set parameters:** Whether it's only allowing your child to use educational social media apps, or enforcing a strict moratorium until they reach a certain age, set parameters that make sense for your child and stick with them.

- **Set a schedule:** Don't let digital devices overrun your family life. Setting a digital schedule can help ensure children still have time for homework, after school activities and quality time with family. Be sure to practice what you preach and set a good digital example.

- **Proceed with caution:** Before letting your child set up an account with a particular social media app, take a good look at what the app is all about to ensure that it's appropriate for their age group and individual maturity level.

- **Get assistance:** A parental control app such as OurPact can help you set a digital schedule, block inappropriate apps and websites, set safety filters and even get screenshots of digital activity. No matter how busy you are, new enhancements make it easy to get a handle on your child's social media use. With the ability to create individual profiles, you can tailor rules based on your child's age and other considerations. To learn more, visit ourpact.com.

"Though many school systems are adding digital safety and savviness to the curriculum, parents should fill in gaps by introducing children to smart digital habits, and by leveraging new tools and resources that help keep

kids safe," says Havner.

Courtesy StatePoint

Lifelong Learning... continued from page 10

Chair of Architecture and Environmental Design at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

A Century of Music

10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, May 20

How many Toledo institutions have lasted 100 years? The Toledo Choral Society stands out in this class for its commitment to bringing the finest in classical and contemporary choral music to our community. Today, the Toledo Choral Society boasts nearly one hundred members from the northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan region. Singers from diverse backgrounds are united by their passion for performing outstanding choral works.

Join Mike Holtgrieve, Historian, and Judy Harris Szor, longtime member and past President, on a trip through a rich century of history. We will showcase the personalities that drove this organization and the impact they had on the Toledo musical community, as well as the music performed for greater Toledo audiences.

TPS... continued from page 8

The Office of Positive School Climate will provide tools, says the plan, to enable students to: recognize and manage their emotions; demonstrate caring and concern for others and establish positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

These goals, according to the plan, can be attained through the assistance of resources available to the district such as social workers, psychologists and representatives from local mental health agencies working with the school system.

The groups that will working with TPS on the Three Rs plan to Restart ... Refocus ... Respect are: the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; the United Pastors for Social Empowerment; Toledo Community Coalition; The Tabernacle Church; NAACP; Boys & Girls Club; the YMCA, the Junction Coalition, Frederick Douglass Community Association; Laborers Local 500; The Movement; the City Park League; TPS Attendance Champions; the Buffalo Soldiers; The East Side Motorcycle Club; the City of Toledo Anti Violence Commission; Toledoans United For Social Action and various city council members.

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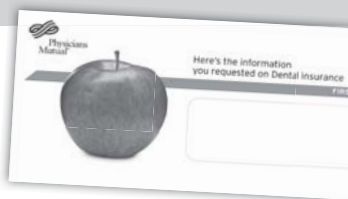
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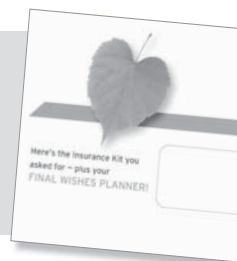
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You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays by Zora Neale Hurston, edited and with an introduction by Genevieve West and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

That's just the way it was.

People did things differently in times past. They were a little more likely to judge others, a little less apt to open their minds. They had notions we might think are odd; they held beliefs that we know now are wrong. But as in the new book *You Don't Know Us Negroes*

and *Other Essays* by Zora Neale Hurston, times change. Sometimes.

Throughout her career of nearly 40 years, Zora Neale Hurston prodigiously wrote novels that resonate today. In this nonfiction book, readers get a taste of the other side of Hurston's career: her journalism, essay-writing, and a reflection of the times in which she lived.

In the essay "High John de Conquer," she offers "some help to our brothers and sisters who have always been white" by introducing them to a man who "romps... clowns, and looks ridiculous" and then disappears. John de Conquer is a scamp and a "mystery," but he also offers hope and "the secret of Negro song and laughter."

If you ever imagined what it was like to have been captured and sold into slavery, "The Last Slave Ship" is Hurston's interview with Cudgo Lewis, the last survivor of the Clotilda. Lewis told Hurston about a rivalry between villages, his capture, the cruelty of the Dahomey king, and the eradication of an entire tribe of people.

Here, Hurston writes of novelist Fanny Hurst, encouraging readers to sample

c.2022
Amistad
\$29.99
464 pages

Hurst's work. She mourns that white publishers of her time were reluctant to offer more diverse works because they believed that "the average American just cannot conceive of it." She writes first with pride about attending Howard University, then about what led to her disillusionment and why she called Negro colleges "Begging Joints."

She writes about noses and charm, being "a little colored girl," and of having no race. With barely simmering anger, she reveals her "Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience." And she reports on the lengthy trial of Ruby McCollum, an experience that left Hurston in a dream "of fog and mist..."

For sure, *You Don't Know Us Negroes* isn't a book to take – or read – lightly.

From the beginning of the introduction to the very last words on McCollum, this book demands that readers stop and think about what's been said. It's natural that you would anyhow: much of what author Zora Neale Hurston observed in her day is still relevant now; Hurston died on the very cusp of the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, and so racism and race issues feature highly in the works inside this book.

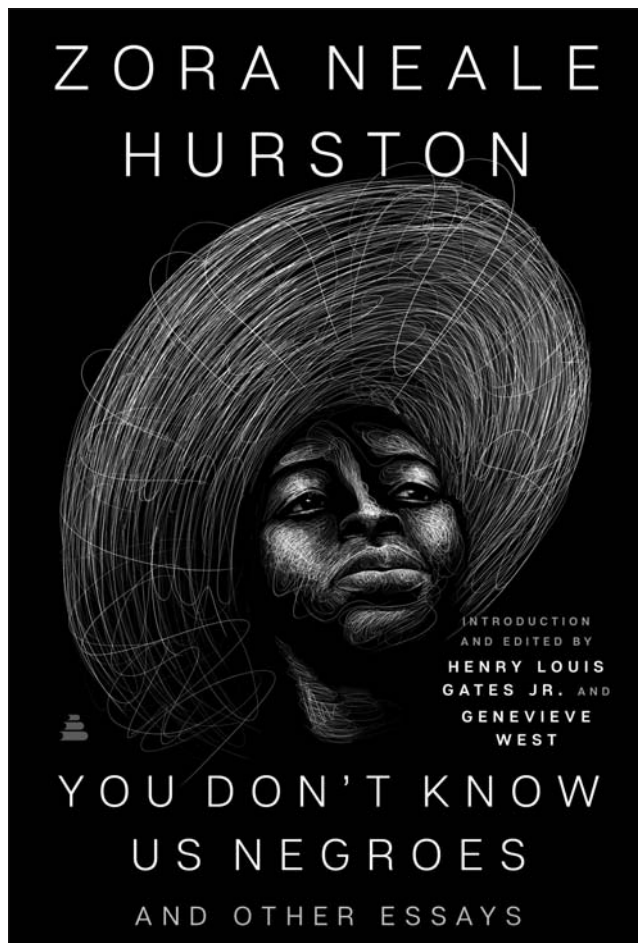
What's unexpected – and very delightful – is Hurston's voice. Some of these stories ring with a wonderful sense of sarcasm that tells you everything you need to know about Hurston's mind-set. Some tales ache with frustration. Others spark like lightning in a jar.

This is a carry-it-everywhere-with-you kind of book, perfect for times when you need some introspection as diversion. *You Don't Know Us Negroes* is like that, and that's just the way it is.

Ed. Note: You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays can be found on store shelves January 18.



Zora Neale Hurston, photo courtesy
Barbara Hurston Lewis, Faye Hurston,
Lois Gaston



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SKILLS REQUIRED

Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Excellent written and oral communication skills; exceptional interpersonal skills, a focused listener.
- Advanced MS Office skills, including Excel.
- Strong organizational and project management skills that reflect ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks seamlessly with excellent attention to detail.
- Ability to take initiative and manage projects assigned through completion with minimal supervision.
- Ability to work effectively independently and as a highly resourceful team player under pressure and within deadlines.
- Creative and innovative thinker, who actively presents new opportunities, proposes solutions and recommends best practices.
- Ability to anticipate challenges and effectively resolve potential issues through creative problem solving.
- Ability to work creatively and with flexibility in a fast paced environment while maintaining high work standards.
- Ability to develop rapport and engender trust.
- Exhibits a positive attitude and professional demeanor.

Education and Experience Requirements:

2+ years of applicable grant administration experience, required. Experience in foundations, nonprofits, human resources and finance highly desirable. Bachelor's Degree preferred.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, Ohio is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Maintenance Mechanic 3. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 01/23/22. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



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Interested candidates may apply at www.RLGBuilds.com.

A Statement on the Current Level of Violence

By June Boyd

For over 60 years I have worked in my community in support of the young. The children who will be in charge of our future.

On Saturday evening, January 3, several bullets were fired into my home as I believe was the result of murderous Facebook threats between teenagers. If I had been in my kitchen where I just left, I could have been killed for no reason.

As a long-time resident, this is not what I want to see continue in our central city. Even though it appears to be a nationwide problem, murder, violence, and people dying in the streets. It seems like a horror movie.

Toledo deserves better and today, I am pleading with all those who are concerned; parents, grandparents, community leaders, ministers, and our children who are our most important citizens and they deserve our support and guidance. The community must come together and set an example of love, concern and compassion.

Our family has never been a threat to anyone and personally, I have rallied with many young people over the years from the Mud Hens baseball games to the Cotillion.

For those who want to kill or injure, I am pleading with you to put down your guns. Someone cares and can help you take a different direction in life. The sad ending to what you are doing is death or prison. Hate and anger never wins; love will endure.

Children, begin to lead, protect each other, and respect your parents; Parents, love your children, nurture them and treat them as though they are the most precious part of your life.

In closing, I call on Chief George Kral and his officers to be vigilant in stopping the violence. I do not support "Defund the Police" because we need you. When officers exhibit behavior that is contrary to routine police work, they should and will be punished.



June Boyd



One of the bullet holes in June Boyd's home

Black & Brown Women Rising... continued from page 16

anxiety. I couldn't think or even function. When the doctor told me that my symptoms could be depression, I said no, not me. I have a book, an academy and social media followers. I didn't want to take the prescribed depression medication because of the stigma of mental health. That's why we're here today, we're not perfect and we need to stop hiding behind our masks," shared Patton.

The event sponsors were Toledo Museum of Art, JumpStart, Diana Patton, Women of Toledo, and NAMI of Greater Toledo. Art graphics were designed by Israelle Nelson, the DJ was Dave Kevin Adams, an event video production was created by Creadio and the event photographer and videographer was Robert Cumberow. Event volunteers were Mary Brucker, Kyndra Gaines, Nina Border, Isabella Corder and Deborah Porter.

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Women Celebrate Women at Black & Brown Women Rising Event

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Local advocate Diana Patton organized an in-person celebration to acknowledge Black and Brown women. The bash was held at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion on January 6 and was called, 'Black & Brown Women Rising.'

"It's time to draw a line in the sand, we need to take care of our mental health as Black and Brown women. We need to stop hiding behind a mask and realize that we don't need to have it all together," shared Patton.

The sold-out ticket event began with socially distance networking, wine and appetizers for attendees and foot-stomping musical selections by DJ Dave Kevin Adams.

Rhonda Sewell, the Museum's director of Belonging and Community Engagement, kicked off the gathering by welcoming guests and Museum Director Adam Levine, also delivered remarks. Local 21-year-old artist Loveli received a standing ovation after sharing her new song called '48 hours' and Robert Edwards presented a poem called, 'Black Queens.' One of the event features was Rhonda Kimmons, the principal at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, receiving the Black and Brown Women Rising award.

"Let's erase the stigma that surround Black and Brown women and mental health. Many people around the world, even our brothers, are seeking therapy to work through trauma. We all know that God can work it out, but therapy can help too," shared Sewell.

"This is your museum of art and studies cite that walking through the museum is a way to destress," shared Levine.

Diana Patton, founder of Rise with Diana and the Rise Advocates Academy, shared words of encouragement with the audience. She opened by explaining how COVID, George Floyd's murder and social distancing

connect to her diagnosis of depression.

"I had to get myself together. I suffered from anxiety but didn't know that it was called

... continued on page 15



Diana Patton and Rhonda Sewell



Diana Patton and Rhonda Kimmons



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