



Volume 71 No. 5 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." March 9, 2022



Director of the Padua Center and Pastoral Leader of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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Fight, Flight and Creative Differences

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

The Truth Contributor

Fresh ideas come from those who do more than think outside the box. They think outside the building.

- Rosabeth Moss Kanter



It only took barely a year for Toledo native JoJuan Armour to decide that he had had enough. Homicide rates overall dropped significantly, and his efforts reduced violent crime in the targeted Junction neighborhood. In addition, Armour prevented retaliation in two incidents where individuals were shot and blocked a revenge shooting after another homicide. The numbers and opportunities to mediate conflict indicated the Mayor's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence that Armour led was working and effective.

Yet, last week Armour emailed his resignation to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Safety Director Brian Byrd and Deputy Director Angel Tucker. Armour stated that the reason for leaving was the superficial "to spend more time with family back in Columbus."

The truth is that Armour has a beautiful home in Columbus, where he has two lovely young daughters and a college-age son. He adores his children indescribably and, thus, never made a complete transition back to Toledo.

Yet, Armour's attempts to do his job have been under siege from the very start. The day he was hired, the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association sent an angry letter to the mayor calling his hire a "direct slap in the face." Not to mention, JoJuan's high-profile hiring has also been under attack from outside groups and the subject of online ridicule with trolls on social media from day one.

Unsurprisingly, stereotypical inside rumors were floated to rationalize Armour's leaving. He was not a good fit, had personality differences with employees or had trouble taking orders or operating in a hierarchical setting ... blah blah blah. The typical imputations that accompany most African-American male staff leaders in white organizational settings.

Yet, why are African-American male leaders leaving the City of Toledo after such a short tenure, such as Armour and former Diversity, Equity and Inclusion head Matt Boaz, before him?

The nature of institutions like the City of Toledo is "There's always someone inside that doesn't want you to get the job in the first place. And so, they make it more and more difficult to perform the job. They hope you'll get frustrated at the barriers because you could've made more progress, or it's like death by a thousand papercuts. Even if you make progress, you get tired of fighting all the time or getting beat down before they finally let you have something. That's often always the case," said an anonymous human resource professional.

Additionally, institutions often merely offer lip service to change but prefer the established order or status quo. Yet, real change, to use a term coined by biblical scholar Wilda Gafney, "snatches the wigs off" or exposes what institutions want to "keep hidden under the cosmetic veneer of

respectability." So, Armour's work, although fruitful, may have begun to expose some of the City's bureaucratic infrastructure, revealing its incompetence, hidden power centers and exploitative self-interests.

To Armour's credit, he refused to say one negative word publicly or describe what goes on in the "locker room," so to speak. Yet, we know that natural but formidable barriers make a job like gun violence czar difficult in an institutional setting.

Where do we go from here to address the problem of gun violence in Toledo?

Leadership scholar Rosabeth Moss Kanter likens institutions such as the City of Toledo to a modern physical form of castles. These structures represent museums to the established order or dominant way of dealing with issues. Contemporary castles, like their medieval counterparts, Kanter says, "are monuments to the past and past thinking, museums of preservation. They are establishments harboring the establishment and designed to protect functionaries from unwelcome intrusions or the need to change."

As soon as Armour's methods generated positive results, the City of Toledo fortified the castle, dropped its gates, and raised drawbridges. Staff hunkered down defiantly, not wanting to be displaced so that new ways of doing things might make their methods obsolete.

Wisely, Armour possessed relationships and partnerships that were developed before he took the job. He wants to make sure that those partnerships remain successful. Therefore, he will no longer be involved with Cure Violence but will continue working in Toledo on several projects without pay and not for the City of Toledo.

As Kanter says, the best way to attack a "castle" is not head-on. Instead, go around it, underneath, or stay outside. Rather than fighting over creative differences in method or ideas, "Try dancing to new music. Create small villages with new activities sufficiently enticing that some castle occupants will wander out and join the festivities, emptying the castle of defenders," Kanter advises.

Given Toledo's strong defense against change, Armour is blessed to understand that fresh ideas come from those who do more than think outside the box. They think outside the building.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofshope-baptist.org



JoJuan Armour

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Community Calendar

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

There Is No Rest for the Weary

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

"One of the explicit purposes of racism is to continually debase and defile its victims so that they are forever locked under a cloud of suspicion, ignominy, distrust and scorn which results in their rightful and legitimate place in society always being questioned."

----- Efal Revillot, essayist.

The far-right noise machine is in overtime with throwing mud and acrimony at the US Supreme Court nominee, Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Black woman of impeccable credentials and an unassailable legal resume.

When you read her curriculum vitae from high school onward and throughout her professional career, you simply must wonder aloud, "Why does such a Black woman nominee have to be so over the top in stellar academics and intellectual vigor to be a viable Supreme Court candidate?"

The answer is quite simple but, yet, still complex as accurately counting the bubbles in a boiling pot of water. We see the water, but the ever rising bubbles can serve as a distraction to cover over a host of other ills.

In the case of jurist Ketanji Brown Jackson, the far-right media wing led by their fearless and moronic leader Tucker Carlson, have decided that the Black woman jurist needs to present to him, an accurate tally of those popping bubbles!

This racist demand of Tucker Carlson, and of those who are complicit with him but simply do not publicly utter the same gibberish, is a kissing cousin to the tactics and tricks used by southern voting officials when they, without shame, tried to eviscerate the ability of Black people to vote in southern elections.

However, even to this date, the racists were never asleep at the wheel. They were constantly devising ways to cast aspersions on any minority candidates who were seeking public office. Remember the blues Republican candidate Herr Trump gave to Democratic nominee Barack Obama when Trump asked to see his birth certificate?

The implication was that Obama was not born in the US and thus not qualified to run for the highest office in the land. Repeatedly, Trump hounded Obama for his birth certificate, and his law school transcripts regarding his grades. Trump doubted Obama's smarts to get into Harvard law and excel as he did at Harvard.

To quell the rumor mill that Trump started, Obama did reluctantly produce a copy of that birth record but even then, the far-right media outlets opined that the certificate was bogus!

Now the racist rantings of Tucker Carlson have taken on a similar attack regarding the credentials of jurist Ketanji Brown Jackson. He is using his media mega horn to demand that Ms. Jackson produce her LSAT scores. For those who do not know what a "LSAT" (law school admission test) score is, it is used, in part, to score or judge how well a law school applicant could fare in a law school environment.

Like the college board entry exams (SAT), the LSAT is culturally situated to benefit middle class and upper middle class white students. As usual, minorities were not part of any focus groups when such tests were promulgated and applied.

It is via the filters of the college admissions tests and the LSAT tests that access is permitted or denied to students of color to enter the colleges and universities by which they could grab and manipulate the levers of power in both the political and legal systems of the government and in private industry.

So, what does a white nationalist do to slow down or stop the progress of persons like a Ketanji Brown Jackson or a Barack Obama?

You vilify their credentials. You excoriate their resumes. You utter baseless tirades against their personhood in the hopes that your vitriol will cause them to leave the battlefield and that others will join your bigoted crusade and shut them down.

For those readers who may be on the fence as to the position of Tucker Carlson and those of his ilk, remember, Carlson and other similarly thinking racists did not ask the most recent nominees to the highest court in the land such biased questions.

At the senate confirmation hearings for Judge Barrett, Gorsuch or Ka-



Lafe Tolliver

vanaugh, no one asked to see their LSAT scores or their birth certificates. No one said that the appointment of either Barrett, Gorsuch or Kavanaugh would "defile" the highest court in the land or would be an embarrassment to the world.

No one. If Justice Jackson were a white female or white male, we would not be having this conversation because it is implicitly assumed that white people are qualified for any position from the time of their birth.

For people of color, the glaring presumption is always: You are unqualified until "we" say you are qualified.

Yet, such inhospitable treatment was directed at Ms. Jackson by Tucker Carlson and for which Tucker Carlson has not paid any price for his racist chastisement of the jurist by either the mogul who owns Fox News or any GOP Republican operative of any standing.

None.

Tucker Carlson would not be deemed worthy to even tote the legal valise of Judge Jackson as she makes her dignified way to her current judgeship position. He is engaged in a game of crude race mongering, and he seems to relish it.

By his malicious attack on the intellectual caliber of Judge Jackson and indicating that she would defile the court by her very presence, Tucker Carlson has, by association, told Black America that the best that you can produce still amounts to an obnoxious defilement of the American judicial system.

My only question to Tucker Carlson is when does he plan to jettison any pretense of his smoldering disdain for all things Black; and simply save money by reducing his business wardrobe to that of a smartly fitted and dapper white and purple Klan robe?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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Ohio Declares July 28 Buffalo Soldier Day

The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers MC are honored to announce that last week in Columbus HB 238 was signed by Governor DeWine declaring July 28 Buffalo Soldier Day in Ohio for not only 2022 but subsequent years going forward. The legislation honoring the service of the original members of the cavalry and infantry units formed following the Civil War.

The legislation authorizing those units was passed July 28, 1866, 156 years ago. HB 238 was introduced by Dist. 44 Rep Paula Hicks-Hudson and co-sponsored by Dist. 26 Rep. Erica Crawley. The legislation was first introduced in March of 2021 before receiving unanimous approval in both chambers and reaching the governor's desk earlier this week.

Hicks-Hudson is a member of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers MC whose members testified in support of the bill at the hearings held in the statehouse.

Ohio becomes the first state to honor Buffalo Soldiers in this way although a national Buffalo Soldier Day was declared by President George H W Bush in 1992.

Ohio is also home to the Charles Young National Monument in Wilberforce, OH and the city of Toledo is site for numerous Buffalo Soldier burial sites.



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Biden Administration Corrects Misinformation on HBCU Funding

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Refuting the misinformation that's promulgated over social media and in Republican circles, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have released a fact sheet proving that the administration remains committed to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Particularly irritating to the administration was an Associated Press report that President Biden cut funding to HBCUs from \$45 billion to \$2 billion.

Pastor Jamal Bryant falsely claimed that the administration sought to defund HBCUs. He later retracted those comments.

"In the face of discrimination against Black Americans by many institutions of higher education, HBCUs fostered academic excellence and created pathways to opportunity for Black students throughout our Nation," administration officials wrote in a fact sheet.

"HBCUs vary in size and academic focus and serve a range of diverse students and communities in urban, rural, and suburban settings. HBCU graduates are leaders in every field and include barrier-breaking public servants, scientists, artists, lawyers, engineers, educators, and business owners," the officials noted.

There are several HBCU graduates serving in senior roles in the Biden-Harris Administration, including Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement Cedric Richmond, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, and Vice President Kamala Harris – the first HBCU graduate ever to serve as Vice President of the United States.

"Despite this record of success, disparities in resources and opportunities for HBCUs and their students persist, and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted continuing and new challenges for HBCUs," the administration wrote.

"To promote our shared prosperity and advance equity for all Americans, the Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized and delivered historic levels of investment in and support for HBCUs."

According to the fact sheet, those actions include:

Historic Investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) American Rescue Plan.

The American Rescue Plan provided over \$4 billion in relief funding to HBCUs, including approximately \$1.6 billion in debt relief to 45 HBCUs (13 public institutions and 32 private institutions) earlier this year.

FY 21 Grant Funding

In FY21, the Department of Education awarded a total of \$1 billion to build the capacity of institutions that serve large numbers of students of color and low-income students. \$500 million of this funding went directly to HBCUs.

FY 22 Budget Request.

...continued on page 9

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~Brian Tracey

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Local Union Celebrates Black History and Acknowledges Leaders

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The local Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) held their annual black history event on February 26. This program is the 33rd annual event which has acknowledged local and national contributions of Black people and recognizes local Black leader. The 2022 program was held virtually and was live on the organization's Facebook page.

"We're excited to have you here this evening for this exciting program," said Erika White, event mistress of ceremonies.

The program provided visual and verbal introductions of presenters throughout the program. CBTU local president, officially launched the program by delivering an official welcome greeting to all of the event viewers. "This year we had to make the difficult decision to meet virtually. I want to thank our team and co-chairs. I want to thank everyone who played a role on this program. Thank you to the honorees and our keynote speakers," shared Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, local CBTU president.

Invocation was delivered by co-pastor Alisa Key of People's Missionary Baptist Church, the Black National Anthem was sung by vocalist Tonielle Barton, the union's history and membership highlights was presented by Sharon Roach and musical performance by Sax B.

The 2022 honorees were: No More Domestic Violence for organization, Tina Butts of The Movement for community service, Henry McCoy for labor and Senator Edna Brown for political action a posthumous honor.

No More Domestic Violence was founded by Arthur Jones to break down the stigma of domestic violence and sexual assault. The organization also received a generous donation from CBTU. Tina Butts and The Movement has supported various local impact projects including voter registration, voter access and education, and Covid vaccine and testing. Henry McCoy, the local UAW Retiree chapter president, earned Labor honors.

"I'm honored and want to say thank you. This helps our cause. On behalf of the board of trustees and myself, we thank you," shared Jones.

"Thank you. I'm humbled to be recognized by beautiful black men and women. Our fight will continue and we will continue to serve our community in people in areas that have forgotten. We will continue to fight and do whatever it takes. I can't find the words to say how proud I am of this award and I accept this for our team," shared Butts.

"Since the beginning of CBTU, the UAW has been involved in leadership positions. Thank you for this award and for honoring me, my family," shared McCoy.

The program continued by featuring Lucas County Common Pleas Court Judge Ian English and his wife Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, Esq. as keynote speakers.

The pair opened the discussion by sharing how the couple initially met, how they rose to their current roles and remarked on various topics that



Erika White



Cheryl Tyler-Folsom



Tina Butts



Edna Brown

impact today's Black Community.

"I want to thank you for having us. We're going to have a conversation about what we do and how it correlates to what CBTU does. I initially wanted to be a Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader, then wanted to become a doctor or lawyer. After watching a frog dissected, I went downtown and saw the court. I said, I can do that. I knew I had to become a lawyer and after college, I worked as a lawyer. Some people think that I am just a clerk, but I am so many things. I'm currently on the Supreme Court task force on bail reform and so many other roles. There is a distrust of the system from our community. There is a disconnect that we're unfairly treated," shared Bowman English.

"I first got involved with the legal system when I almost got arrested. I was a typical kid and worked at an auto parts store. I was in a McDonald's parking lot and received a citation for loitering, was placed on probation and months later I saw an episode of 60 minutes that talked about loitering. I eventually learned that I was taken advantaged of. The biggest issue that faces the courts today is the unbalance nature, but we're working to make changes in the Lucas County criminal justice system. We have to work hard as the criminal justice system to protect the system's most vulnerable," shared Judge English.

Sponsors: UAW Toledo Area Cap Council; UAW Region 2B; Greater Northwest Ohio Central Labor Council of American Federation of Labor & Organizations Industrial of Congress; Toledo Federation of Teachers; The YMCA; International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 45; International Brotherhood of Teachers; Toledo Unit of NAACP, United Steelworkers Local 1-346; Plumbers, Journeymen, Service Mechanics, Apprentices, Steamfitters Local 50, IBEW #8, African American Police Union, Judge Christine Mayle for Sixth District Court of Appeals; Laborers' International Union Local 500; Ohio AFL-CIO; Ohio State Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson; ASSETS Toledo; UAW Local 14; CWA Local 4319, City of Toledo Councilwoman McPherson; First Church of God; A. Philip Randolph Institute; United Way of Greater Toledo; City of Toledo Councilwoman Katie Moline; AFSCME Retirees Sub Chapter 109; Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club; Lindsay Webb Lucas County Treasurer; Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Instaplak Event Photography & Awards

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'The Moment' and Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

Black Women Legal Experts Deliberate on Supreme Court Nomination at Howard Law Panel

By Nyah Marshall, Howard University News Service

Special to The Truth

It was a historical moment for the nation and a monumental one for many Black Americans, as President Joe Biden publicly introduced Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson last Friday as his nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court. Legal experts recognized this moment, its significance and the emotions it evoked during a panel hosted by the Howard University School of Law on Tuesday.

"It means a lot for the history of Black women in this country," Howard law professor Tiffany Wright said. "We have been so deeply affected, in many times, in many cases disproportionately, by the decisions of the Supreme Court but have never had a voice in that process."

Wright joined other Howard law professors, Tuneen Chisolm and Lisa Crooms-Robinson, on this virtual panel of Black women moderated by Dean Danielle Holley-Walker.

"What really stands out for me is the hope," Chisolm began. "This is real hope for an extended effect, more so even than the election of President Obama, because the president has four years and then maybe another four."

An audience of over 140 people listened as panelists spoke on Jackson's nomination and touched on topics like her background, the confirmation process, the potential change she can make within the court and redefining the typical background of a Supreme Court justice. The Senate Judiciary Committee announced that confirmation hearings will start on March 21.

Since Jackson's nomination, more and more information has been coming forth about her background, personal life and judicial history. During Jackson's initial introduction at the White House, President Biden spoke of her extraordinary qualifications, while Jackson thanked and spoke of her family — including aspects that aren't as flawless.

"You may have read that I have one uncle who got caught up in the drug



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson



Tiffany Wright

trade and received a life sentence. That is true," Jackson said.

"But law enforcement also runs in my family. In addition to my brother, I had two uncles who served decades as police officers, one of whom became the police chief in my hometown of Miami, Florida."

Crooms-Robinson appreciated "the way that she told that story" with transparency and candor. "It wasn't about stigma or shame for anybody," she said. "It was just the fact."

"In a particular kind of way, it was really touching," Crooms-Robinson continued. "No matter who our relatives are, by and large, we love them, regardless of what it is that they do or where they might find themselves."

Chisolm adds that Jackson is the daughter of an attorney and an educator, demonstrating that she's a "woman equipped to reason and reason with the best of them."

Jackson is also a "double Ivy," having graduated from Harvard University and Harvard law school. "So that tells me that she's got grit and tenacity and that she has learned how to develop relationships with people who are not like her, because she was in a minority situation there for seven years," Chisolm said.

Career-wise, Wright explained, it's evident that Jackson is committed to public interest, as she has spent much of her time as a federal public defender. "She has the empathy for people who are navigating that system, which is often deeply unjust and unfair to people who look like us."

In terms of the real change that Jackson can make on the Supreme Court and how fast that change can occur, the panelists had a range of opinions. However, it is certain that Jackson's background as a Black woman and mother will provide a new perspective and challenge or add to those of other justices who may share similar experiences.

As Wright contends, Jackson has the perspective to counterweight Justice Clarence Thomas on matters about race, and she would also be the only other mother on the court to counterweight Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

Although Jackson is well equipped, she may not be walking into an easy situation, said Wright, who previously clerked for Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

"I've seen how difficult it has been for Justice Sotomayor, for example, to be in the minority and to feel like on so many issues that you deeply care about, you just don't have the votes," Wright explained.

"There is very little that a minority of three can do."

On the other hand, Chisolm says Jackson may be able to see her own impact on the court. However, Crooms-Robinson thinks she may plant seeds "that she may not, in fact, ever see sprout."

"But they are seeds that could, in fact, be sown later on in a way that is similar to what happened just after Reconstruction," Crooms-Robinson noted.

Jackson is already redefining what a typical justice looks like as a Black woman and former public defender. Though the Constitution does not spec-

... continued on page 7

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'The Moment' ... continued from page 6

ify qualifications for justices such as age, education or profession, certain aspects can make one an extremely qualified candidate. At the same time, Jackson checks all the traditional boxes with her Ivy League background and history as a clerk for former Justice Breyer.

The panelists proposed different ways the traditional qualifications can be redefined in hopes of having a future of diverse justices. One is to re-frame who the justices select as clerks.

Being chosen to clerk at the Supreme Court is considered the most prestigious job a law graduate can land — only 36 clerkships are offered each year. Clerkships remain highly dominated by white men. The National Law Journal published a study of clerks from 2005 to 2017; 85% of all clerks were white, only 20 of the 487 hired were Black and nine were Hispanic.

While the late Justice Thurgood Marshall was an alumnus of Howard's law school, almost all justices are Ivy League graduates, specifically graduates of Harvard and Yale. This sets a precedent that this is the education required to clerk for or become a justice.

"Building the clerkship pipeline is important," Chisolm said. "As we place HBCU students, grads out in the world doing different things, claiming their pedigree, right, we make it more apparent to people that you don't have to come from a Harvard or Yale to achieve."

Echoing what many audience members mentioned in the chat, Holley-Walker pointed out that Howard has the ability to "help hold the justices accountable, because we have a substantial pipeline of Howard University School of Law graduates who are going on to appellate clerkships."

The dean noted that Judge Robert L. Wilkins, who serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, has made offers to two Howard law graduates.



Lisa Crooms-Robinson



Danielle Holley-Walker

"We have the same power when it comes to other judges and including Justice Jackson," she added. "We will be looking forward to her hiring one or more Howard law clerks — hopefully one every year — and we will be waiting, watching in anticipation with all of the outstanding Howard law students and graduates that we have and we know are supremely qualified to clerk on the Supreme Court."

Nyah Marshall is a reporter and regional bureau chief for HUNewsService.com. She has been covering Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination as an associate justice for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sister Virginia Welsh.... continued from page 16

es of life to achieve their maximum potential through education, counseling, support and community involvement based on the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self-determination, Collective work, Cooperative economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith.

Padua empowers the underserved community of Kwanzaa Park with programs for all ages. They host an after-school program called Tutor Smart to assist students who need extra help. They are also proud of both their Emerging Young Ladies and Grooming Great Gentlemen programs developing self esteem, mental health and etiquette skills for local youth.

The Padua Center also has an array of summer camps. From financial literacy, health, environmental gardening, to vacation Bible school or sports camp — you name it, for seven weeks, your kids will be learning in the midst of some great summer fun.

Drive down Nebraska Ave by the Padua Center and you will see a plastic greenhouse with crops growing right now and a flock of five chickens, too!

"We have a warm box for composting and a beehive. We are teaching kids about caring for the earth and how everything works together as a circle of life. We plant the flowers so the bees have something to eat. They pollinate the vegetables, the chickens provide eggs and the worms take care of the leftovers," says Sister Ginny.

The Padua Center also rents spaces within the center to schools, a local chess club, sign language learning, and will possibly be building a daycare center this upcoming year. "We welcome everyone and want the community to always feel comfortable here," says Sister Ginny. "No More Domestic Violence and Violence Interrupters w/JoJuan Armour on the Mayors Initiative Against Gun Violence are two of our newest welcomed organizations working out of our center."

St. Martin de Porres is also working in conjunction with Englewood Southwest and Robinson Hub to teach job training and leadership development for the community this year. And as always, Clover House provides hot breakfast every morning five days a week at the Detroit Avenue parish.

Working as Pastoral Leader at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Sister Ginny men-

tions "St. Martin is very unique with a proud cultural heritage and a predominant African-American congregation. We emphasize all the wonderful contributions the African-American and Hispanic communities make in our worship services by inviting guest bishops, deacons and preachers throughout the year."

Held on the last Sunday in February, St. Martin de Porres Church also celebrates Black History month annually with a live concert featuring our very own renowned Toledo Orchestra. It is the biggest event St. Martin de Porres hosts. The annual event is an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate the rich diversity within African-American culture. The music is hand selected reflecting the resilience of African-American art.

"This event has been an important part of celebrating our own local African-American talent for more than 30 years. We always want our church to reflect the quality of life our community deserves to have," shares Sister Ginny.

Being a model means being a benchmark, someone whose beliefs are worthy of being imitated. Sister Virginia Welsh certainly fits the bill.

Good leaders don't define success in what benefits them personally. They view success on how well they have done in building other people up within their circles of influence. "Once you help build leaders, you make sure to inspire them to do the same for others. With every new generation, you will no doubt achieve exponential results," says Sister Ginny.

It's not hard to see why Sister Virginia Welsh is an indispensable gem — her service to the greater Toledo community is simply beautiful. It clearly comes from a soul in an intimate union with God. Please join us in celebrating our very own Sister Ginny this Women's Month for her amazing contributions to our children, our families and society as a whole. Thank you.

SAME Café Toledo is looking for an Executive Director!

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Local Church Ministry Honors Eleven

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church's The Voice of Hope Outreach Ministry recognized 11 individuals during a banquet held on Sunday, March 6 at Premier Banquet Hall on Heatherdowns. These individuals were acknowledged as Silent Soldiers for their countless and selfless contributions to the community. The celebration host was Brother Larry Jones of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church and the event began with the entrance of the honorees.

The 2022 Voice of Hope Honorees: Reverend Prentiss Anderson, Sister Nayla Marie Bell, Minister Troy Brown, Sister Elesondra Deromano, Elder Saul Gilmore, Elder Jenai Hicklin, Reverend Theodis Horton, Sister Gail Lindo, Sister Felicia Mitchell, Brother Edward Sanders and Reverend William Smith.

"The persons that you see here, have worked diligently in our community, and have gone without accolades. There are heroes that are still laboring, tonight we applaud their work," shared Jones.

Immediately following the standing ovation of the honorees, City of Toledo Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson who's also a member of Braden United Methodist Church delivered welcome remarks.

"Greetings on behalf of the City of Toledo. It's an honor and privilege to work for you, the citizens of Toledo. These silent soldiers, these heroes and she-roes are making a difference. God bless each of you and continue to do the work, don't worry about getting recognition because God sees your work," shared Councilwoman McPherson.

The banquet continued with musical selections, greetings by over program partners, an innovation and a special presentation to the honorees. Of the 54 partners, several were individuals, companies, faith-based institutions and elected officials. Each of the partners was granted a brief opportunity to address the audience including City of Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszkiewicz, Area Office on Aging, TARTA, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, Toledo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English and United States Senate candidate Traci Johnson.



Honorees with Pastor Brock and program host. FRONT Elesondra Deromano, Rev. Theodis Horton, Rev. William Smith; BACK Nayla Bell, Minister Troy Brown, Felicia Mitchell, Rev. Cedric Brock, Gail Lindo, Elder Saul Gilmore, Elder Jenai Hicklin, (event host) Larry Jones



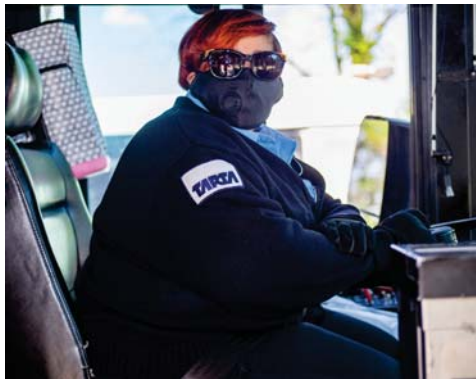
Councilwoman McPherson

"Ohio needs strong voices in Washington, we need solutions because we're divided. People are tired and

...continued on page 9



Deacon Marvin March, Jacqueline Moore, Jacqueline Quinn president of NSPKD Beta Gamma Chapter, Antoinette Walker of Jerusalem Baptist Church, Councilwoman McPherson and Robin Mathis



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Local Church Ministry... continued from page 8

fed up. Gas prices and food prices have increased, we need to make sure that families can feed their children and seniors can purchase their prescriptions," shared Traci Johnson.

The Voice Hope Outreach Ministry was envisioned by Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church which is located on North Detroit Ave. and for over 16 years has sponsored numerous banquets to recognize unsung local heroes from throughout the city. Over the course of the ministry's 16 year history, several community activities have been organized including: a radio ministry heard on 1520 AM and 95.7 FM since 1996, Adopt a Haircut ministry which is held at Poor Clark's Barbershop which offers free haircuts for youth once per month, Adopt a Belt Outreach Ministry which provides free belts, Coat-give-a-way in partnership with Macy's Department Store where approximately 200 coats were donated, Good Friday Ham give-a-way, Back to School give-a-way, a weekly broadcast on NOW network, advocating for mental health issues and providing mentoring tools for a successful life. In addition to honoring 11 individuals a donation drive was organized to collect socks for children in the community.

Biden Administration... continued from page 4

The President's FY22 budget requests a total of \$887 million for HBCU-specific funding in Higher Education Act (HEA) Title III funds—an increase of \$247 million over last year's level.

This would triple the mandatory Title III funding at the Department of Education—for a total of \$252 million. Title III mandatory funds provide formula grants to all HBCUs to invest in capacity-building initiatives and student success programs.

The President's budget request includes funding for research opportunities at HBCUs, labs, IT infrastructure, workforce development programs in STEM, and DOJ funding for Violence Against Women Act programs at HBCUs, among other priorities.

Teacher Quality Funding

Through the FY22 budget request and the Build Back Better plan, President Biden has proposed \$60 million for the Augustus Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program to support teacher preparation programs at HBCUs and minority-serving institutions (MSIs).

Strengthening the White House Initiative on HBCUs

In September, President Biden signed an Executive Order to re-establish the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through HBCUs and issued a proclamation recognizing National HBCU Week.

The President's Executive Order calls for a whole of government approach to support HBCUs in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and bolster HBCUs in a number of ways, including by breaking down barriers and improving access to Federal funding and other programs, particularly in areas of research and development.

The Order specifically directs senior officials in the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President to consult and collaborate with the Initiative on policy priorities for HBCUs.

Federal agencies must submit plans by February 1st of each year to describe how they are increasing HBCU access to Federal programs and improving Federal recruitment activities at HBCUs to build pathways to Federal employment.

During HBCU week, President Biden also named Tony Allen, President of Delaware State University, as Chair of the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. The Board, originally established by the Carter Administration, is meant to engage key stakeholders in fields such as education, business, and philanthropy to advance the goals of the HBCU Initiative.

Ensuring Continued Support for HBCUs through the Build Back Better Plan

The President's Build Back Better plan would provide tuition subsidies to students who attend HBCUs with a family income below \$125,000.

It would also provide free community college to students who attend one of the 11 HBCUs that are also community colleges.

Build Back Better also includes a \$5 billion increase in funding for HEA Title III and Title V, which can be used by HBCUs, Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and MSIs to strengthen their academic, administrative, and fiscal capabilities, including by creating or expanding educational programs in high-demand fields (e.g., STEM, computer sciences, nursing, and allied health).

Build Back Better would direct an additional \$2 billion toward building a pipeline of skilled health care workers with graduate degrees from HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.



Evangelist James Smith and Russell Smith



Holly Johnson and Evangelist Todd Johnson



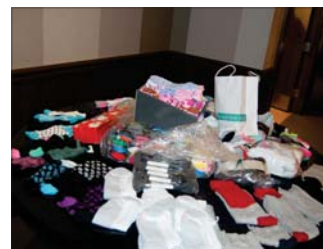
Honoree Elder Prentiss Anderson, escorted by family members



Traci Johnson, candidate for Sentate



William Smith, Valerie Smith and Vincent Smith



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America's School Lunch Program Is Failing Black Students

By Maya Pottiger | Word In Black | Sacramento Observer

(WIB) – From mushy fish sticks and fries to mystery meat burgers and soggy broccoli, public school lunches in the United States aren't exactly known as a culinary delight. But these free and reduced-price school lunch meals — as well as a breakfast to start the day — keep millions of low-income students from going hungry. And we've known since before the Black Panthers began feeding children in Oakland in 1969 that a disproportionate number of those kids are Black.

So what happens when schools are grappling with the pandemic transition to remote learning, or when individual students are quarantined because they've caught COVID-19 — or when their families choose virtual schooling to keep them safe? It turns out that more Black children are going to bed hungry at night.

"What we saw consistently was that families of color, particularly Black families, had food insecurity rates that were two-to-three times as high as white households," says Elaine Waxman, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute. "That's not a new story, but again, particularly early in the pandemic, it was really exacerbated for Black families."

For low-income families, their child's school can account for two out of three daily meals on weekdays, or a "significant portion" of a family's food budget, Waxman says. Research has long shown that school meals help reduce food insecurity, which is further proven during summertime when families struggle from not having access to those meals on a daily basis.

"We knew these things coming into the pandemic," Waxman says. "But the pandemic has really driven home how critical it is."

How Schools Tried to Alleviate Food Insecurity

Black families reeling from the effects of the pandemic — such as being more likely to be laid off and less likely to be hired, having fewer resources, and high rates of COVID-19 infection and death — found they needed free and reduced-price meals more than ever. But they couldn't always count on school meals being an option.

Schools tried to shift their mealtime strategies at the beginning of the pandemic,

like implementing a grab-and-go option where families could pick up prepackaged meals. But it didn't work on a large scale, Waxman says, because it's not practical to leave if you have kids at home — cash strapped parents or guardians would need to hire a babysitter, for example — and you have to weigh the cost of getting there against the value of the food. Plus, schools were facing staffing shortages.

To get more insight, Word In Black used data tables from the Census Bureau's Household Pulse surveys, which are conducted monthly over a two-week period to collect data on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting peoples' lives.

Questions about free meals and food assistance were not included in the surveys until the end of July 2021. Responses to a survey question about how many children did not receive free meals or food assistance provide a sobering perspective on the problem. In July 2021, only 33% of Black children did not need free meals or food assistance. The most recent data from January 2022 revealed that the situation is slightly better, with only 35% not needing help with food.

"When the rug is pulled, it gets pulled out from everyone, and there's less of a cushion there for families of color," Waxman says. Urban Institute's Fall 2020 coronavirus tracking data showed Black families with kids in school were facing food insecurity at rates of nearly 40%. "That was frightening. And it's frightening because we know from research that even short spells of food insecurity leave a mark on kids in terms of their health and development," Waxman says.

The Shortcomings of the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer

Eventually, the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program emerged. Instead of putting the onus on families and schools to coordinate meal pick-ups, the value of missed meals was electronically put on a card for any kid who was eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The disproportionate negative financial impact of the pandemic on Black communities can be seen in the data. In both July 2021 and January 2022, more Black families by far had received or used an EBT to help buy groceries, according to the Household Pulse surveys. Black families (31%) used EBT cards 182% more than white families (11%) and 287% more than Asian families (8%) in July 2021. The gap closed a bit by January 2022, with Black families (26%) using EBT cards 189% more than Asian and white families (9% each).

However, P-EBT isn't available to everyone who needs it. The first problem, as the Washington Post reported earlier this month, is that most states haven't applied to renew the program for the 2021-2022 school year. Currently, only eight states are approved for federal aid, and another 17 are in various stages of the application process.

But even if more states were participating, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which runs the National School Lunch Program and P-EBT, has made it so that students who are enrolled in virtual schooling are no longer eligible for free meals. The reasoning is that virtual schools are not equipped with cafeterias or culinary staff, so they would not provide students with meals even in a non-pandemic situation, and there's nothing "to reimburse families for anyway," according to The Counter's in-depth feature on P-EBT.

As Food and Nutrition Service Administrator Cindy Long wrote in a statement to Word In Black: "FNS is committed to ensuring that school meals continue to be a reliable source of nutrition for children throughout the school day. We are acting quickly to leverage flexibilities that have been provided by Congress, recognizing

...continued on page 12

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Biden-Harris Administration Extends Student Loan Pause Through May 1

On Dec. 22, the U.S. Department of Education announced a 90-day extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through May 1, 2022.

The extension will allow the Administration to assess the impacts of the Omicron variant on student borrowers and provide additional time for borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart.

The Department will continue its work to transition borrowers smoothly back into repayment, including by improving student loan servicing.

"Since Day One of this Administration, the Department has focused on supporting students and borrowers throughout the pandemic and ensuring they have the resources they need to return to repayment successfully," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "This additional extension of the repayment pause will provide critical relief to borrowers who continue to face financial hardships as a result of the pandemic and will allow our Administration to assess the impacts of Omicron on student borrowers. As we prepare for the return to repayment in May, we will continue to provide tools and supports to borrowers so they can enter into the repayment plan that is responsive to their financial situation, such as an income-driven repayment plan. Students and borrowers will always be at the center of our work at the Department, and we are committed to not only ensuring a smooth return to repayment, but also increasing accountability and stronger customer service from our loan servicers as borrowers prepare for repayment."

The pause on student loan payments will help 41 million borrowers save \$5

billion per month. Borrowers are encouraged to use the additional time to ensure their contact information is up to date and to consider enrolling in electronic debit and income-driven repayment plans to support a smooth transition to repayment.

More information can be found at StudentAid.gov.

The Dec. 22 action is one in a series of steps the Biden-Harris Administration has taken to support students and borrowers, make higher education more affordable, and improve student loan servicing, including providing nearly \$13 billion in targeted loan relief to over 640,000 borrowers. Actions within that include:

- Revamping the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program in October, which has already provided \$2.4 billion in loan relief to 38,000 borrowers. As part of that effort, the Department implemented a Limited PSLF Waiver to count all prior payments made by student borrowers toward PSLF, regardless of the loan program. Borrowers who are working in public service but have not yet applied for PSLF should do so before Oct. 31, 2022 and can find out more at StudentAid.gov/PSLF.
- Providing \$7.0 billion in relief for 401,000 borrowers who have a total and permanent disability.
- Approving \$1.5 billion in borrower defense claims, including extending full relief to approved claims and approving new types of claims.
- Providing \$1.26 billion in closed school discharges to 107,000 borrowers who attended the now-defunct ITT Technical Institute.
- Helping 30,000 small business owners with student loans seeking help from the Paycheck Protection Program.

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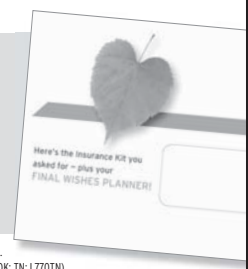
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Tools and Strategies to Help Your Student Learn From Anywhere

Special to The Truth

With school districts in flux as the pandemic continues to evolve, students, parents and teachers have had to roll with the punches in order to adapt. Here are three ways to ensure your student thrives during this unusual school year.

1. Supplement coursework: It has always been important to supplement classroom learning at home, and that's particularly true right now. With large percentages of teachers out sick, and schools having to combine classes in order to keep students supervised, classroom learning has suffered. Digital resources however, such as Scholastic Learning at Home, offer activities, book clubs, homework help and more to help ensure younger students don't miss out on the fundamental literacy skills they will need to build on their future success. To keep older students engaged, check out TEDEd, which offers thought-provoking content on a range of topics, as well as resources for parents and teachers.

2. Provide top-tier educational resources: Be sure your student has the proper tools needed to grasp the material in their most challenging classes, whether or not their teacher is in the room with them. For higher level math and science classes, that means having a user-friendly graphing calculator that brings the subject to life. For example, Casio's fx-9750GIII leverages a new natural display feature, which allows for fractions, roots and other functions to appear on the screen as they are written in the textbook. This makes for a seamless learning experience. Students can also turn to online resources, such as ClassPad.net. This all-in-one, web-based mathematics creation and discovery resource is geared for K-12 and beyond and is an engaging tool for all students, including those learning remotely, those being homeschooled, or those who may need a little extra practice outside the classroom. Offering innovative features like unlimited customizable workspaces and the ability to create authentic mathematical text and easily adjust geometric objects, measurements and angles,

ClassPad.net is free to all students and teachers.

3. Go the extra mile: Some school districts are choosing to cancel extra-curricular activities that involve high-risk activities such as band, choir and certain team sports. From soccer drills to scales, you can encourage your child to continue to excel in these activities. Help them set up a space where they can effectively practice their skills at home, in the backyard or in a local park. When these programs return, your student won't miss a beat. Even if your child is not enrolled in a team sport, try to fill in gaps for missed P.E. classes by encouraging regular physical activity.

During a school year unlike any other, smart strategies and educational tools can help students meet the challenges associated with missed activities, disrupted lesson plans and other setbacks associated with the ongoing pandemic.

Courtesy StatePoint

School Lunch... continued from page 10

the importance of school meals in protecting our children during this pandemic."

Urban Institute's Waxman pointed out that families that enrolled in virtual academies — separate schools that are entirely virtual — chose that option because they were among the most vulnerable.

"I got an email today from a grandparent in a state where that's what they've done because both she and her husband are immunocompromised. They've kept the kid home for virtual schooling this year," Waxman says. "She didn't realize that that meant there were going to be no benefits. It's a big problem."

That reality could be affecting more and more Black families. Though the trend began prior to the pandemic, we've also seen a rising number of Black families switch to homeschooling since 2020. Not only do families want to keep their kids safe health-wise, but they're also fed up with not seeing themselves or their history represented in school textbooks.

Food Insecurity Isn't New

A September 2021 New York Times story found that food insecurity levels were "unchanged" from where they were pre-pandemic. The story also notes, however, that food insecurity did rise among households with children, Black households, and households in the South.

In the Household Pulse surveys, Black children reported the highest percentage of "often" not having enough to eat. They polled at 4% both prior to the pandemic and in May 2020, the first Household Pulse survey. In January 2022, they polled at 5%. In all three surveys, it was the highest percentage.

"One of the big lessons from the pandemic is the critical role that school meals play as part of the nutrition safety net," Judith Bartfeld, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin, told the New York Times. "The value of school meals became transparent when the meals disappeared."

As we've seen time and time again, the twin viruses of racism and COVID-19 are taking a toll on Black communities and children.

"It's really hard because now you don't even have schools that are in the same

...continued on page 13

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Black Love Matters: Real Talk on Romance, Being Seen, and Happily Ever Afters edited by Jessica P. Pryde

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Bodice-rippers.

That's what they're sometimes called: you know, those romance books that feature a hard-bodied, handsome man on the cover, and he's holding the shoulders of a lovely, swooning woman wearing a dress with a ripped bodice. Steamy inside and out, but does the couple in question look like you? In the new book, *Black Love Matters*, edited by Jessica P. Pryde, they might.

For much of history, Black love didn't end in *Happily Ever After* (called "HEA" in several places in this book). Black love was controlled by someone else, or it was hard to keep, or it was just plain forbidden. As for Black literature, it was much the same – until the late 1800s, when poet and activist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper wrote what may be the first Black romance novel, *Iola Leroy*, or *Shadows Uplifted*.

In the couple decades after Harper's book was released, fans might've seen Black romance stories in Black newspapers here and there. In the middle of the last century, readers could find magazines with spicy titles that featured kiss-and-tell stories. It wasn't until the 1980s that romance authors began writing specifically for a Black audience, and readers in the know learned to look for certain authors or publishers to find love literature.

Seeing those books on the shelf, says contributor Allie Parker, is a what representation is all about; the characters in Black romance books show a reader that HEA is possible and "That people like you are worth rooting for." Carole V. Bell says romance novels are "inextricably bound in Black solidarity." Nicole M. Jackson says it's now very possible to find queer Black romances, if you want them. Jasmine Guillory says that readers shouldn't be surprised if there's lots of food involved because "When I love someone... I

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want to feed them."

And yet, editor Pryde calls for integration.

"We might want more black couples in our media," she says, "but not at the expense of the relationships those people were already in. Just give us more. Give us balance."

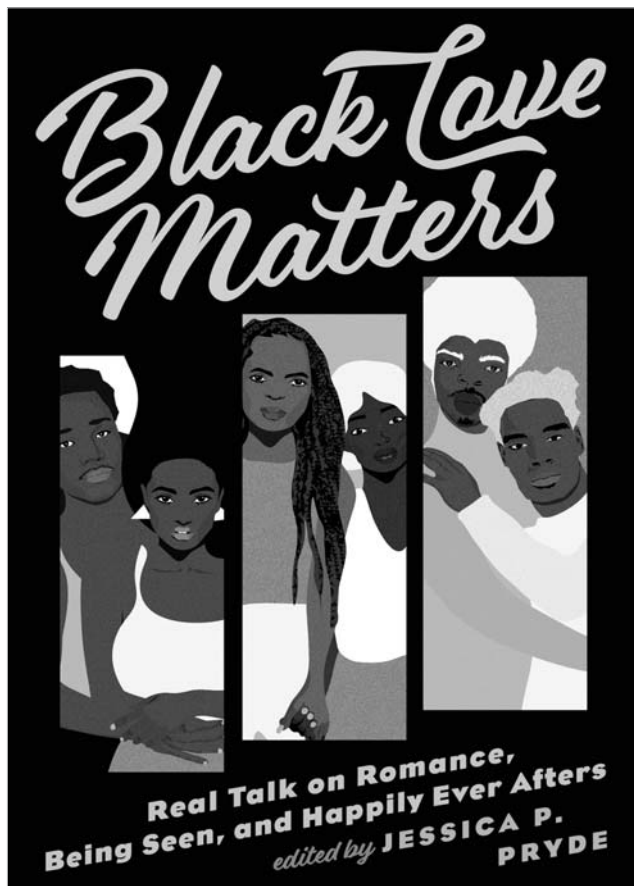
It's about time, isn't it? Time that a book like *Black Love Matters* brings a rarely-talked-about subject to the forefront and asks why Black readers have had to wait to see themselves and their history inside the kinds of books that white readers take for granted.

In this book, you'll learn the history of Black romance novels. Readers and writers weigh in on the delight they've felt when they've discovered Black romances on a shelf somewhere, the reason they sometimes hid those novels from others, and what's being done to promote Black love stories. The entire genre, overall, has often been dismissed as fluff but the contributors here explain why it's important to give Black love stories their own HEA.

In the purest sense, this is a love letter to Black romance novels. The bonus is that romance readers will find lots of great recommendations, so bring your Must-Have List with you when you start *Black Love Matters*. It's a book you'll rip through, quick.



Black Love Matters
author CREDIT James
Galloway-Reed



School Lunch... continued from page 12

status because the school might be in session, but you might have a kid who's out for 10 days," Waxman says. "So once again, we're in the situation where benefits may be coming, but they're going to come many months after they were first needed."

"We need a program that can be more easily triggered and can make some really broad assumptions, that say, if we have positivity rates at a certain level, that kids get a benefit," Waxman says. "I think people worry we should be good stewards of government resources. I'm not arguing that. But the trade-off here is food insecurity or a detailed data process. And to me, that's not a choice, right? You ameliorate the food insecurity, and you understand that that's an investment worth making."

Support for this Sacramento OBSERVER article was provided to Word In Black (WIB) by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. WIB is a collaborative of 10 Black-owned media that includes print and digital partners.

The post America's School Lunch Program Is Failing Black Students appeared first on The Sacramento Observer.

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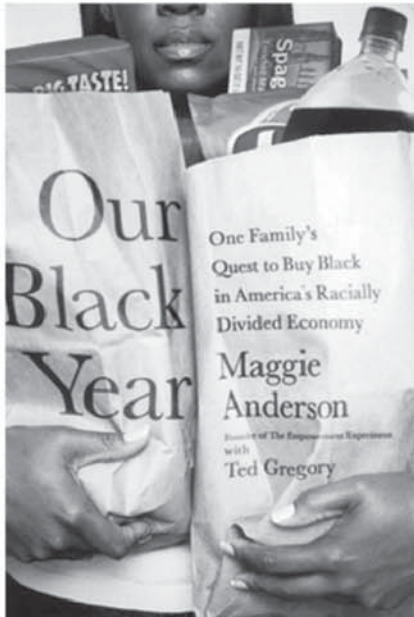
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msrubyskitchen.com

A-1 BONDS

Tina Butts

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24 HOURS

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Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

When: Every 4th Sunday
 Time: 11:00 am

Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
 910 Woodville Rd.
 Toledo, Ohio

www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed

Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

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/>

MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL GIVING MANAGER

Metroparks Toledo is seeking a Membership and Annual Giving Manager to join our philanthropy team. This new position will help build, inspire, and motivate lasting relationships with our core Metroparks community. A college degree in business, marketing or related field is required. Moderate level of experience in development/fundraising/sales is preferred. Salaried with benefits.

To view the full job description and apply online, please visit <https://metroparkstoledo.com/get-involved/careers/>

KAYAK CONCESSION WORKER

Metroparks Toledo has a seasonal position open for Kayak Concession Worker at Farnsworth Metropark. This position will provide excellent customer service to park visitors and assist them in renting and using kayaks on the Maumee River. High School Diploma or equivalent is required. No prior work experience required. Training provided. \$12.44/hr. EOE.



FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

In an effort to establish a current Applicant List, **Sylvania Fire-EMS** is seeking firefighter/paramedics for full-time positions.

Sylvania Fire-EMS offers entry level examinations for the position of firefighter/paramedic through National Testing Network, Inc. To initiate the application process and schedule an examination, go to www.nationaltestingnetwork.com.

Sylvania Fire-EMS also offers a lateral entry process for the position of firefighter/paramedic for those who are currently employed, or who separated (within the last twelve months) as a result of layoff, as a full-time firefighter/paramedic by a federal, state, county or municipal fire/EMS department or holds an equivalent position in the United States military.

For full details about our hiring process, please visit our website at: <https://www.sylvaniatownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2011-001-Hiring-Policy-Revision-1-18-2022.pdf>. Or you may contact our administrative offices at 419-882-7676 for further information.

The deadline for initiating an application and completing the entry level examination and Firefighter Mile is April 1, 2022.

Sylvania Fire-EMS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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)<<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.



JOB POSTING

JOB TITLE: Senior Scheduler
LOCATION: Rudolph Libbe Inc., Walbridge, Ohio

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

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is in search of a Senior Scheduler. The Senior Scheduler will leverage their knowledge, experience, and relationship building skills to foster a culture of planning and scheduling for all projects with a focus on working with our project teams to enhance our customer experience. In this role you will work with Pre-Construction, Project Controls, Construction Operations, Field Operations, and Marketing. As part of a high-performing team, the Scheduling Manager will be expected to develop strong relationships within the organization to further improve our scheduling process. A Bachelor's degree, 5+ years of construction scheduling experience and a strong knowledge of Primavera software and PMP certification is preferred

Interested parties should apply on our website at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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@ywcawo.org

Sister Virginia Welsh: An Indispensable Gem Helping to Build Leaders

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

A servant of God is anyone who chooses to be one.

The Call is universal. Many hear It, but few will answer.

When God calls you it's a gift, an invitation into a deeper relationship with Him. For Sister Virginia Welsh of St. Martin de Porres Church in Toledo, this relationship includes a loving vocation to support the health and happiness of a community one person at a time.

A native of Carey, OH, Sister Virginia was raised with humble principles in a small town where everyone knows you by name. Aside from being a small community with a slower pace of life, Carey, OH is halfway between the state capital, Columbus, to the south and Toledo to the north. There she attended Catholic grade school and later graduated from St. Francis High School in nearby Tiffin, Ohio.

By the time Sister Virginia Welsh was grown, a faithful community of Franciscan Sisters had developed around her. "This Sisterhood is known for simplicity and poverty, a love for creation and a deep love of Jesus Christ crucified," shares Sister Virginia Welsh. "That's what attracted me initially. I love how we connect our particular God-given gifts to the communities we serve."

After secondary schooling Sister Virginia entered the novitiate, also called the noviciate. "This refers to the period of training and preparation that a member of a religious order undergoes prior to taking vows," Sister explains. "Much discernment is involved in whether or not one feels called to vowed religious life and after much prayer I was certain."



Sister Virginia Welsh



Sister Virginia Welsh, Executive Director of the Padua Center, lights the third candle of the Kinara



Artist RyLee Davis and the chair she painted, and Sister Virginia Welsh

Thankfully Sister Virginia Welsh did answer The Call — and it led her here to The Glass City. She attended Mary Manse College, a Catholic institution of higher education operated by the Ursuline Order of Nuns located in Toledo from 1922 until 1975. Sister Virginia would later attend Loyola University of Chicago earning a Masters of Pastoral Studies.

Here in Toledo she is affectionately nicknamed "Sister Ginny." To know her is to love her. She is the Pastoral Leader at St. Martin's de Porres Church and the Director of the Padua Center, a sponsored ministry of St. Martin's Parish.

Sister Ginny has been working in Pastoral Leadership for the past 54 years. She initially began this role at St. Mary's Church on Page Street. Years later, the Sisters of St. Frances Parish in Tiffin, Ohio elected Sister Welsh to leadership there, where she served two terms. "I was then invited by the Archdiocese to open an outreach center on Nebraska Ave. named the Padua Center," says Sister Ginny. "It was a special opportunity."

The Padua Center is named after St. Anthony of Padua and is located in the rectory of the former St. Anthony of Padua Church at 1416 Nebraska Ave.

The Center meets all the challenges of our current day times with confidence, assured that they can do anything through God. The mission of Padua Center is to be a Christian community-based presence empowering people at all stag-

... continued on page 7

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



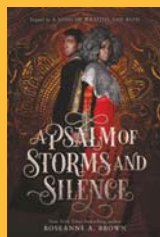
Black Cake
by Charmaine Wilkerson



Miss Me With That
by Rachel Lindsay



Akata Woman
by Nnedi Okorafor



A Psalm of Storms and Silence
by Roseanne Brown

toledolibrary.org
419.259.5200



"BLACK WOMEN, HEALTH, & HEALING"

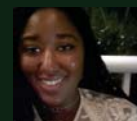
A UToledo, Virtual WebEx Event:
Featuring a Panel of Inspiring
Change-Makers!!

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm

Our Esteemed Virtual Panel:



P. Angelica Simmons, JD
Founder & Executive
Director of the Fannie
Lou Hamer Institute of
Advocacy & Social Action



Amanda Hill
Healing By Choice!
Collaborator, Detroit, MI-
based Community
Organizer, Abolitionist
& Reiki Practitioner



Ameisha Tutwiler, MMS
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Candidate,
Developer of Med School
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Racism & Systemic Health
Inequity



Tanisha Hoover,
NMD, BSN, RN
Naturopathic Physician,
CEO & Founder of
RxForHealth

WebEx Info:

<https://utoledo.webex.com/utoledo/j.php?MTID=md5fc3c4eaf2b251686d523e33d0374c9>



This online event is sponsored by The University of Toledo, Department of Women's and Gender Studies and the Africana Studies Program, in honor of Women's History Month. Door prize giveaways included!!

Event Contact Email:
rachel.dudley@utoledo.edu