



Volume 71 No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 23, 2022



NAACP Celebrates Past Presidents

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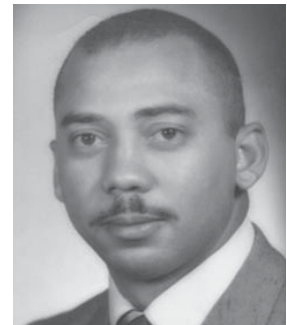
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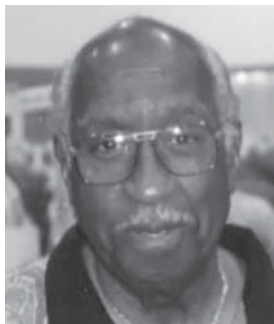
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Post-Traumatic Education

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

The Truth Contributor

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

- United Negro College Fund Motto



The recent shooting death of young 10-year-old Damia Ezell and the slaying of five other Toledo Public Schools students in the past year is an unfathomable tragedy. The children's deaths are the source of profound grief in the community and reveal how trauma defines the lives and education of urban students.

Too many Black students regularly hear gunshots, have witnessed a shooting, or know someone who was shot or killed by gun violence, and the consequences are alarming. The trauma of exposure to gun violence negatively impacts students' emotional or mental health and affects their school performance.

According to Everytown Research and Policy, these students often resort to aggressive and violent behavior, engage in criminal activity and find it more challenging to succeed in school.

So, on the heels of the COVID-19 epidemic, which left an entire generation of Black kids isolated, alienated, and depressed, you can add the continuing trauma of fear and anxiety due to gun violence.

Yet, the sad consequences of gun violence and student trauma go far beyond the students themselves and affect the entire school district.

Teachers are leaving TPS and other urban districts throughout the United States in record numbers. No one, it seems, wants to teach anymore. Even fewer people want to teach in public schools despite the Toledo Public Schools board raising teacher salaries significantly a couple of years ago.

At the same time, education departments in universities across the country are experiencing declining enrollments as aspiring educators are choosing other professions. This situation hits urban schools hard as fewer than 10 percent of public-school teachers today are Black when cultural competence is an indispensable teaching requirement.

In addition to the soaring rates of mental health challenges among students, conservative politicians' policing of educational content, choosing what teachers can or cannot teach, is also driving away teachers.

COVID, poor working conditions, excessive workload (paperwork, class size), and burnout have also led to the current teacher shortage.

So, in addition to addressing the impact of student trauma on student achievement, school districts must develop effective teacher retention strategies.

Several solutions are being discussed.

Some have recommended allowing parents to become substitute teachers of their own and others' children. This policy was the core strategy begun under Head Start and made the program extremely successful.

Others suggest that private sector firms loan employees to the school district for a period of time while returning to their private-sector jobs after their teaching stint has ended.

However, a more popular strategy is that of a partnership between local government and TPS. Under this scenario, the City of Toledo, Lucas County or both would provide employees paid leave for a few days per month to

become substitute teachers to close the teacher deficit.

Nevertheless, the post-traumatic experience of urban students will forever change the current public education model.

Parents and students must now look outside their schools to ensure the best possible education given the realities of urban life and our nation's abiding racial inequities. Therefore, TPS must provide ways to promote the mental health of their students. In addition, Toledo and Lucas County must heavily invest in effective youth-centered community programs such as mentoring and other interventions that improve academic and social-emotional learning.

Finally, parents and churches must, themselves, fill the learning void being created by the so-called CRT controversy. Children cannot be stopped from learning about "the strength, strategy, and organization of the Civil Rights, Black Power, Black Panther, or Black Lives Matter Movements," even if not part of the school curriculum. Neither can parental lectures or pastoral sermons be prohibited from teaching about the contributions of Black Americans or the trauma of our nation's long and conflicted history of race, class and space.

Failure to address the impact of student trauma on student achievement and develop effective teacher retention strategies will rob our children of promising opportunities and brilliant possibilities. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

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Communication Conversation about Citizen and Law Enforcement Interactions

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Local community organizations collaborated to facilitate a webinar conversation on Sunday, February 20 starting at 5:00 p.m. The virtual event was entitled, "S.A.F.E. Encounters, Sound Advice for Effective Encounter," and featured Maurice Morris, Angel Tucker and Chris Byrd.

The webinar training was convened by: National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club (NANBPWC) of Maumee Bay, National Association of Negro Business Professional Women's Club (NANBPWC) of Toledo, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa (NSPDK) the Beta Gamma Chapter, Pathway for Successful Leadership (PSL), and Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) Toledo Chapter.

The program opened with welcome remarks delivered by Tyra Smith, the president of NANBPWC Toledo Club and the founder and CEO of Pathway for Successful Leadership. Kanise Winfree of PSL shared the information logistics and panelist introductions and Rozanae Arrington of PSL presented the event purpose and panelist introductions, and Zonta'e Moore Jr of PSL offered a prayer.

"God bless us and protect us. Thank you for a new chapter. Thank you for another year God, keep us safe in our cars and school God."

Maurice Morris, who is founder of MDM Empowerment Group, an organization that focuses on educating the community about public interactions with law enforcement, was the first speaker. Morris is a native of South Carolina and has resided in Toledo for over 40 years. He's served as a police cadet with Charleston County Sheriff's Department Explorer Post and as a former Eligibility Specialist with Lucas County Job and Family Services. He joined the Lucas County Sheriff's Office in 1994, is a former Toledo Lucas County Public Library safety officer, was recently appointed to the Safe Cop Coordinator for Lucas County by the National Police Defense Foundation, and has served as the National Recruiter for Golden Badge.

Morris' presentation combined positive and negative video interactions between Black people and law enforcement. The majority of the videos were between Black men and non-Black law enforcement officers, while a few featured Black women.



Tyra Smith



Maurice Morris



Brian Byrd

"I'm in this space because it's needed for our youth and we see it across the country," he said during his opening remarks. "This is about knowing your rights and how to react when interacting with law enforcement."

The first two videos depicted a negative interaction between a young Black male who was arrested for walking in the street following a snow storm and a positive interaction between a Black male who received a free bicycle from an officer after walking to and from work for over four hours daily.

"I love it when law enforcement is engaged in our community," stated Morris.

Morris' presentation continued with two additional videos that showed a negative interaction between a Black woman who was studying in a public park and was told she had to leave because she didn't have children and a video that highlighted how Black people wanted to be treated by law enforcement officers.

"Young people know the difference between private and public property. These are some interactions that happen with law enforcement in this country and they can alter our life decisions to approach or arrest us. Officers have told me that they have walked up to citizens and asked for their identification without cause because they know that we don't have the money or resources in the Black community to push back. We want to address this locally and nationally with Golden Badge," explained Morris following the third video.

"Compile with an officer and complain later. You can ask for the officer's name and badge number, so once you survive the encounter, you can file a complaint later. These complaints are investigated by Internal Affairs. Please understand that if you're contacted by law enforcement, they can ask for your legal name and identification, but anything else you don't have to provide.

In addition to showing additional videos, Morris concluded his presentation by providing these de-escalation tips: respect personal space, use non-threatening body language, don't touch the officer, comply now and complain later, and you can record an incident as long as you don't interfere with police activities.

Brian Byrd, newly appointed City of Toledo Safety Director, was the second speaker. Byrd was appointed to the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department in 1988, promoted to lieutenant in 1992, captain in 1997, battalion chief in 2000, deputy chief in 2008 and appointed chief of Toledo Fire & Rescue Department in 2018. He continued his post-high school education at Pennsylv-

... continued on page 5

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An Educational Program for Black Children Released During Black History Month

During the month of February, which is Black History Month, Tracee Perryman, Ph.D., launched her new book titled *Elevating Futures*. *Elevating Futures* offers an after-school model that has a proven track record of generating academic and social-emotional gains among at-risk youth populations.

Black History Month is a time to bring awareness to and celebrate the achievements by African Americans and their central roles in U.S. history. Similarly, *Elevating Futures* is all about exposing students to those historical and more recent achievements in order to show them a path for overcoming barriers in their lives.

Elevating Futures creates opportunities for culturally responsive learning, exploration and discussion. Through affirmation, engagement, and alignment with Common Core Standards, the model closes achievement gaps for students of color in urban communities, where educational disparities are most common.

"The key to closing achievement gaps is closing opportunity gaps. As a result of the pandemic, Black children experienced nearly double the amount of learning loss when compared to children of other ethnic/cultural groups. The pandemic has illuminated the need for solutions. *Elevating Futures* equips educators and youth development workers with the skills to ensure that every child receives access to a high quality, loving learning community that truly acknowledges and embraces them. *Elevating Futures* expands upon traditional tutoring models by not only teaching academic skills but rooting the acquisition of those skills in experiences that engage, touch, and motivate," said Tracee Perryman, Ph.D. and CEO and cofounder of Center of Hope Family Services.

James L. Moore III, Ph.D., Vice Provost of Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at The Ohio State University notes that the time is right for *Elevating Futures*.

"This book arrives with our nation in a fragile state," Moore said. "A global pandemic has lifted the veil from our eyes as society begins to view the gap between the haves and have nots reaching epic proportions. As nearly every educator in America can tell you, the poorest and least equipped students are falling farther behind as they navigate new technological hurdles and uncertain schedules. As society seeks better answers on how to bring greater equity to American classrooms – particularly when it comes to educating vulnerable, Black children – Dr. Perryman has arrived in the nick of time with a child-centered, culturally competent, research-centered program to lift up those in need."

In *Elevating Futures*, Perryman guides educators, school administrators, and social service program operators through her ELEVATE! Program's detailed lesson plan, which provide a road map to engage children's creativity, to teach children how to lift themselves and each other up, and to build community and harmony while providing continual motivation



Tracee Perryman, Ph.D

through music and affirmations.

"I believe that those individuals – teachers, school counselors, after-school professionals, etc., who come into daily contact with Black children will find this book useful and enriching. Thanks Dr. Perryman for gifting the education community with this precious resource," said Moore.

Communication Conversation... continued from page 4

vania State University, the University of Toledo, Owens Community College and the National Fire Academy. Byrd is a member of the Salvation Army's Advisory Board and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio's Board of Directors.

"I greatly appreciate the information that was presented by Mr. Morris," shared Byrd during opening remarks. "I'm not a law enforcement officer but what I can speak about are the choices that our youngsters are making. We should know who our children's acquaintances are, youth should know who their friends are. Be aware of who you're hanging out with before you get into a car with them. Whether you're innocent or not, you could be guilty by association. I'm not saying that you shouldn't have friends but be aware of their behavior."

Angel Tucker, newly appointed City of Toledo Assistant Safety Director, was the third speaker. Tucker was the first African-American police officer in the City of Oregon Police Division, worked to increase recruitment of more diverse candidates for first responders, was instrumental in facilitating a code of conduct agreement between Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the City of Oregon, and brokered a relationship between the LCSO, Mercy Health Partners and Promedica during his work with DART. Tucker is also a national presenter and author.

"I echo what Mr. Morris has said but I want to address the other end of the spectrum. Mr. Morris laid the foundation of what our children should do, which is sad that we need to have that conversation because officers need to be trained too. Officers need to be trained on how to deal with our children which we deal with through a training called Tactical Communication. I train officers about hidden rules and language of communities that they serve because what is respectful to me may not be respectful to you. I've travelled the country training officers and when we're done with the training, the officers have a different outlook. We need more trainings like what Mr. Morris is doing, but we also need to follow-up about what law enforcement is learning too," explained Tucker.

The program continued with a question and answer session that was facilitated by Jacqueline Quinn of NSPDK Beta Gamma Chapter. The panelists were invited to respond to audience submitted questions. Arlene Ford-Bond served as the event facilitator and closing remarks were delivered by Mary Reed, president of Toledo's TLOD.

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Bryan B. Blair Selected Rockets' Director of Athletics

Special to The Truth

The University of Toledo has selected Bryan B. Blair, the chief operating officer and deputy director of athletics at Washington State University, as the Rockets' new Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Director of Athletics. Blair will begin at UToledo on May 1, following current athletic director Mike O'Brien's retirement after leading the University's athletic program for an unprecedented 20 years.

"Bryan brings a wealth of experience to this role, from strategic planning to budgeting to diversity and inclusion to academic success initiatives," UToledo President Gregory Postel said. "I'm excited to see what he will do, working with our outstanding coaches and athletic staff, to lift our Rockets to even greater heights."

Currently, Blair leads the team of sport administrators responsible for day-to-day oversight of Washington State's 17 varsity sports programs as well as overseeing several departmental units focused on student-athlete success. Among his responsibilities is managing the university's Nike contract, serving as the chief diversity officer in athletics, and overseeing the development and execution of WSU's athletic strategic plan.

While in his current role, the Cougars have excelled on and off the court, competing for NCAA championships, setting cumulative GPA records, doubling yearly fundraising to more than \$30 million, and securing 50 of the top 70 largest gifts in WSU athletic history.

"I want to thank Dr. Postel for entrusting me to lead our athletic program as we build upon the established success within UToledo Athletics," Blair said. "This department has a storied history and immense potential to grow, creating an even more vibrant campus and sense of

community. When you combine that foundation with Dr. Postel's visionary leadership and the thriving city of Toledo, it creates an exciting environment to positively impact the lives of student-athletes and for our department to reach unprecedented heights, together. As a former student-athlete, I know the power of sports firsthand. College athletics has the ability to educate, transform lives and unite in a way that little else does. My family and I look forward to joining the Toledo community."



Bryan Blair

Prior to WSU, Blair was the senior associate athletic director at Rice University. While at Rice, he served as a member of the athletics department's senior leadership team, while overseeing sports medicine, strength and conditioning, sports nutrition, compliance, and seven of the department's 16 NCAA Division I sports programs. In addition, Blair served as the advisor for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), and helped secure a multimillion-dollar partnership, one of the largest in Rice Athletics history.

Prior to his time at Rice, Blair worked at the University of South Carolina and at the NCAA.

A rising star in intercollegiate athletics, he has been selected to serve on the National Sports Forum's Steering Committee and the Board of Directors for the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association.

He holds a law degree from the University of South Carolina and completed his undergraduate studies at Wofford College, where he was a Division I football student-athlete.

Blair and his wife, Jenna, have two children, Brielle and Beau.

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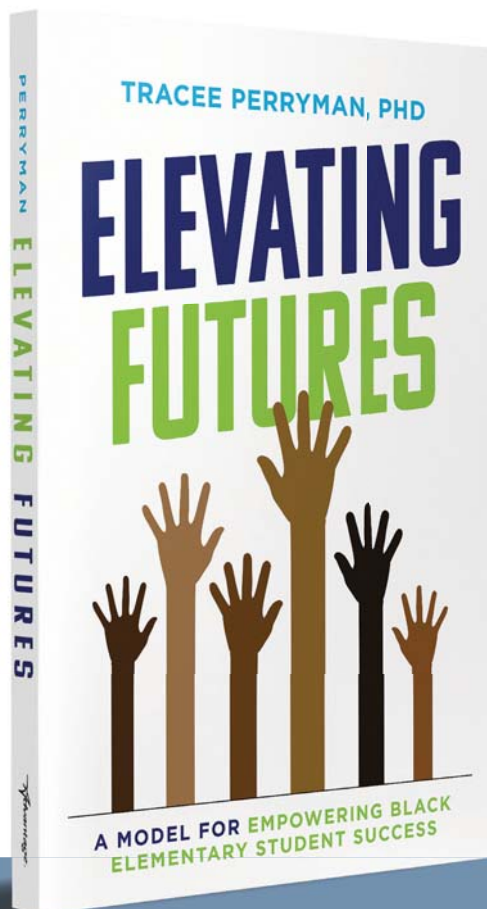
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Pathway Inc. Brothers United: Serving Generations, Creating Legacies

Meet Mr. Haynes and his Father, Mr. Evans

By Mariah Maddox, Brothers United

Guest Column

It's no doubt that Brothers United has the mission to serve fathers and families with the intent to create more well-rounded homes within Lucas County. Every once in a while, we come across a story such as that of Mr. Demitrius Haynes and his father, Mr. Michael Evans.

Mr. Haynes initially participated in the Brothers United program in 2018 and then returned again in 2021 to complete Brothers United Healthy Start. The original time he joined, he was approached by a Staff member at Jobs and Family Services. At that time in his life, he needed help and the program sounded interesting, so he signed up. At that time, he had a four-year-old daughter and wanted to join to learn more about Fatherhood and how to deal with his negative co-parenting relationship at the time. Mr. Haynes stated he and his co-parent were having problems and they didn't have a good relationship at all.

"At first, I didn't even know how to communicate with my co-parent, let alone even get her in a comfortable state to get visitation rights."

After going through Brothers United the first time, Mr. Haynes took what he learned from the program and built a healthy relationship with his co-parent. Now, they communicate regularly and even have a verbal agreement between themselves for visitation.

In 2021, Mr. Haynes rejoined the program, stating that the success that occurred the first time led him to coming back once he had his youngest child.

"I got a better understanding of things because the first time, I was really just trying to figure things out. Now, I understand things that need to happen. I'm like a top-notch father. Me and my co-parent were just talking about this. Now that we're actually talking and got an understanding with each other, she told me she knows that I will never put my daughter in harm's way. I learned from my father not being there because I always wanted my parents around. I just try to set that by example and make sure I'm there."

It was 2022 when Mr. Haynes' father joined the Brothers United Program, just months after Mr. Haynes completed for the second time.

Mr. Evans had no idea of Brothers United or his son's involvement until he was walking past Bobby Howards and saw a poster of a gentleman putting a bowtie around his son's neck. He later on asked his son about the program, who told him that it was a great Fatherhood program. Since Mr. Evans was sitting around the house with nothing to do, due to the COVID pandemic, he decided to join. He stated that the program was an awesome opportunity for him as a Father.

Mr. Haynes described his relationship with his father as rocky at first. *"I ain't really get a real understanding of my father until I was 19. When I had my oldest is when a change developed in my relationship with my father. By the time I had my oldest, he had another child and he always felt bad for not being able to be there for me. Now that I was grown, it made it easier for me to actually want to be around him because I didn't have to force people to bring me to him. Now it was up to me if I wanted to be around him. That's my best friend for real."*

Mr. Evans always wanted to be a better father than his father was to him. He shared that even though his father was present, he wasn't active in his life.

"I had to take all my pains and all my mistakes and apply that to my kids and just turn everything around. Just be a better supportive father and try to keep everything together and be here for the grandkids. I think one mess up that I noticed was I never had my own place so with staying with people, there comes with rules and boundaries. But now that I have my own place, it's a lot freer. I can be me, my kids can be them because I expect them to be able to come and relax, come and be able to spend time with their children and have that peace of mind."

Mr. Evans now feels that after the Brothers United program, he understands how to communicate more effectively, and that has helped strengthen his relationship with his children.

"We get to a deeper surface and communicate in a better atmosphere with a better attitude, just respecting each other to a whole different level. I want them to be able to open up if they're going through things. Know that they can come to me, we can deal with it together and know they're not in this by themselves."

Mr. Haynes and Mr. Evans both benefited from the Brothers United program and now have that as part of their stories as something they accomplished together.

Mr. Haynes advises all fathers to go through the program because it helps men to understand their co-parents better.

"It's not just even about us being a father. Becoming a dad is so easy. Becoming a father is a whole different step because at that time you will know it's not just about you. A lot of people think it's all about them and their child. It's really about all of them working together for that child."



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Magnify the Lord with Us!

Lester and Vera Haynes were married Sunday, February 27, 1972. They are members of St. Mark Baptist Church. Lester is a 50-year alumnus of Arkansas AM & N College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He did further studies at the University of Toledo. Lester is a 1985 graduate of Chrysler Jeep Millwright Apprentice Program.

Vera is a 50-year alumna of Henderson State College, now Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She is a 1975 graduate of St Charles Hospital of Medical Technology, Oregon Ohio. Vera is a 1985 Ashland Theological Seminary graduate with further studies at Healing Care Ministries, Ashland, Ohio under the leadership of Dr. Terry Wardle.

Lester and Vera are parents of two daughters: Leslie Bailey, a member of Highland Park Baptist Church; Southfield, Michigan. She is a graduate of The University of Toledo and Spring Arbor University.

Their daughter, Venice Haynes Green, is a member of Body of Christ Fellowship and a graduate of Bluffton College now University and Bowling Green State University.

They have three grandchildren: Joy Green, a sophomore at Toledo Early College High School; Lily Poole, a fourth grader at Pembroke Elementary School, Troy, Michigan; Zoe Green a second grader at Grove Pattern Academy.

They have one grand cat, a male, Corey who found his way back to his Southfield, Michigan home after going missing for 36 hours. To God be glory!!!



Wilberforce University Seniors Represent at the NBA All Star Game

Special to The Truth

When E'taja Thompson, Wilberforce University, '22 says basketball is in her blood – she is speaking figuratively, of course. But if you stretch your imagination, her declaration about her love for the game could be taken literally.

E'taja, a small forward on the WU women's team, was introduced to the game at age three, when her mom, Tanya Ford-Baker, tossed a basketball to her for the first time. No stranger to the game, Ford-Baker saw plenty of roundball action as a member of the Trotwood Madison

High School girls' team in the early 90s. And years later, E'taja's older brother Eric Thompson would develop skills that have now taken him to play professionally in eastern Europe.

But now, it's E'taja's turn to move into the next level of basketball. The senior business marketing major spent the weekend of February 18 – 20 working with the NBA at the All Star game in Cleveland, Ohio. She and WU senior LaDarryl Hardy have been selected to represent Wilberforce at the NBA's All Star Game college internship camp. For three days, they experienced what it's like to move about the business end of professional basketball.

"I hope to connect with some of the players," she said before the weekend. "I also want to see how things operate on a day to day basis."

When applying for the internship, LaDarryl and E'Taja were asked to explain why they were interested in being part of the professional basketball weekend. For her, the response was easy. "Since I am an athlete, I want to know what happens once a basketball career is over, and still be connected to the game in some way."

She said she noticed how Trotwood High School (Trotwood, OH) and University of Dayton basketball star Chris Wright favored his connections after leaving the NBA to become an entrepreneur.

As a Trotwood grad, she wants to emulate Wright's pattern to carve her career path after college. In the meantime, this weekend will play an important role in how she moves forward after the Wilberforce commencement in May.

"I would have never imagined this would happen. This is a dream come true and I'm blessed to have this opportunity."



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E'taja Thompson

Americans' Recognition of Racism's Impacts is Fading

Special to The Truth

In the summer of 2020 when calls for racial justice and the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 were on full display, some speculated that the country seemed to be at a turning point for acknowledging how much racism affects people's health and economic well-being.

However, a new national survey from the non-profit RAND Corporation reveals that despite the public outcry and mounting evidence that racism and the pandemic are contributing to disparities between people of color and White people, the public's recognition of racial inequities and the impacts of systemic racism is fading. Indeed, in July 2020, 61.1% of respondents agreed that people of color face more of the health impact of COVID-19 than White people, and 57.5% agreed that they face more of the financial impact. More than a year later, these numbers have dropped to 52.7% and 50.3%, respectively.

The data suggest that there has not been a seismic shift or enduring change in perception.

"We conducted this survey because we wanted to see whether living through a once-in-a-century global pandemic would spur a shift in deep-seated perspectives and attitudes around health, systemic racism, and equity," Anita Chandra, vice president and senior policy researcher at RAND Corporation, said. "We found that views around race and racism appear to be extremely entrenched. Moving forward, policies and actions that seek to address these issues must factor in where the public is and what needs to happen for these sentiments to evolve."

As legislators around the country convene to tackle the pandemic and build their priorities for 2022, researchers say these findings must be top of mind as they work to make change. The good news is that of the same people surveyed about their views on race and health, most see the pandemic as a moment for positive change. Changes people hope to see include:

- improving access to health care (25.3%),
- prioritizing science in policy decisions (11.7%),
- protecting our freedom (11.1%), and
- increasing flexibility in how we all work (10.9%), among others.

And legislators can often look in their own backyards for inspiration. There is so much work being done at the community level to undo the impacts of racism and rebuild a more equitable society that are worth recognizing and learning from. For example, over the past few years, more than 200 cities, counties, and leaders declared racism a public health crisis. Researchers say that this is an important step that can lead to efforts for real, lasting change centered on equity. We are already seeing this play out in some settings, from statehouses to city halls, where health equity is driv-

ing policy decisions.

To read more about "COVID-19 and the Experiences of Populations at Greater Risk" survey findings, visit rwjf.org/covidsurvey.

To read more about communities working to center equity to improve the health of everyone, visit rwjf.org/prize.

With more than two-thirds of respondents believing the pandemic presents a moment for positive change, researchers say that while there's work to be done, there are also reasons to be hopeful.

Courtesy StatePoint

Black History, Black Print and You

By John E. Warren, PhD, Publisher, The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint Guest Column

Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the work he left behind certainly makes the case today for the study of Black History. Without his work most of us would not know who we are or how many things we have done to contribute not only to this nation but also to mankind. For 195 years, the Black Press has been a guardian and transmitter of our history. When it was against the law to teach a slave to read and write, the Black Press was already telling our story to those who could read or just listen as others read to them.

Oh, how far we have come. Today we have the freedom to read, but too few of us are reading. Social media and its abbreviated written language, along with television and the internet, have replaced our desire too often to even open a book. But now, more than ever, is the time to once again add reading to learning and following our history in the making. The Black Press not only carries our history and stories, continuing the work of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, but our press has extended our stories to the digital world providing news and facts that we can rely on coming from our "trusted messengers". But none of this works if we don't take the time to embrace, read and digest the written story of our past and present, as told by us.

... continued on page 12

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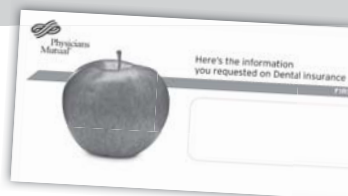
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NAACP... continued from page 16

Toledo Community Coalition.

Rev. Williams served as president of the Toledo Branch NAACP (1985-1990) & 1ST Vice Pres., Ohio conference of branches of the NAACP (1990-1991) and also Board President of the Lucas County Children Services Broad of Directors for six years and many other community boards and commissions. Rev. Williams is the currently serving as the 1st vice president, Interdenominational Alliance of Toledo & Vicinity.

Rev. Williams is the founder and senior pastor of the Search-lite Community Church, Maumee, OH. He previously served in the capacity of associate pastor of the Southern Missionary Baptist Church, Toledo.

A former assistant Lucas County prosecutor who afterwards had a long-time private practice, Judge McConnell has served on many boards during his career including president of the Toledo Legal Aid Society, Trustee of the University of Toledo Foundation, United Way Trustee, Mid-American Bank (Westgate Branch Board member), Toledo Greater Urban League, Pro-Medica Board of Toledo and Flower Hospital Children's Foundation, Frederick Douglas Community Center and the Toledo Symphony Board..

Judge McConnell served as chairman of the Toledo Regional Workmen's Compensation Board from 1986-1988. In 1995 he was appointed to Toledo City Council and was elected to Council during the same year. On City Council he served as president pro-tem and chairman of the Finance Committee.

He was elected judge of the Toledo Housing and Environmental Court in 1999 and implemented many programs that have enabled homeowners to bring their properties into compliance with the Housing and Health Codes in the City of Toledo.



Judge C. Alan McConnell

Theresa M. Gabriel's vocation has been a lifetime of service not just with the City of Toledo but also as a volunteer both locally and nationally.

Theresa M. Gabriel has over 20 years of business experience and over 30 years of experience working with organized labor CBTU, AFSCME Local 7, and AFSCME 2058. She has nearly 60 years of experience working with community service organizations on local, state, regional, and national levels. In addition,

Gabriel has over 45 years of public sector experience which included positions with the City of Toledo as: Commissioner – Division of Streets, Bridges, and Harbor; Director – Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry; Clerk of Courts - Toledo Municipal Court; Director – Department of Human Resources; Assistant Chief of Staff / Office of the Mayor.

She has also served on City Council – elected as an At-Large member in 2013 – until she resigned in 2017 to join the Board of Elections.

WilliAnn Moore served 10 years as president of Toledo Local 3204 NAACP; 3rd VP. 10 years and on the Executive Committee for 28 years. She has been the Ohio NAACP State Education Chair and on the Ohio State Conference Executive Committee for 28 years. She has been the State Conference Assistant Treasurer for five years.

Moore was awarded the NAACP 99th Convention Benjamin L Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award. Mrs. Moore co-chaired the UT's President's Committee for Active Recruitment and



Theresa M. Gabriel



WilliAnn Moore

Retention of African American Medical Students for 20 years.

She was the first female Housing Developer in Toledo and established the WilliAnn Moore Foundation at UTMCO. She helped establish ONYX Community Development Corp and headed Toledo Homes and Imani Circle LLC., bringing over \$20 million into a 2.5 mile radius in the central city.

Ray Wood was a longtime UAW member and leader. He rose through the leadership ranks until he succeeded Local 14 President Oscar Bunch upon his retirement in December 2006. Ray served as president of UAW Local 14 for over 10 years until his retirement in 2017.

In 2013 Wood was elected president of the Toledo Branch NAACP. Prior to the presidency, he served as first vice president for four years

Wood has always been a soldier for labor and the same holds true in his spiritual life. He serves as a deacon at United Vision Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Perry Harris III, where he is an avid teacher of the Gospel!

He serves on numerous boards in the community including, Toledo Community Coalition, Black and Brown Unity Coalition, IMA, Toledo Urban Federal Credit, just to name a few.

The NAACP is known for its rich history not just during the month of February but year around. According to Rev. Perryman, "during Black History, we often think of individuals like Thurgood Marshall and Fanny Lou Hamer, while their contributions were great, we have members of our community right here in Toledo whose contributions have been equally great."

For more information contact President Willie Perryman, DMin, at 419-450-790



Ray Wood

Black History... continued from page 11

Our newspapers have survived because of "us" and not because of the large ad accounts we never had. We never had the large grocery store, department stores and automobile dealership accounts. We never had the large newsrooms, printing presses and classifieds accounts that made white papers rich. But we continued to tell our story with the help of so many of us who volunteered services and time to share our stories with those among us.

This Black History Month is probably one of the most important in our history. We are under attack as Jim Crow racism moves on voter suppression in the form of reducing voting sites and equipment, and replacing true election officials with those who have bought The Big Lie that Trump is still President. We must speak truth to power as we remind our brothers and sisters of the racism of voter denial, the counting of jelly beans in a jar as permission to vote, and the push for what White Conservatives are calling "Critical Race Theory" as a means of re-writing our history without racism and lynchings which they imposed upon us.

If they pass laws to restrict our voting, then we, as the Black Press and Media, must use "Print" and "electronic" means to remind us of why history says we can't allow those with such practices to stop us. We must ignite the perseverance of our history to rise in numbers above the challenges being placed before us. We must become so laser focused that our lives and the lives of those who agree with us outnumber our opponents. President Biden is only a symbol of what we are struggling for: to keep America an inclusive democracy. It's up to us to reignite the spirit and faith of our fathers that brought us this far so that we don't lose ground. It comes down to "Our History, Our Print and You". We must write our story, today which will be our history tomorrow, and we must make sure that we are included in telling our own stories.

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Books for Kids for Black History Month

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The people you love are very special to you.

They keep you safe and warm, make sure you aren't hungry, they teach you fun things to know, and they share stories. So why not ask for these great stories from history....?

c.2022
various publishers
\$17.99 - \$18.99
various page counts

If you had a plate full of your favorite thing to eat, would you share it? In *Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Random House, \$18.99), you'll read about Gilmore, whose resourcefulness in the face of racism helped finance a small part of the Civil Rights Movement.

When Rosa Parks was arrested for a quiet act that launched a movement, Gilmore was working as a cook at a restaurant. She participated in the bus boycott, but she also felt that she could do more – and so she bravely began to collect money, quietly, right in front of the very people who could arrest her, too. For kids ages five-to-seven, this is a great introduction to this unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement.

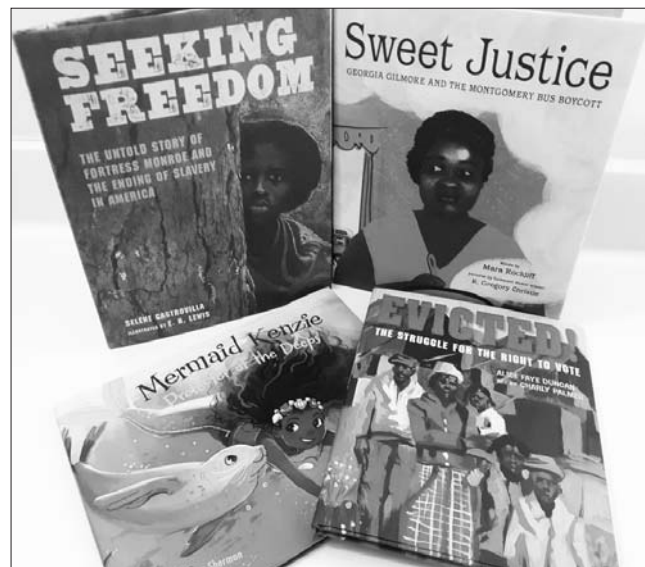
For children who want to know more individual stories of slavery, *Seeking Freedom: The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America* by Selene Catrovilla, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Calkins Creek Books, \$18.99) is a book to find. It's the true story of a man, an escaped slave, who played a silent but important part in the Civil War, the defeat of the Confederacy, and the end of slavery. Also for kids ages five-to-seven, this is an exciting tale and a great discussion-starter.

Slightly older children who have been following along with today's news will enjoy *Evicted! The Struggle for the Right to Vote* by Alice Faye Duncan, art by Charly Palmer (Calkins Creek,

\$18.99). It's a story of the early years of Jim Crow, when sharecroppers could kick a family off their farm merely because the adults wished to register to vote. White shopkeepers wouldn't do business with them anymore, either, leaving them with few options. This book explains what those sharecroppers had to do to cast their ballots. Duncan tells individual tales, placing them inside a larger narrative so that kids ages seven-to-12 will understand why voting is a precious right.

And finally, for the three-to-five year old who loves a good fable, *Mermaid Kenzie, Protector of the Deeps* by Charlotte Watson Sherman, illustrated by Geneva Bowers (Boyd's Mills Press, \$17.99), is a book they'll love. Mermaids are a big part of African folklore, and this cute book tells the story of a young girl who loves to swim and to pretend that she protects everything in the sea. Imagine what happens when she learns that she really can help her underwater friends and the home in which they live...

If your child craves more or different Black history books, or if you've got an older child who needs a good book, be sure to ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. They've got millions of ideas at their fingertips, including these special books.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROGRAM OF PROJECTS
TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (TARTA)
5307 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Total Funds Available for 2021 Capital Projects, Section 5307:
\$6,020,347 after split
(does not include the allocations of Sections 5339)

Activity	Fed Share	Total Price
Preventive Maintenance	\$2,177,431	\$2,721,789
Vehicle Replacement	\$1,942,712	\$2,428,390
Farebox	\$1,360,000	\$1,700,000
Communications System	\$480,000	\$600,000
Signage	\$60,204	\$75,255
Total Section 5307 funded items	\$6,020,347	\$7,525,434

Written public comment on the proposed Program of Projects will be accepted by the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority until the close of business on March 18, 2022. All comments shall be addressed to:

Laura Koprowski, CEO
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
P.O. Box 792
Toledo, Ohio 43697-0792

Comments received by the closing date will be considered in preparing and carrying out the program. An opportunity for a public hearing will be afforded if requested in the comments.

This program will become final and will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration on completion of the public participation process unless amended by the action of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.

**Laura Koprowski, CEO
TARTA**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHILD CARE RESOURCE
& REFERRAL**

Full-time position for an Assistant Director in the childcare resource and referral department located in Toledo OH. This position will assist the director with managing daily operations, grant deliverables, and administrative functions of the department. This position requires coordinating and implementing special projects including marketing, consumer education and training, preparing special reports and managing assigned grant projects.

Qualified candidates must have a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Human Services or related field and at least two years supervisory experience, preferably in a licensed childcare program. **Strong grant and report writing skills required.** Excellent written and verbal communication, knowledge of childcare providers, ability to supervise staff and manage multi-complex projects is also required. Must meet Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services trainer requirements. Must be willing to travel. Salary: \$56,160, full benefits available.

Submit resume to admin@ywcanwo.org

RFQ ADVERTISEMENT INQUIRY #FY22-33

HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS CLINICAL SPACE STUDY

The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Health Science Campus Clinical Space Study. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, ATTN: Lise Konecny, RFQ FY22-33, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43606. DATE: Monday, February 28, 2022, TIME: 2:00 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to Robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/> or email lise.konecny@utoledo.edu. Please reference Inquiry #FY22-33 on the outside of envelope and include three (3) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the SF330 Form with your response.



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The Lucas County Land Bank is looking for a hard-working and capable Field Technician to join our team! The Field Technician provides inspection, estimating, construction, and property maintenance support for properties (including abandoned buildings and vacant lots) that the Land Bank is inspecting, acquiring, owning, developing, or selling.

Annual salary of \$45,000 - \$55,000, depending on experience. Very generous benefits, including complete health care coverage, significant paid time off, retirement plan with competitive employer match, and company-provided vehicle. Position open until filled.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 11 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated 800 properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and increased the value of tens of thousands of properties in our community.

To learn more and to apply, visit lucascountylandbank.org/about/jobs

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Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL), a public library that inspires lifelong learning and provides universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment, seeks a positive applicant with a curious mind to provide library services and programming for children of all ages. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library (toledolibrary.org) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

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Project #1130-21-242

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Lucas County

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Contract

General Contract

Estimated Cost

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Pre-bid Meeting: February 22, 2022, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for February 22, 2022 immediately following Pre-bid meeting. Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Tony Malik, Architecture by Design; Phone: 419-824-3311; E-mail: tmalik@architecturebydesign.net

Five Ways to Help Young People Cope after A Traumatic Experience

By Diana Patton

Special to The Truth

A 10-year old beautiful girl was recently shot and died after a drive-by shooting in Toledo Ohio. This disturbed me to my core, and I thought, "what if that were my baby girl." I couldn't stop thinking about her mom.

I also began to think about the sixth grade girls that I mentor at the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls and I wondered "how are they dealing with this?"

So, the University Talented Aspiring Women Leaders (TAWL) and I decided to bring it up as one of our Head Full of Dreams topics, and I'm so glad we did. The girls really opened up. One young girl was even related to the girl that was shot. My heart just swelled up!

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), "More than two thirds of children reported at least 1 traumatic event by age 16"

How can we help our young people cope after a traumatic event?

I remember being a 12-year-old girl - swirling in negative, unhealthy, and abusive spaces, really wanting to share my feelings with someone, but not knowing who I could trust. There weren't many adults I could relate to.

Now, as a grown Black woman with several lived experiences with abuse and discrimination, as a social justice advocate, former civil rights attorney, and recent survivor of clinical depression and anxiety after George Floyd's was murdered, I want to share the five ways I help young people cope after traumatic experiences ... especially young Black girls because I'm always thinking about what it was like for me when I was that age.

I am confident these tips can help you:

1. Be a Person They Can Trust. Don't expect to get young people to trust you when you haven't created a consistently loving relationship that's based in trust.

2. Create a Safe and Trusting Environment to Talk. When trying to connect, make sure the environment is soothing, comforting and in a place where you can

openly share and feel safe. Talk about the issue, don't dance around it. Ask open-ended questions.

3. Learn the Art of Sharing Your Story to Create Engagement:

Open up and be vulnerable. Share your story but don't occupy the stage and be the center of attention. Share your story to be relatable.

4. Listen and Resist Fixing or Judging What they Say: Get out of the "I have all the answers" mode and just listen. Do not say "oh, well, this is what you should do, or how you should think," or, "according to my neuro-linguistic practitioner or therapy training, you are experiencing ..." NO, please stop. Just listen!

5. Be a Consistent Source of Hope to Yourself First, then Spread it. Show up for yourself first, and draw from your own well of HOPE. Then, you'll have an aura of hope and it will be felt, right when you walk into a room. Focus on "Helping One Person Everyday" - by Chris Winfield and Jen Gottlieb.

Be a blessing and do GOOD WORK!

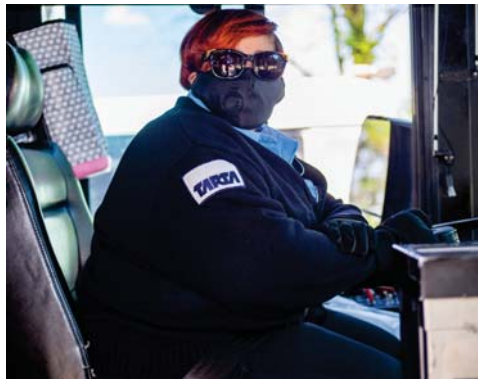
Give back.

Serve your community.

Love unconditionally!

For more inspiration, encouragement and tips to help professional women overcome challenges, adversities and trauma, to activate their voice, and advocate for themselves, for others, and for diversity, equity and inclusion, connect with Diana!

Contact Diana Patton at diana@dianarpatton.com



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TAKING YOU PLACES

NAACP Toledo Branch Honors Past Presidents of the Branch in Recognition of Black History Month

By Anita Madison, NAACP Toledo Branch

Special to The Truth

In recognition of Black History Month, the Toledo Branch NAACP recognized six individuals for their accomplishments and dedication to the community, specifically, for their commitment and service as past presidents of the Toledo Branch NAACP.

Guests gathered in the Mott Branch Library on Dorr St. to witness this historic event which began with the history of the NAACP being formed in 1909 as a result of lynching in Springfield, Illinois. The Toledo Branch is the third oldest branch being formed in 1915.

As honorees were called upon to receive their recognition plaque, each had a different focus on their perspective presidencies, but there was a common theme of pride in being recognized by "their own."

Current President Willie Perryman, Jr., D.Min, recognized each honoree from the earliest serving past president, Bishop Robert Culp, to the most recent past president, Ray Wood. Serving in between those two were Rev. Le Roy Williams, Judge C. Allen McConnell, Theresa M. Gabriel and WilliAnn Moore.

The seven presidents – six past and one current – are part of an historic landscape that began with the chapter's first president, Benjamin Fisher, who served from 1915 to 1921. Some of the luminaries who led the local chapter over the past 106 years include Albertus Brown (1922-23); Robert Franklin, Jr. Esq (1952-53); J. Frank Troy (1960-65); Samantha Adams, PhD, (1970-72) and Floyd Rose (1972), among others.

Bishop Culp was called to be the senior pastor of First Church of God

in 1961 and, under his leadership, First Church has thrived and reached the community through several ministries including, among others, the Church's Christian School, the FACTS and FORWARD program for substance abuse and the Four Corners Project serving youth and children

Often referred to as "Toledo's Bishop," Bishop Culp has served the Toledo community in numerous capacities including: president of Covenant Community Development Corporation; founder and board chairman – Toledo Academy Charter School; founder and board member of Family House

homeless shelter; founder of Sparrow's Nest (operated by the Cherry Street Mission) and member of the founding team of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

He is currently a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Court Appointed Special Advocates and Citizen Review Board, Lucas County Fatherhood Committee, Hope for Toledo Board and is the chairman of the



Bishop Robert Culp



Rev. Le Roy Williams

... continued on page 12

celebrating

TOLEDO'S
BLACK
HISTORY



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Building Better Futures

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