



**Volume 71 No. 4**

***"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."***

**March 2, 2022**

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## **Madame Justice?**



*President Biden Fulfills a Campaign Pledge and Nominates Ketanji Brown Jackson to The Supreme Court*

# A Gaze into Chaos

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

The Truth Contributor

*We need election systems that are free from fraud, discrimination, and partisan influence and that are more, not less, accessible to the citizens of this country.*

- Eric Holder



The repeated failure of the Republican-leaning Ohio Redistricting Commission to create new legislative maps that are fairer than the current GOP gerrymandered super-majority districts has created election chaos.

Twice, the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that previous legislative maps were illegally gerrymandered to favor Republicans in violation of a constitutional amendment approved by Ohio voters.

To stave off the Court's contempt proceedings, the Commission has presented new maps that purport to create a 54-45 Republican majority in the Ohio House and an 18-15 Senate advantage. Perhaps the Commission has forestalled contempt. Still, the Supreme Court won the previous rounds.

However, there's a more significant issue. Many of the so-called "Democratic" seats are Democratic by extremely slight margins. Suppose the Supreme Court approves the latest maps. In that case, the biggest question is how effective the Democratic Party will be at winning those barely blue seats. The Republicans, with their vast financial advantage, are almost sure to retain a large majority in both houses. Moreover, the Democratic Party failed to rally its vote against Trump and his loyalists, and the base may be even more discouraged or indifferent in 2022.

Ultimately, none of the latest proposed changes to the map matter much on a national basis until the Democrats can make Ohio a swing state again. Unfortunately, the Republicans are 100 percent unified. At the same time, the Democrats are split between the old-liners and the Bernie Sanders-type candidates.

More notably, the longer the Commission takes to deliver fair maps that meet the scrutiny of the Ohio Supreme Court, the more uncertainty is created over the fate of the May 3rd primary election. Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose sounded the alarm last week in a statement to the USA Today Network Ohio Bureau. "I can foresee almost no circumstance where it is possible to conduct the district races on May 3rd," he said.

The lack of a firm date for the primary unleashes pandemonium in our local elections. The May primary will be the first-ever election at the new voting center located at 3737 W. Sylvania. The lack of clarity drastically affects early voting and the ability to send and receive military and overseas ballots on time.

Nevertheless, despite an obviously broken political system, here are my early thoughts on a few local races after peering into the chaos of this electoral uncertainty:

Ohio 9th Congressional District:

An extremely compelling race and bellwether should it end up as Marcy Kaptur vs. Theresa Gavarone (R) in the general election. Overall, history shows that the president's party is almost always foredoomed with mid-

term losses in congressional elections. Republicans are favored to win full control of Congress regardless of Biden's successful policy efforts. So, a vote for the Republican candidate in this race is for full-speed-ahead Trump policies.

The question is, are Republican and centrist or independent voters willing to buck their instincts to punish the incumbent party in a mid-term given the Trump implications? Conversely, are marginal voters of the Democratic party sufficiently energized to turn out AGAIN to battle Trump?

Lucas County Commissioners:

State Representative and former Toledo Public Schools Board member Lisa Sobecki challenged incumbent Gary Byers in an unexpected move. A recent poll among likely Democratic primary voters in Lucas County has Sobecki with a commanding lead over Byers and Michael Hood. Sobecki also has an overwhelming advantage in labor support, name recognition and campaign funds. Look for Sobecki's massive presence on television and other media while her competition settles primarily for public appearances only. The good news for Byers is that 51 percent of probable voters are still undecided in this race.

Judicial Races:

Vallie Bowman English is a candidate for Lucas County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division and will challenge Linda Knepp. Although Knepp's husband is a federal judge, English has superior name recognition, political infrastructure, and understands how to campaign against an unknown name.

Governor Mike DeWine appointed Eric Allen Marks to replace Judge Myron Duhart on Common Pleas when Duhart ascended to the Court of Appeals. Marks is a former public defender, believes in criminal justice reform, and is generally well-liked in the community and respected in the Bar Association. The Democrats didn't put up a candidate to challenge Marks in the general election, so he gets to walk in.

Lori Olender (D) defeated an incumbent Republican for the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas General Division. Olender has the name recognition and organization behind her to maintain the seat.

Note to voters: The Republicans have changed the rules in judicial elections. Party affiliation appears on the ballot for Ohio Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals races but doesn't appear on the ballot for Common Pleas or Trial Court races. This is because the GOP thinks it advantages their candidates when there's an 'R' next to their candidates running for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals but doesn't help them with trial judges. The intentional inconsistency is a precise instance of self-interest.

The Ohio Statehouse:

An African-American conservative, Joshua Williams, looks to challenge Erika White or Colin Flanagan for Ohio's 40th District. Williams, a young Black male who rose from a homeless high school dropout to an attorney, has an appealing story. Should he secure significant funding and political support from Columbus, he could be a formidable candidate in this district.

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## Community Calendar

### March 2

Celebrate Lent at Braden UMC Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm

### March 12-13

St. Paul MBC Annual Men's Day weekend; Saturday morning Kickoff drive-by take-out breakfast; 9 am; Donation \$10  
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### March 13 and April 10

Braden UMC Healing Services at 4:00pm; For more information please contact the church at 419-386-2700. Rev. Cecil J. Thompson, Pastor

# "Snitches" are Heroes!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Another devastating and needless shooting recently occurred in central Toledo when Damia Ezell, age 10, lost her life to a senseless and cruel act of gun violence.

Another hopeful and shining young star in a gun buffeted community has been blotted out due to the irrational and impulsive act of a shooter who was trying to prove his manhood and thus settle a score.

Another family and a coterie of friends are now weeping and lamenting over such a stupid loss of a productive life and yet we have people who still hold to the craven view that being a "snitch" is a community taboo.

Imagine, if you will, people who think that when they see criminal activity, that turning their heads or closing their eyes or acting like a deaf mute is admirable or is worthy of emulation.

Imagine, if you will, that some people hold to the credo that if you report on negative criminal behavior, you are "betraying" your "people" and that you are a stooge for the white man.

Imagine such ignorance and stupidity that people will sear their conscience and thus think that they are in sync with their community or that they are striking back against the "system."

But! That is what we are faced with when anyone takes it upon himself or herself to allow criminal thugs to reign and rule in their neighborhoods.

Such miscreants thrive and depend upon such foolishness to protect their evil acts and to remain hidden in shadows and who want to intimidate you to bite your tongue and accept their hellish reign in your community.

Note: being Black is not defined by aligning yourself with criminal elements in the community or your neighborhood!

Are these the numbskulls that you would look up to and have your children admire and respect?

We are not talking about jailhouse snitches who may be paid for false testimony for the promised hope of a break in their own pending criminal sentencing.

We are not talking about people who make up lies for purposes of malevolent purposes or to gain an undue advantage.

We are talking about everyday people, who know of a tip or any information that will out some thug, child molester, vandal or drug kingpin who has shown by his acts that he has no respect for you or your property.

There is no shame in reporting to the authorities, especially in an anonymous manner, the parasites and vampires that parade under the guise of being your "brotha or sista" and yet will prey upon you and commit bodily harm against you in a blink of an eye.

There should be no remorse or regret in turning in criminals who have no regard for your life or safety and will rip you off as so much as to look at you.

Are these the types of people that we want to cover or protect from their nefarious acts?

Understand, the people that hurt and harm you and steal from you and cause grandmothers, uncles, fathers, mothers and teens to go to early graves are not your friends.

They are your sworn enemies and they have declared war against you because they know that they can run up the flag of that misguided urban legend that being a snitch is a lowlife or a turncoat.

They are the lowlives. They are the ones that inflict emotional and mental anguish upon the weak and innocents.

They are the ones that hurt, harm and demean the community with their willful acts of burglaries, mayhem, vandalism, mugging and assaults and murders.

Are these the types of vermin that we should coddle and protect from being brought to justice to account for their despicable acts against you and your family members?

Never ever let the word "snitch" deter you from doing the right thing and reporting criminal activity when you see it or know of it.

Report it to Crime stoppers and know that your act of saying NO! to



Lafe Tolliver

acts of crime will benefit you and your community.

Do not give these rats any sewer to run into and hide. They have no respect for you. You are only a disposable object by which they can rip off, hurt or maim.

And they chuckle to themselves after they do their dastardly deeds because they are relying upon you being bamboozled by that stupid notion that standing up for your community and for what is decent and right is being a traitor to your community.

The good person who does that is not a "snitch" but rather is a hero.

Dear reader, do not be a fool for this type of mental tyranny. A "snitch" in time can save a life and save a lot of grief and put a human parasite behind prison bars.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com



Damia Ezell

Perryman... continued from page 2

Community activist and former TPS Board candidate Elgin Rogers is off to a fast start in the 41st District, where Daniel Ortiz has also filed. Look for Rogers to prevail in this safely Democratic district.


In the 42nd District, Toledo City Councilmen Michele Grim and Nick Komives have filed to run after just being elected to council in November. Indeed, they're not the first politicians to win a seat and jump to another, and they won't be the last to do it. While Komives has demonstrated staying power, having served for the previous eight years, Grim will have some explaining to do. I anticipate hearing how each candidate will message voter criticism during their primary faceoff.

Will the Chaos Continue?

A May 3 primary is in jeopardy but still possible for statewide and county offices where the electoral boundaries are not debated. There has been talk of having bifurcated primaries, but that would rule out a second primary until July. However, the cost to run a May primary, close it out, perform the necessary certifications, and then turn around and run a second one could exceed \$25 million statewide. The Ohio legislature is not likely to want to spend the funds.

What is certain is we need an election that reflects the political realities of our state, is accessible to the citizens and is "free from fraud, discrimination, and partisan influence." Anything less reflects the continuing chaos of our broken political system.

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



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# Biden's Supreme Court Nod to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Draws Praise

By Nyah Marshall, Howard University News Service

Special to The Truth

Americans around the country, especially legal scholars and Black women, are praising President Biden's announcement this week that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is his nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. If confirmed, Jackson would make history as the first Black woman and the first former federal public defender to ever serve as a Supreme Court justice.

"For too long, our government, our courts haven't looked like America," said the president at the White House, flanked by Vice President Kamala Harris and Judge Jackson.

"I believe that we should have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications and that will inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve our country at the highest level," he added.

Jackson, 51, currently sits on the D.C. Court of Appeals and has ample experience that proves her to be more than fitting for the appointment. She was three times confirmed by the Senate, twice unanimously, to serve on the U.S. Sentencing Commission and appointed by President Barack Obama to be on the D.C. federal district court.

In her acceptance speech today, Jackson shared that she happens to share a birthday with Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman appointed as a federal judge.

"Today, I proudly stand on Judge Motley's shoulders, sharing not only her birthday, but also her steadfast and courageous commitment to equal justice under law," Jackson said.

"Judge Motley for life and career has been a true inspiration to me,



Pres. Biden announces Brown-Jackson appointment as VP Kamala Harris looks on

as I have pursued this professional path," she explained. "And if I'm fortunate enough to be confirmed, as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, I can only hope that my life and career, my love of this country and the Constitution, and my commitment to upholding the rule of law, and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded, will inspire future generations of Americans."

"Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is an outstanding nominee," said Danielle Holley-Walker, dean and professor at the Howard University School of Law, whose alumni include Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

As Holley-Walker points out, another historic component to Jackson's background is that she has devoted the majority of her career serving the public. As a federal public defender, Jackson represented defendants on appeal who did not have the means to pay for a lawyer and worked to identify errors that occurred during their trials.

"I think one of the most important things for those of us who are interested in issues of justice and equality is that she served as a public defender, and she would not only be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, she would be the first public defender to ever serve on the Supreme Court," said Holley-Walker.

Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., in 1970 and grew up in Florida with her parents who are both graduates of HBCUs. After graduating from Harvard, Jackson clerked for three federal jurists, including retiring Justice Stephen Breyer.

... continued on page 5

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*Biden's Supreme Court... continued from page 4*

She then began representing clients in criminal and civil appellate matters at Goodwin Procter LLP, appearing before the Supreme Court in the case *McGuire v. Reilly*. In this case, she argued on behalf of Massachusetts reproductive rights groups that the state law should be upheld prohibiting anti-abortion protesters from harassing people seeking reproductive health care.

During her seven years as a district judge, Jackson issued several rulings on topics like federal environmental law, employment discrimination and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The most notable one included *Committee on the Judiciary v. McGahn*, in which she ruled that Don McGahn, the former White House counsel to President Donald Trump, was required to testify before the House Judiciary Committee as part of its investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election.

In her short tenure on the D.C. Circuit, Jackson was involved in the case against Trump's efforts to block the release of documents related to the Jan. 6 riot in the U.S. Capitol. A federal district judge in Washington rejected Trump's request to block the disclosure of the documents, and the D.C. Circuit, in an opinion by Judge Patricia Millett that Jackson joined, upheld that ruling.

Biden's announcement came nearly a month after Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement and two years to the day when Biden pledged his commitment to appoint a Black woman as a justice.

"I'm looking forward to making sure there's a Black woman on the Supreme Court to make sure we in fact get everyone represented," Biden said during the South Carolina primary in February 2020.

Biden's selection of Jackson gives him a chance to deliver on this campaign promise to Black voters, who were crucial to his election win. In fact, 86 percent of Black women voters supported prioritizing such a nomination, according to a poll by Change Research and Higher Heights for America, a political home for Black women and allies to organize collectively.

Biden met with at least three potential Supreme Court nominees, all whom are Black women, before choosing Jackson. They included Londa Kruger, who sits on the California Supreme Court, and J. Michelle Childs, who sits on the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina.

"There were lots of exceptionally qualified capable women to choose from, but Biden's selection of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson demonstrates that there's no need for America's highest court to be off limits to Black women anymore," said strategist and political commentator Donna Brazile, who is the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy at Howard University.

Jotaka Eaddy, founder of #WinWithBlackWomen (WWBW), shared similar sentiments. "With this nomination, President Biden and Vice

President Harris will once again elevate a woman, and in this case, a Black woman, to a position that has long been covered by a cement ceiling," Eaddy said in a statement. "Today that ceiling is shattered into a million pieces."

Known for making a significant impact on the historic election of the nation's first Black woman vice president, #WinWithBlackWomen also stated that it will work to "ensure that Judge Jackson receives a fair and expeditious confirmation process." WWBW is a collective of Black women leaders from public and private sectors committed to advancing and uplifting Black women, families and communities.

Though Jackson's appointment would be historic, it will not change the ideological makeup of the Supreme Court being that it still has a majority of conservative justices. Like many who support Jackson's nomination, Holley-Walker believes that this is an important moment in the history of the nation.

"We've only had seven justices in the entire history of the U.S. Supreme Court who have not been white men," Holley-Walker explained. "So, I think it's both an incredible day for our country, specifically for Black women, and also to have such a highly qualified nominee. We hope to see her confirmed in the way that is represented in terms of her credentials."

Howard law professor Alice Martin Thomas also sees Jackson as a highly qualified nominee who will be a fair judge.

"I believe she's a tenacious personality," Thomas said. "I believe she will not shrink. And she's going to have to stand up against a torrent of negativity and ugliness that we've all had to deal with. ... She is more than capable and able of doing it graciously"

"She will stand up for what's right, and she will not shrink," Thomas added. She will advance her point of view. And she'll be fair. That's all we can ask of a judge. I'm also glad she's young. She has her whole life in front of her."

Nyah Marshall is a reporter and regional bureau chief for HUNewsService.com.



Ketanji Brown Jackson

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# Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Joins Partners

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) joined several other organizations on Tuesday, February 22 to present a unified front and a collective approach to assisting local minority-owned businesses.

The TAACC helped to host a luncheon at the Metropark Glass Pavilion to launch the Northwest Ohio Business Mentoring Program and kick off the 2022 program for the business community at large. The TAACC partnered with the Women of Toledo and the Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and received support from JumpStart.

As a result of the joint effort, the organizations have recruited 22 diverse business owners in the region. Indeed any business owners at any business levels – startup, growth, mature or renewal are welcome to join the program as either mentor or mentee.

“We have had a record of success with one year of the three entities working together in some respect – that’s a major accomplishment,” said Roy Hodge, president of the TAACC.

Each organization has recruited mentors and mentees and the February 22 luncheon was held to “for the community to understand what we are trying to accomplish,” said Hodge. “The meeting also “sets the stage for another round of funding for each organization,” he added.

The groups are conducting monthly workshops, through June, for businesses. The March session will be “Bridging the Digital Divide.” This workshop is designed to assist business owners with their responsibilities in storing sensitive information about employees, customers, vendors, services and financial data necessary for the operation of their companies.

In the meantime, Said Hodge, the TAACC will continue its partnerships with the Women of Toledo, the NWO Hispanic Chamber, the Business Growth Collaborative, the Junction Coalition in support of “our flagship technology and mentoring programs.”



Roy Hodge, TAACC; Adam Salon, JumpStart; Nina Coder, Women of Toledo; Lynn Hammerstrom, NWO Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Amy Haschak, JumpStart

## Toledo Library Welcomes New Board Trustee

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) is happy to announce Kendra N. Smith, vice president of community health at Mercy Health, as the newest Library Trustee. Bringing universal access to a broad range of information is at the heart of the Library’s mission and having Kendra part of the team will further TLCPL’s reach and commitment to the community.



Kendra Smith

“It is an honor, to join the Board of the Toledo Lucas County Library. The Library has repeatedly shown itself to be a strong community partner committed to creating an atmosphere that prioritizes community need and uplifts social interaction, education, resources and services. The opportunity to support the TLCPL team, patrons and facilities is a great opportunity to continue supporting the Toledo/Lucas County community,” said Smith.

Kendra Smith received her master’s degree in Urban Studies and Community Development from Cleveland State University before moving to Chicago to work in real estate development and construction management. She found herself in Toledo after being offered a position with the Toledo Museum of Art to work on an initiative focusing on urban planning. From the Toledo Museum of Art, to ProMedica, and now to Mercy Health, Smith has built a career that supports the community and aligns with her passion of providing a better future for underserved neighborhoods.

“As an avid reader and lifelong learner, libraries have always been important to me. While I am a mostly digital user of our library’s resources, I am excited to make a stronger connection to our branches, and in person services and resources, ensuring everyone can access our library in the manner they most prefer,” said Smith.

The Truth

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# Toledo NAACP and WJUC Host Community Summit

The NAACP Toledo Unit and local radio station WJUC 107.3FM facilitated a community conversation about youth, violence, and homicides. The virtual conversations were held on February 19 and February 26. Panelists, participants and conversation listeners could voice concerns and comments via the radio station's Facebook page and live each Saturday morning.

Robert Smith, African American Legacy Project executive director, steered the conversation each week and Toledo's NAACP president and Jerusalem Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Willie Perryman opened and closed the weekly conversation.

Organizations note that both men and women of various disciplines who's change is education and experience to find strategies to address problems while supporting existing programs were invited to speak on the topics. The first week examined the root cause or causes of violence and invited panelist Brian Byrd, former Fire Chief and newly appointed City of Toledo Safety Director. Week two discussed current solutions and necessary next weeks.

The invited panelists were Romulus Durant, EdD, TPS Superintendent; and Loren Taylor, City Councilman in Oakland, California; and the following panelists participated both weeks: JoJuan Armour, City of Toledo Commissioner on Violence; Shay Bankston, social worker; and Lamore Myrick, PhD, executive director of Rhode Island Juvenile Facility.

Initial discussion asked panelists to define the program that is deemed the root cause of youth violence and homicides.

"We have the ones that are recycling through this violent process, they witness crimes of their family members and friends. If we don't reach out to them, they will keep having the same small percentage of youth going through criminal activities," said Byrd.

"The violence and homicides are a phenomenon and have become a fabric of society. Why not call it a public health crisis?," said Smith.

"I'm concerned. The need to address spiritual health is high. Violence is impacting us spiritually and physically. Violence is taking away lives and generations," said Rev. Perryman.

"Generational tendencies do play a significant part in root causes, it dates back to slavery. The black community has dealt with trauma, our young people have been traumatized and it could be pass down from generation to generation," said Bankston.

The panelists continued to debate whether youth violence should be categorized as a public health crisis. According to health and medical websites, a health crisis or public health crisis 'is complex and affects humans in one or more geographic areas, may result in death.'

Additionally, according to the National Gang Center, Cure Violence Model formally known as CeaseFire, is a broad community approach to prevent and reduce gang violence utilizing the public health model. Cure Violence model is used by the City's Violence Interrupter's program.

"Well typically public health crisis impact communities of color and communities that experience high rates of poverty. When the problem starts to drift into other areas of society, then it becomes a public health crisis, in my opinion. This isn't new, what would be new, is if we had a proactive approach to solve it, instead of doing things we know to be true to address these problems. We're not a very proactive society," said Bankston.

"To address this as a public health crisis. We (the violence interrupters) interrupt the transmission to stop the spread and change the norm," said Armour.

"When we're building trust, how we treat this is key. Let's compare how the crack epidemic verse how the heroin epidemic was addressed. If they see this treated like business as usual, the trust we need to address this won't exist," said Byrd.

"When Covid happened, it was all hands-on deck. We had lock downs, mask mandates, testing and vaccines. We're now rounding the curve to



Robert L. Smith



Romulus Durant,  
EdD



Loren Taylor

the endemic stage. We need to pour resources and the lessons learned into our community. Time is of the essence," said Dr. Myrick.

The panelists discussed current resources and solutions that exist, while naming specific community-driven action steps.

"We can't have just a one-off conversation, we need more people in the room. It is up to us to hear and do something. Everyone can and should do something. It starts in our community. Just start by saying 'hi' to kids. We need to listen to them even if you don't agree. We have to love them because these kids are our kids. Let's continue to invest in education, neighborhoods, healthcare and communities. The kids are not a means to an end," said Myrick.

"Anything that goes on in the community, we want to be a potential solution or the solution. It's all hands-on deck to make sure that these things happen, whether it's mentoring or opportunities. We want to be instrumental in the lives of our kids and the adults. When we come across a need, whether it's education, technology, remote access, etc, we address it. At the same time, we want to provide access. We have six career tech high schools that are focused on removing barriers. We, as adult, also have to have high level conversations and invest in other organizations. I sit on 10-12 boards because I want to be apart of decisions when they are made. These organizations need our presence and support, said Durant.

"Kids can see a fake. We need opportunities to hold each other accountable and platforms that provide opportunities to hold individuals accountable," said Armour.

The discussion also featured special guest Councilman Taylor of Oakland, California who discussed methods implemented by the local government to address violence.

"What happened in Oakland is deeply personal. We had to recognize that gun violence is a large problem facing and distortional impacting the black community. Gun violence is a public health crisis and we should have a public health approach. We need preventive care and primary care, we need to have different levels of care and response. We created the Department of Violence Prevention in the City of Oakland. It focused on preventing and pulling in resources like the violence interrupters, victim assistance to curb retaliation and to address the needs of the whole family," said Councilman Taylor.

"On the primary care side, we focused on reimagining public safety, we had over 140 Oakland residents and asked them how to improve public safety. Police are a tool, but not the only tool. There are mental health responders, community hospitals, schools and recreational centers. We brokered a cease fire strategy.

... continued on page 12



JoJuan Armour



Shay Bankston

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# UT Football Players Help Students Learn Life Lessons on and Off the Field

Through a partnership with the Art Tatum Zone, Toledo Museum of Art and Martin Luther King Academy For Boys, The University of Toledo football team will help young men learn the value of putting on their "armor" to face challenges in and out of the classroom.

Calvin Sweeney, PhD, president of the Art Tatum Zone also serves as the chaplain for the UT football team. He helped to coordinate the event in an effort to provide an opportunity to learn life lessons and build relationships; all while having fun. "The Art Tatum Zone exists to improve the human condition one person at a time, one family at a time, one block at a time. As an alum of UT now serving as chaplain, I am honored to make this connection to provide opportunities for children in our community, while creating a space for the team to sow into the next generation of leaders," Sweeney said.

Twenty student-athletes along with their MLK mentees visited the Toledo Museum of Art to experience the *Age of Armor: Treasures from the Higgins Armory Collection at the Worcester Museum* exhibition and then engage in a hand-on art-making project.

The group then proceeded to the Museum's Little Theater where the football players shared with the youth the importance of putting on their "armor" (football uniform and equipment) to face battles on the field and in the classroom. The event concluded with a luncheon.

"What an amazing day," said Christine Sweeney, executive director of the Art Tatum Zone. "The group finished their day with lunch and connected in such meaningful ways."

The Art Tatum Zone has plans to create many more opportunities for mentorship with the UT football team and the students of Toledo Public Schools.

"This is the beginning of something we can do the rest of this school year," noted Calvin Sweeney of the once-a-week sessions some players will have with the youth until June.



Calvin Sweeney; Javon Ringer, Football Team Director oQuality Control Director; Willie Ward, MLK Academy Principal; Terry Swanson, Football Team Director Player Development



Christine and Calvin Sweeney with Terry Swanson



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# Indiana Avenue MBC Celebrates 76th Anniversary

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Purple and white decorations welcomed congregation members and guests who attended the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church's 76th anniversary. The two Sunday celebrations were held on February 20 and February 27 using the theme, 'We Walk by Faith not by Sight,' inspired by Corinthians 5:7.

"God is good. I want to thank the Deacons for the heartfelt devotion. This is our second Sunday of our celebration. We should be excited about that. God hasn't failed us and God is here with us," shared Edwin Clayborne, Deacon-in-training during opening remarks.

Several individuals contributed to the service by presenting the church history, sharing moments in black history and personal reflections about their church membership including: Rev. John Hicklin, Wilma Brown, Ethel Scott, Mother Margureit Adams-Bills, Marcel Pringle Jr, Chelene Taylor and Amy Hancock Meredith. The services also opened with a spirit-filled devotion and selections by the choir.

"Thank you for allowing us to serve there past two Sundays," shared Clayborne.

The two-weekend celebration featured Deacon-in-training Edwin and Sister Catherine Clayborne as master and mistress of ceremonies; Rev. Aaron Murray delivered the message on February 20 and Rev. Samuel Hancock delivered the message on February 27.

Rev. Hancock delivered a message about understanding what's under your hood, however, not specifically about cars, neighborhoods or wallets. He connected the story of Jesus' conversation with the disciples when Jesus asked them to explain who he was. He later spoke about the kingdom authority.

...continued on page 12



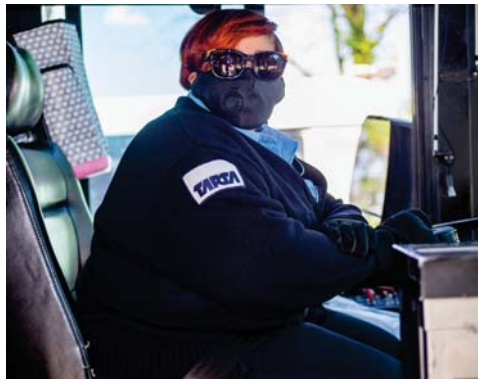
Ethel Scott, Deaconess Jacqueline Jackson, Deacon in Training Edwin Clayborne, Catherine Clayborne and Deacon Robert Jackson



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Reverend Samuel Hancock  
PhD



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# Celebrate A World of Flavors

Patrice Powers-Baker, OSU Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

The 2022 nutrition theme is "Celebrate A World of Flavors". National Nutrition Month® is an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics shares the following advice.

**Eat a variety of nutritious foods.** Include healthful foods from all five food groups for meals and snacks: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, and dairy. Learn how to read nutrition facts labels to know that you're choosing the best options of high nutrition as well as serving sizes.

**Meet with a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).** Whether you want to lose weight, lower your health-risks, or manage a chronic disease, consult the experts. Registered dietitian nutritionists can help you by providing sound, easy-to-follow personalized nutrition advice. Ask your doctor for a referral to an RDN.

**Plan your meals and snacks.** Make healthful food and drink choices when away from home. Choose healthful recipes to make during the week and use a grocery list to shop for nutritious foods.

**Celebrate a World of Flavors.** Trying foods and recipes from various cultures is one way to include different flavors into your healthy eating routine. Many cuisines offer dishes which include foods from each food group, so it's possible to plan meals that are nutritious, well-balanced, and bursting with flavor. You might be adventurous and try to make your own new recipes or visit restaurants that offer cuisines from other parts of the world.

Start your morning meal with ideas from around the world:

- A smoothie with low-fat yogurt or buttermilk and tropical fruits, like papaya or mango. Look for frozen fruit to make a smoothie. It will likely be less expensive than fresh fruit. Sometimes fresh fruit from other continents of the world is not readily available locally. Frozen and even canned fruit is one way to try new

foods in smoothie recipes.

- Za'atar is the name of a spice mixture associated with Middle Eastern recipes. Za'atar can be mixed with a little olive oil and spread on whole wheat pita bread, then topped with tomato slices, olives, cucumber, and fresh mint.

- Scottish oatmeal or bulgur with low-fat or fat-free milk or fortified soymilk with a topping of fruit and nuts or nut butter.

- Congee, a Chinese rice porridge, can be served plain or with vegetables and a protein food, such as cooked chicken, meat or fish.

- Vegetable upma, an Asian Indian dish, that can be made with semolina or rice, spiced with ginger and other seasonings.

- A Spanish omelet with potatoes and other veggies, topped with a sprinkle of cheese. Or, try an omelet filled with fried rice, known as omurice in Japan.

The following cold dish recipes from around the world do not require heating:

- Gazpacho, a type of soup served cold, which can be made with tomatoes, peppers, and onions or a mixture of those vegetables with watermelon as the base.

- Salads that include different types of produce along with whole grains, dairy, and protein foods. Many options exist, such as tuna salad made with Greek yogurt, onion, celery and whole wheat pasta.

- Spring rolls, a Vietnamese dish that's served cold with a dipping sauce and includes fresh vegetables and a protein food, such as tofu, stuffed inside thin sheets of rice paper.

Around the world, variations of foods like soups, stews and roasted foods, are hot, healthy and flavorful. Which ones have you enjoyed before?

- Munggo gisado is a stew native to the Philippines, featuring mung beans, leafy greens and seafood.

- A spicy lentil and vegetable stew, known as Sambar, originates from India.

- Da pan ji is an example of a Chinese stew made with chicken, potatoes, ginger, and garlic.

- Vegetables like cabbage, eggplant or zucchini can be stuffed with seasoned mixtures that may include meats, grains, and sauces. One example is mahshi, a Middle Eastern dish, made of zucchini stuffed with cooked rice, lamb and spices served in a tomato-based sauce.

Healthy snacks include foods from different food groups, such as:

- Fruit chutney eaten with bread or cheese.

- Raw veggies with hummus or tzatziki, which is a creamy yogurt-based dressing made with cucumbers, garlic, and dill.

- Baba ganouj, a mixture made of roasted eggplant and tahini, which is a sesame seed paste, served with whole wheat pita bread.

- Or, for a crunchier snack whole grain tortilla chips with guacamole or a salsa made with veggies or fruit. Healthful eating options span the globe. Plus, many recipes can be modified based on personal food preferences or to accommodate different budgets.

It's a great time to try something new at a restaurant or in your own kitchen. You might not be traveling around the world but you can enjoy foods and recipes from all over! Information is from [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) National Nutrition Month. OSU Extension, Lucas County is posting in-person and online classes this springtime at [www.lucas.osu.edu](http://www.lucas.osu.edu) and on Facebook at OSUExtensionLucasCounty.

## Dear Ryan

By Ryan Rollison

The Truth Contributor

Dear Ryan,

Every year I make New year resolutions with the intent of getting myself in better shape. I always say I am going to lose at least 20 pounds, work out and eat better. By the time February rolls around I am discouraged because I'm not losing weight and I have fallen off the wagon, I can't seem to ever lose weight or see any changes. I don't know what I am doing wrong. Any tips on how to make this process work faster?

JOK

...continued on page 11

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## A Mental Health Moment

# Grief and the Loss of the Other Parent of a Child

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPC, NCC, CCHt, Licensed Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

Grieving is a very private process but we often forget it not only involves ourselves but also, depending on the circumstances, many others around us are part of that process like children. Children are innocent victims when life presents challenges that your average adult can barely handle. Why? Because they are too often pushed aside, ignored, uninformed and left to their own devices of their own little minds to handle adult emotions.

It is very unfortunate that any child experience pain and suffering and it breaks our hearts when we even just hear the news about a child involved in a tragic situation.

For many years, I have been conducting groups for adults on grief recovery. It is an action-based group that teaches one how to grieve. In addition, there is also a group designed to help adults assist in children's grief. When children grieve, many adults miss the signs and instead will say the child is "acting out" or just plain misbehaving. Teachers see it in the classrooms and parents and caregivers see it at home. Newsflash people, children grieve too but unlike adults, they lack the skills and maturity to understand what is happening and how to cope.

As a mental health provider, I am in no position to tell anyone how to raise her children but I would like to offer some suggestions specifically when the child loses a parent. You know your child better than anyone else but all children will follow your lead. If your way of grieving is staying in your bedroom isolating, they will probably do the same. If you fail to address "where's my dad or what happened to my mom?" your home will be anything but peaceful. It is very difficult to tell a child your dad or mom has passed away. Probably one of the worst conversations anyone will ever have to have with a child. Take some time to figure out how to cope with your grief and pain regardless of the type of relationship you had with the other parent. Include the child/children in the process such as funeral, memorial service etc.

Be available to answer their questions to the best of your ability.

Create a way for them to memorialize their lost parent (again regardless of your relationship with the parent).

Consider counseling for both yourself and the child – a specialist in the area of grief.

Utilize books about the topic (they do exist for all ages).

Let them cry and show emotion – a 10-year-old boy being told to man up and stop crying will reap havoc on his future development and it teaches him that showing emotions is weak while it is very much healthy.

Ask for help from your support system – family, friends, church, school.



Take a mental health moment to consider the importance of allowing children to grieve. Time alone does not heal, keeping children out of the loop of the process causes more futuristic problems emotionally and mentally, find your own perspective on death and share it with the child as they are not equipped to do this just yet. Be honest with yourself and with the child.

For additional tips go to the website [www.parentingforbrain.com](http://www.parentingforbrain.com). To view the article on "How Does the Death of a Parent Affect a Child?" Please reach out to me for upcoming groups for grief recovery for adults and groups for helping children to grieve. Groups will be starting again in April. You may also contact the organization in Toledo, **Good Grief** that focus specifically on helping children to grieve. (419) 360-4939 <https://goodgriefnwo.org/>

**Bernadette Graham is a Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor, National Certified Counselor and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist. She is also a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. Provide feedback or reach out at [graham.bernadette@gmail.com](mailto:graham.bernadette@gmail.com) For appointment information please call 419.409.4929 (Appointments available on Tuesdays and Fridays only). Office location is 3454 Oak Alley Ct. Suite 300 Toledo, OH 43606 [www.bjgrahamcounseling.org](http://www.bjgrahamcounseling.org) Available for team building, employee empowerment in motivation and better understanding mental health in the work place. Accepting new client ages 13 and older.**

Dear Ryan... continued from page 10

Dear JOK;

Well for starters, I would say stop giving up so fast and give the process time to work for you. You didn't get out of shape in a month and you will not be in shape or lose 20 pounds in that short period either.

I am sure if you are eating better and working out you are seeing some sort of results. They may not be the ones that you are wanting but they are there. Better sleep habits, more energy, better mobility and flexibility. You have to give yourself time and be patient. This is a journey, a lifestyle change that takes time to work. Give it time.

Set different goals that won't cause you to be so hard on yourself. For example, don't set a weight goal. Set a goal to not eat sugar for a week and to work out for three days a week. Once you have reached that, add on that you will limit eating out to a certain amount of times each week. then maybe cut out or down high carbohydrate foods.

I also say reward yourself at the end of the week with a treat you want then get back to it. If you're one of those people that can't have a treat and get back to it, then skip the treat and reward yourself another way.

Take steps. A lot of failure comes from people trying to do too much too fast. They then get overwhelmed, not seeing the results they feel they should, get discouraged and quit. Step back and look at what you have done so far. Are you doing well in areas? Then keep doing it! Are you failing in some areas? Then either dig your heels in or reevaluate your approach.

Modify your efforts to fit your ability to stick to your goals You DO NOT have to do it all at once. It's the baby steps that are the best way to get there. Sure we all want to wake up the next day and be in shape but that's not how it works. Learn to be kind to yourself! There are enough people out here in the world to judge you.

Know that you are working towards something that is improving you in many dimensions of your life. Know there will be hiccups, good days and bad days. Be resilient and keep pushing ahead. Focus on the positive things you are doing and have accomplished, that is what will keep you moving forward. Don't focus on the day you didn't make it to workout, focus on the two days that you did make it.

Ok, so you ate a cookie today but you went four days and didn't have any. Focus on that and know you are doing a great job. It takes time, be patient and kind to yourself as I said earlier. If you need more help or want to set up a camp for you and your friends just shoot me an email.

Good luck and Unleash your hero.

Ryan Rollison

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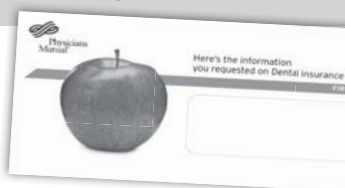
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*Indiana Avenue... continued from page 9*

"We have kingdom authority, we can walk by faith not by sight. When Jesus asked the disciples, who do people say that I am, the question was to the entire group. Jesus confirmed the great profession of faith and blessed him. No matter how Satan attacks the church, the church will win. The church has enemies that will fight against us," shared Rev. Hancock.

The anniversary committee chairpeople were Deacon and Deaconess Jacqueline Jackson, and committee members were: Clara Brank, Brenda Cason, Mayon Hogue and Miller Watkins.

Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was organized by Rev. W.J. Stephenson. On February 20, 1946 Rev. Stephenson contacted Rev. E. J. Benton and invited him to be present at 819 Ewing Street to organize Indiana Avenue M.B. Church. Rev. Stephenson remained pastor until his death in 1959. The first revival was held in 1946, later the property was purchased at the current location and the mortgage to the basement was paid off by 1959. Rev. John Roberts was ordained in 1964 and became the fourth pastor in January 1965. The congregation held service in the completed upper level of the building in 1968

*NAACP... continued from page 7*

there were about 300 individuals who were responsible or connected to a majority of gun violence. Instead of a broad approach, we focused on victims of gun violence and those involved, accountability and how we support them. We know that wrap around services are 100% critical. Our kids don't start off as shooters, there are signs and opportunities to caught and shape them along the way. We're missing those opportunities and not encouraging them with role models and wrap around support to make alternative decisions," Taylor added.

One video was shown which featured an interview with Danyelle Merriweather-Gott, a mother whose son was killed by gun violence. Ms. Merriweather-Gott describes the events and activities that led up to her hearing from a doctor that he son died.

"The whole time the doctors were talking, they were speaking in past tense. I remember getting out to the parking lot and passed out."

and the ground-breaking of the Stephenson-Roberts Fellowship Hall was held in 1987. In 2021, after years of property updates, furniture purchases and ministry impact Rev. John Roberts, DMin, died in 2021.



Deacons during devotion



Amy Meredith, vocalist

*Business Brunch... continued from page 16*

Shawanda Johnson, of F.A.M.E.D. Studios, spoke of her drive to reach out to the younger generations.

"I tell kids, I'm just like you – my message is to be able to reach out to all our kids," she told the audience.

Johnson describes herself as an actress, model, mom and teacher who started F.A.M.E.D. Studios 10 years ago. The Studios offer lessons in hip hop dance, majorette, fitness and modeling classes, acting lessons, ballet and much more.

"We have worked with over five thousand youth in the city – it's a safe place where they can come and mold their craft."

Danielle Blyden, a mental health expert, spoke of the services her company, Bloom, provides for teens and young adults. She offered three concepts for her listeners to consider: breaking the stigma of mental illness; prioritizing the need entrepreneurs have for mental health services in light of the demands such work entails and protecting the legacy of mental health for the next generations.

Sandy Spang, from the City of Toledo Economic Development Department, brought a message of the numerous types of services the city offers for small business owners. She suggested that her audience take up three challenges as they attempt to grow their businesses. First, expand the vision by revisiting original concepts laid out in the business plan. Second, find resources to help move businesses onto the next plateau especially now that capital is available – "never a better time to access capital than now," she said.

Third, "Make more money," said Spang. Don't settle for simply being good community members. Take up the challenge to become more profitable and reach out to the City for help in doing so."

"One of the biggest wins you can have for yourself is home ownership." Said speaker Wayne Whitmore of Legacy Homes.

Rob Pasker, founder and owner of Pasker Real Estate, delivered the keynote address and the most important message of the afternoon – the importance of building wealth, generational wealth, and the best way to do so – by homeownership.

"We need a revolution and the revolution means building wealth," said Pasker. "We've been legally and socially liberated. Now we need economic liberation ... my goal is to make sure you have the knowledge and the resources to get your dream home."

"There is nothing but opportunity here in Toledo," he said in a nod to the many entrepreneurs in the audience. "American was made for entrepreneurs. We've got to continue to elevate."

Brown then presented her Who's Who award after explaining to the audience why she had selected this year's three nominees: Marcus Goodwin, Donnetta Carter and Fletcher Word. She told those gathered how each had impacted and assisted her. This year's Who's Who awardee was Word.

Brown will continue her quest to bring entrepreneurs together both in Toledo and Charlotte with events planned over the course of the next several months.

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# Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler by Ibi Zoboi

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Twinkle, twinkle, little...

What? Natural elements, space dust, and turbulence that makes it all look sparkly? Or maybe other creatures, planets, or whole other worlds with new ideas and inventions? In the new book

*Star Child* by Ibi Zoboi, you'll read about one author who came from stars, wondered what was beyond them, and dared to dream about it.

Laurice James Butler and his wife, Octavia Margaret, tried and tried.

Oh, how they tried to have a child together but the stars weren't ready to let that happen. It took nearly 16 years after they were married before the universe said they were ready, and little Octavia Estelle Butler was born in June of 1947. Just days later, a UFO crashed in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico; a year after that, the big bang theory was formulated.

Three years after her birth, little "Junie" lost her father and, from then on, she was raised by strong women: her grandmother, and her mother, who was "the greatest constant in her life." Her mother protected her, and Junie wasn't often allowed out of the house alone. Perhaps that was why she was a bit of a loner, preferring her books to almost anything else. Or she might have been an introverted child because she was very

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tall for her age, or because she was not a good student. Segregation might have had something to do with it, too. At any rate, she was quiet, observant, and bookish.

At some point shedding the nickname, young Octavia began to devour books on horses and fairy tales, and she jotted down stories of her own that never ended. She wrote tales about traveling to Mars and exploring space. She created other worlds and universes that pleased her. She "copied boys' books" and the plots that she made into a book series later.



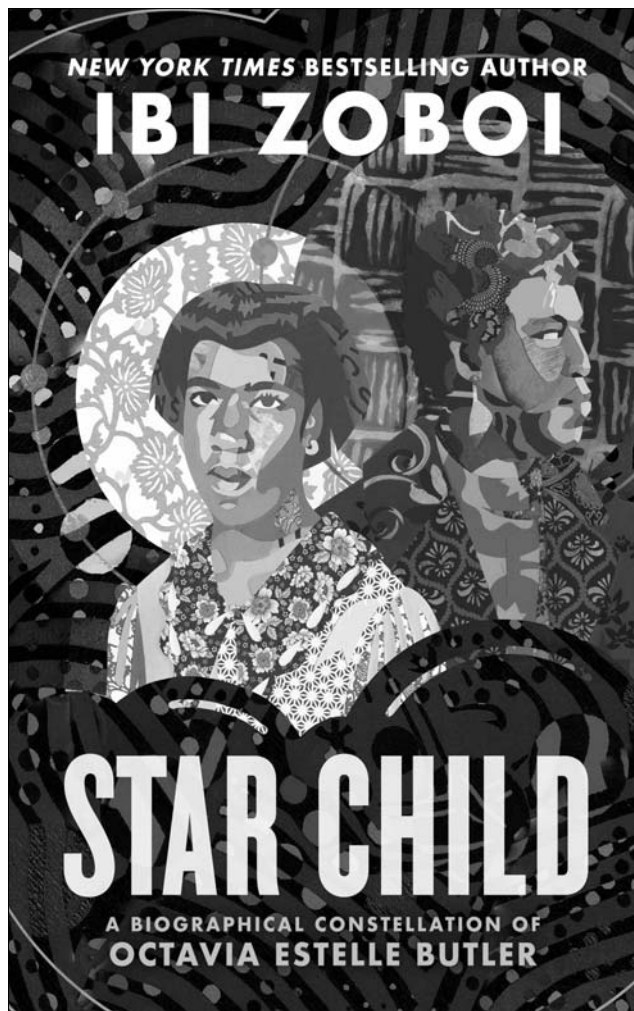
Star Child author

At age 13, Octavia discovered an abandoned writer's magazine that someone had left on a bus seat. Curious, she read it all. It was then that she learned that it was possible to make money from the stories she told...

In latter chapters of *Star Child*, author Ibi Zoboi explains how she formed a friendship with Octavia Butler, and why she felt that she and the author were "kindred." It's a story that kids will love – what child hasn't dreamed of meeting the person who wrote their favorite tales? – and it absolutely adds to this book. What may fall flat, however, is its poetry.

Zoboi says that Butler told her "Poetry simplifies" things but here, the "biographical speculative poems" seem to be too full of imagery to be helpful – particularly for kids on the lower end of the targeted age group for this book, some whom may not grasp the meanings of the fantasy-filled stanzas.

Think twice, then, before handing this book to a kid ages 10-13 unless you intend to help them understand it. Older kids and adults will appreciate it more, especially if they're fans of poetry. For them alone, *Star Child* will shine.



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# A Letter From Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “What’s Up My People?”

By Bishop Marjorie Holt, Ph. D. ©2022

I have been gone from you now for more than 53 plus years and you will soon be reminded of the day that I left you on April 4, 1968. However, my time away from you has brought on remarkable events that have changed the course of life for you, my people. In fact, it's apropos that I speak with you during this time when 28 days of the month of February, the shortest month of the year, has been set aside as Black History Month. I'm SMH and I could certainly say more about this too, but I won't at this time.

And still when I awaken from the nightmare that I often encounter, my historical perspective kicks in. I find myself wanting to go back to sleep because of what I'm reminded of and the pervasive flashbacks as to how your lives are still being devalued by my counterparts, my White brothers, who made a promise to me that they were ready to commit to *CHANGE for you MY People*; Not just a change that would allow you, to enjoy the basic guarantor called *LIFE* that they have always had the privilege of enjoying, rather, I have found myself surmising that they lived with *WHITE PRIVILEGES* incessantly, extemporaneously, and yet they became infuriated when those privileges were threatened to be extended to others, those of you my brothers and sisters of color, and you, who look like me.

I realize that life can be a lot to handle in the life that you *MY PEOPLE* now live on a daily basis. I told you a few years ago that I was *AWAKEN FROM A NIGHTMARE* that stifled my being and caused me to shed tears because of what I envisioned and was exposed to that was occurring in every facet of your lives. My, how things have changed. But let me ask you, *WHAT'S UP MY PEOPLE?* How did you change from experiencing a meaningful life to accepting, by any means necessary, what seems to be a meaningless life?

How is it that what we valued as a people when I was with you, have become fragmented, missing, and seemingly lost? The hopes, dreams, blood, sweat, tears, pain, and yes death that took some of us to our grave fighting for your right to vote, I hear is now being challenged, because you *MY PEOPLE*, have proven that you can win elections. No, we didn't know then but now we know, that we have become a threat to our known contenders that when *WE WORK TOGETHER, WE WIN! Let me tell you WINNING IS NOT NEW TO US, BECAUSE WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO FIGHT TO WIN. HOWEVER, WHEN WE WIN, ITS OFFENSIVE TO THEM.* But we can't stop winning; we were made to win!

From Charlottesville to Capitol Hill, change has to come. It has to override the injustices that have emanated from such vile trivialities that have become etched in the masterminds of pioneers laced with racism and hate.

And I have heard up here that my fellow Jews, which are only 6% of the United States, and my Asian brothers and sisters, have been attacked from all points and seemingly has been targeted without cause. And let me say this, I know that fear is being expressed from others who are walking on eggshells because my Brown people have now threatened to move from being in the minority to the majority. Wow, that sounds like a plan right there! Work it!

Now let me speak to my young people. You were left behind to be A catalyst for positive change. However, I'm sensing that you are experiencing a lot of *PAIN*, but your pain must not cause you to turn on each other, rather you must turn to each other. You are *MY PEOPLE*; You have come up through the ranks of pioneers, who by the way, always found a way in the midst of *THEM* parting the Red Sea, to do a back stroke until they could get up and walk on dry land again. You are *MY PEOPLE*, and I ask you *WHAT'S UP?*

Now I have not lost sight of how much progress that has been made since I left you and how there are those who want to take you even further back than when I was with you, but you must be mindful of the fact that this has always happened; that when we got close to what looked like *EQUALITY*, the rules changed. It's no different from what I hear today that is still happening. Every meaningful *RULE* seems to be on the chopping block. But you must not let *DISENFRANCHISEMENT TURN TO DISCOURAGEMENT!*

The facts bear out that there's been a few good things that have

happened since I left you, I heard about:

The Election of the *FIRST NEGRO PRESIDENT, YOU SAY AA*, and that's OK

The Acquittal of a few White Police Officers for the shooting of Negroes or AA

The Election of a few more Senators and Representatives

The Appointments of more Judges

The Election of Female Mayors in Metropolitan Cities

And even the Selection of a Negro/AA Vice President

That's progress, but I'm still bothered by the *AUXILIARY* reports that I'm getting about the drugs laced with fentanyl that we are dying from, the guns in the hands of our young people that continue to kill each other, the continued attempts to overthrow legitimate elections, the alliance between a former President of the United States and our arch enemy for decades, as well as one who has loosed Racism that yields an all-time high on people of color, an Insurrection on the Capital that keeps being downplayed, the Black Lives Matter Movement that ought to matter no matter who else matters, the gunning down of our innocent boys and girls, men and women by the boys in blue, the threat of global warming, the Pandemic that has caused ill prepared and unexpected deaths of *MY PEOPLE*.

Go forth, *MY PEOPLE, GO FORTH.* And as I close this letter, I leave this with you: For decades and years, there has been a *HIDDEN AGENDA* that was supposed to be kept under lock and key. But there is one thing that we know, and yes, I still know even where I am today, that the *WORST AGENDA IS A HIDDEN AGENDA.* But the secret is out. I heard about the demise of George Floyd and how the 8 minutes and 46 seconds caused the *SPARK* around the world and you *MY PEOPLE*, cannot allow that *SPARK* to go out, because I'm told that there are still many more victims.

You must not become dedicated to anger, rather continue the *MOVEMENT* that changed the world when I was with you. While you may not know this. I do; the benchmark for some of my White Brothers and Sisters, has always been *HATRED AND RACISM AGAINST YOU, MY PEOPLE.* And the unfortunate take away was that some of them believed that *OUR BLACKNESS WAS INTENDED TO BE A THREAT TO THEIR WHITENESS.* I still know that we have never asked for a different kind of treatment; just wanted then and now, fair treatment. But listen:

*I STILL HAVE A DREAM, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE A NIGHTMARE.* You must harness the fortitude that I left you with. Make a difference in the lives of each young person that you come in contact with. Encourage them to be the legacy that was etched in our history to be all that we could be by doing all that we could do. Ignore the wrong voices that seek to deter your progress and disregard your existence and label your sons and daughters as nobodies whose lives don't matter. Change your thinking on purpose but be wise in who you share your vision with. Strategize with the few that will help you remember the blood, sweat, tears, and death that we suffered to get to freedom. Don't get trapped into sacrificing integrity for photo shoots. Bring the vision to pass, *BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.*

*MY PEOPLE* don't stop. Do not be deterred. Do not be shaken and do not be mistaken as just angry people with an axe to grind. I still know that the Bible is right, The Prayers Of The Righteous Availeth Much. You must *FIGHT ON, MARCH ON AND IN THE END, YOU WIN! You must move from WE SHALL OVERCOME TO WE WILL OVERCOME, FROM DEEP IN MY HEART TO FOREVER IN MY HEART I DO BELIEVE, THAT WE WILL OVERCOME NOT SOMEDAY, BUT TODAY!*





## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2022-2023 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft** July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 One-Year Action Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before May 18, 2022. The One-Year Action Plan is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2022-2023 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance, special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2022 48th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 36th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 31st Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) (if applicable), and the 2020 Lead-Based Paint and Healthy Homes Grant. In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft** One-Year Action Plan will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Housing and Community Development  
One Government Center, 18th Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/neighborhoods>

Office of the Mayor  
One Government Center, 22nd Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayor>

Clerk of Council  
One Government Center, 21st Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

The Fair Housing Center  
326 N. Erie Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.toledofhc.org](http://www.toledofhc.org)

Lucas Metropolitan Housing  
435 Nebraska Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org)

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board  
1220 Madison Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.endinghomelessness.toledo.oh.gov](http://www.endinghomelessness.toledo.oh.gov)

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
325 Michigan Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.toledolibrary.org](http://www.toledolibrary.org)

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities  
1154 Larc Lane  
Toledo, Ohio 43614  
website: [www.lucasdd.info](http://www.lucasdd.info)

Public hearings on the **Draft** One-Year Action Plan are scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, March 24, 2022, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing:**  
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/83155435016>  
Passcode: 746318  
Or Telephone:  
Dial: USA 216 706 7052 US Toll  
USA 866 528 2256 US Toll-free  
Conference code: 800378

**Thursday, March 31, 2022, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing:**  
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/83761090786>  
Passcode: 961385  
Or Telephone:  
Dial: USA 216 706 7052 US Toll  
USA 866 528 2256 US Toll-free  
Conference code: 800378

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning Wednesday, March 23, 2022 through Thursday, April 21, 2022, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
2022-2023 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN  
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

The City of Toledo supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion ADA coordinator at (419) 245-1198 or submit a request online at [toledo.oh.gov/ada](http://toledo.oh.gov/ada).

## MAUMEE VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity (MVH-FH) is a nonprofit housing organization that brings people together to build homes, communities and hope in Lucas County. Our vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We work toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live. Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity is looking for a position for Community Engagement Manager. The Community Engagement Manager plays a critical role in strengthening relationships through planning, coordination, and implementation of projects in partnership with key neighborhoods. This position will oversee all aspects of Neighborhood Engagement. A bachelor's or associates degree from an accredited college or university is preferred.

Full time with benefits. Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity is an Equal Opportunity Employer For a complete job description and to apply, visit <https://www.mvhabitat.org/main/work-with-us/>

## 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](mailto:admin@ywcanwo.org)



**POSITION:** Facility Maintenance Technician 2  
**LOCATION:** Plymouth, MI (facility location near Ann Arbor, MI)

GEM Facility Management is a trusted adviser and leading organization in the commercial / industrial service industry. We offer routine maintenance, repair services and replacement/upgrade capital projects in the areas of HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Building Controls and Ductwork Air Balance, Duct Cleaning and Fire Damper Services. Other Service offerings include Facility Risk and Expense Evaluations, Facility Management Services and Utility Procurement.

The Facility Maintenance Technician 2 is expected to have basic maintenance and tool knowledge, perform general building/property maintenance. Individual must be able to lift, push, pull or carry weight no less than 35 lbs and occasionally up to 50 lbs. Must have high school diploma or equivalent, minimum 2 years of applicable maintenance experience, painting experience with wall surface repair. Must have a valid driver's license.

GEM Facility Management is an EEO Employer.

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

## POSITION AVAILABLE: LIBRARIAN

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](http://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.

# A Business Brunch Vision Board Network Social at The Aria

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

It was all business on Saturday, February 27 at the Aria Banquet Hall on Telegraph Road – the business of real estate, mental health, insurance, home mortgages, assistance for growing businesses, among other topics.

Confidence in a Cup, a TaShara Brown enterprise, organized, once again, a business brunch, network social and brought together a host of expert guest speakers to inspire an audience of about 100 attendees.

Brown (a/k/a Elysian Adore) is an entrepreneur, health and wellness advocate, business coach who splits her time and ventures between Toledo and Charlotte, NC.

The attendees, primarily local Black entrepreneurs, were treated to a brunch by Chef Michael Gaston comprised of salad, smoked salmon and cream cheese on crackers, an entree of crab cake atop a gumbo and rice combination along with a bread pudding for dessert.

Also present were displays by vendors such as DRIP, Legacy Homes (the nation's largest Black-owned mortgage lender), Still Art Photography and MANN Insurance, among others.

The highlight of the brunch event were the talks by assorted experts in a variety of disciplines.

Reanna Stevenson, a fashion expert, spoke of the need to feel comfortable and the need of "being confident in yourself, and being confident in yourself – if you look good, you feel good."

"Fashion is multiple things and as long as you feel confident, someone will be impressed."

*... continued on page 12*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO  
MEDICAL CENTER



Shawanda Johnson and Rob Pasker



Sandy Spang and Robert Smith



Elysian Adore (TaShara Brown)



Michael Williams



Reanna Stevenson



Danielle Blyden



Brad Fields of Coop's Toledo, Donnetta Carter, the Social Butterfly; Safety Director Brian Byrd; Taylor's