

The Sojourner's Truth

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Volume 72 No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 13, 2022

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In This Issue...

Perryman and Cranley
Page 3

Paula Hicks-Hudson
Guest Column
Page 3

Lacy DeBerry, III
Page 4

Ohioans Praise KBJ
Page 6

June Boyd's 87th
Page 8

Robin Sulier-Charney & Sons of Toledo
Pages 10-11

Book Review
Page 13

Classifieds
Page 14

Cover Story:
Gammas Celebrate Founders' Day
Page 16

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The Power of a City's Resurrection

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

The Truth Contributor

A comeback is a setback that did its homework, learned the lesson, and then moved forward.

- Eleanor Brown

Ohioans can say 'Hello' to vibrant socioeconomic life after death should voters hear and heed gubernatorial candidate John Cranley's testimony of Cincinnati's resurrection under his leadership.

Cranley, who served as Mayor of Cincinnati from December 1, 2013, to January 4, 2022, believes that the comeback he engineered in Cincinnati demonstrates his ability to deliver throughout Ohio.

A report from the Brookings Institute identifies Cincinnati as one of five cities offering a successful framework for using inclusive policies to boost wealth and lower poverty.

Others also attest to Cranley's ability to bring new vigor to that which was collapsed and decayed as big news for Ohioans. For example, the Cleveland Plain Dealer notes, "Cranley's record as Cincinnati's mayor and the range and creativity of his proposals promise a better chance in November and a better outcome in the governor's office."

I spoke with Cranley about his work in Cincinnati and how his proposals might breathe new life into Ohio, including Toledo.

Here is our conversation:

Perryman: Good Afternoon. Let's first let's talk a little bit about your bio.

Cranley: I grew up in Cincinnati, blessed with faith at a young age, and went to Catholic grade schools and a Jesuit high school called St. Xavier, like St. John's in Toledo. They inspired in me a sense of social justice.

We did a play about the life and assassination of Oscar Romero in high school, who was a human rights activist who was murdered in El Salvador in 1980. While doing the play, six Jesuit priests were murdered in San Salvador again. So, it felt like we were play-acting when people were literally being killed for standing up for their faith and ideals and for standing up for the poor and the oppressed. That experience really changed my life to want to go into public service.

Perryman: How about your higher education?

Cranley: I went to John Carroll University, where I was student body president, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Divinity School. So, I have a master's in theology and a law degree. With my law degree, I was the co-founder of the Ohio Innocence Project, which uses DNA evidence to get people out of prison. My program has freed 34 people in the last 20 years, and I'm very proud of that work and effort.

Perryman: What were your accomplishments while mayor of Cincinnati?

Cranley: Of course, I've been mayor of Cincinnati for the last eight years. Under my leadership, we became the first comeback city of Ohio to start growing again. We reduced poverty 1-1/2 times faster than the State of Ohio, and economically we grew twice as fast as the state. We have more black-owned businesses that make \$500,000 a year than any city in Ohio. I took city contracts with black-owned businesses from two percent to 17 percent during my time as mayor, and shootings were down last year. My leadership has led to results, to actual tangible results. I think that's the kind of leadership that I can offer the people of Ohio.

Perryman: So why John Cranley for Governor of Ohio, and why is the time right for your leadership?

Cranley: Well, Ohio needs a comeback. Ohio used to be one of the biggest manufacturing powerhouses for the middle class in America. For the last 30 years, the Republicans have led to the average Ohioan making less money than the average American, so we need a comeback. Wages need to go up, and growth needs to happen in all parts of the state. I've done that in Cincinnati. I can do that for Ohio. The current leadership of the state under the Republicans has failed. Their leadership has failed, while mine has succeeded.

With Teresa Fedor as my running mate, we're going to ramp up education

...continued on page 4



A Well-Intended Federal Drug Pricing Program Being Exploited by Hospitals Should Be Redesigned to Help Uninsured and Low-Income Ohioans

By State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Guest Column

During the COVID pandemic, physicians, nurses, and staff across the state of Ohio have been working in challenging conditions while treating patients and saving lives. While physicians and staff struggled to care for patients during the pandemic, some hospitals were taking advantage of federal policies intended to make health care affordable for uninsured and low-income patients.

The 340B Drug Pricing Program was intended for drug manufacturers to provide an almost 50 percent discount on prescription drugs to a small group of charity hospitals. These savings were to be passed onto the most vulnerable patients so they could ac-

...continued on page 5



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson



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Lacy DeBerry, III Named Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Truth Staff

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced the appointment of Lacy DeBerry, III as the new director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion during a press conference on Wednesday, April 6.

DeBerry arrives in Toledo from Greensboro, NC, where he was a human resources consultant since 2007, bringing 25 years of experience in government providing human resources and educational services.

"I believe we need a good mix of local talent, those with local perspectives ... but it is also important to bring in new faces who can look at problems with a new set of eyes," said the mayor during his introduction. "Lacy comes from outside of the community and doesn't have a natural link here. In Lacy, we are confident we have the right fit and he will love the city as much as we love it."

During his time with the City of Greensboro, DeBerry was responsible for handling employee complaints, investigating discrimination charges, and providing technical assistance to executive leadership concerning policy implementation.

DeBerry graduated from Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, NC with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Affairs. In 2020, DeBerry graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Government, Chapel Hill.

He has been involved with the Triad Chapter of NFBPA since 2008, and has presented at Forums 2010- 2012, 2019- 2020. He is a 2012-13 Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) graduate and served as the president of the Triad chapter from 2015-17. DeBerry is a graduate of Foundations of Management and Leadership Edge. Currently, he is an instructor in the Foundations of Policy.

DeBerry started his new position on April 4 but noted that he had already gotten a sense of some of the issues he will face, and the work that has preceded him in his new office.

"We are doing some things in Toledo that I'm just pleased with and we want to continue the momentum," he said without getting into details. He did, however, address the fact that he is aware that a number of community groups and organizations have departments or offices of diversity, equity and inclusion in place and that he hopes to collaborate with such offices – a point also emphasized by the mayor.

"There is an active network of DEI professionals and we want to coordinate a little better," said Kapszukiewicz.

The mayor added that one of the reasons that DeBerry was such an appealing candidate for the position was his place of work – the South. "In this work, at this time, for 20 years he has worked in the Deep South – an old Confederate state. "His experience and perspective is important."



Lacy DeBerry speaks as Mayor Kapszukiewicz looks on

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Perryman... continued from page 2

from K-12 all the way to graduate schools. We're going to guarantee jobs that pay \$60,000 a year. We will legalize recreational marijuana and put the taxes into those jobs. We will create a basic form of income through a dividend to families of \$500 per year like they have in Alaska and North Dakota to help people pay for this high inflation.

Perryman: Let's talk about Toledo-specific issues. According to your perspective, what is Toledo's importance to the State of Ohio?

Cranley: Well, it's so important that I picked my running mate, Teresa Fedor, from Toledo! Toledo reminds me a lot of Cincinnati in it has enormous potential to make a comeback. There's been a lot of exciting things happening to revitalize the city, and it needs a partner in the state to help out.

We will ensure that clean water is never in question in Toledo, get rid of the smell and ensure that we're taking advantage of a valuable asset like Lake Erie. So, we will tackle and stop the algae blooms and use engineering and farmer-friendly solutions to reduce the fertilizer run-off, which causes a lot of the algae blooms.

...continued on page 5

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Perryman... continued from page 4

I'm also going to restore local government funds that help the city provide the basic services it pays for but doesn't get the money back from Columbus. Then, of course, with Marcy Kaptur, who's supporting our campaign, and Teresa Fedor, we're also going to bring a community college into Lucas County. There are community colleges in the other counties, but not in Lucas County directly, where you have the most diversity. So, we want a community college in Lucas County.

Perryman: How will you address the disparities that disproportionately affect minority populations and other issues, such as the attempt to defund public schools?

Cranley: Teresa and I have pledged to fully fund on a constitutional basis, which has never happened in 25 years of K-12 education. So, we're going to have a standalone K-12 budget in the first 100 days of our time in office. In addition, we're going to propose optional summer school possibilities for families whose kids may have lost learning during COVID. We're going to make that a huge priority.

Perryman: How about people dealing with these insane prescription drug prices and Medicaid expansion to seniors, women, and children?

Cranley: Yes, absolutely, we support all of that. We support anti-price gouging. We are also supporting a dividend to help people pay bills, which has never been tried before in Ohio. They have it in Alaska and North Dakota, and we should have it in Ohio.

Perryman: There appears to be a relationship gap between urban and rural voters. Do you have a specific plan to connect minorities and disaffected whites, including those who formerly voted for Obama but now are supporting Trump?

Cranley: The way to unite them is an agenda that works for the inner city and rural. For example, the number one issue facing inner-city and rural Ohio is the lack of access to good cell phone coverage and high-speed broadband Wi-Fi. This policy is important to farmers, and it's essential for inner-city kids to be able to do their homework.

Teresa and I will get broadband and Wi-Fi to the whole state in four years, and that's a way to bring people together. Those voters who voted for Obama and Trump also support legalized marijuana and my dividend idea. So, my agenda unites the Democratic Party and reaches out to those very voters that we've lost.

Perryman: What went into your decision to team up with Fedor?

Cranley: She's an Air Force veteran, a public educator and a fighter for social justice. So, her heart's in the right place, and she makes a great team. And, it's also great to bring someone from Toledo.

Perryman: Given the mess in Ohio's restricting maps and our gerrymandering problem, how will you respond?

Cranley: I'll follow the Constitution. It's abominable that Governor DeWine has said that he knows that the maps he had voted for were not constitutional, but he did it anyway. He broke his oath, and I never will.

Perryman: How will you address legislative issues such as HB-327, which prohibits the teaching of factual history and other things deemed divisive concepts by the Republicans?

Cranley: I'll fight it. I don't think we should be banning books. I think we should teach our kids to be proud Americans but not sugarcoat our history.

Perryman: Do you have plans for bringing more women and minorities into leadership positions?

Cranley: Absolutely. I've always had a diverse team that will reflect the diversity of the State of Ohio. When I was mayor, my police chief, fire chief, and parks director were all African Americans. My personal staff was half white, half black, with leadership roles for women across the board. We will do the same as governor.

Perryman: Would you like to discuss First Energy?

Cranley: Well, it's the worst scandal in the history of the State of Ohio, and it took money out of people's pockets to bail out First Energy. Mike DeWine

takes money out of your pockets. Teresa Fedor and I will put money in your pockets. I'm going to take money from the special interests and put it in people's pockets in the dividend, \$500 per year. I'm also going to fire the utility commissioners the day I'm sworn in and replace them with people who will stand up for the ratepayers.

Perryman: Lastly, please provide The Truth's readers with the essence of your campaign message.

Cranley: Ohio needs a comeback. I have delivered a comeback in Cincinnati that is better than the State of Ohio. I've provided faster growth and faster poverty reduction. In contrast, Mike DeWine and the Republicans have made the state worse off. My primary opponent has underperformed the State of Ohio.

If we're going to get the Ohio voters to fire Mike DeWine, we need to have a candidate whose economic record is better than the state's.

Only my record is better.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



Mayor John Cranley

Paula Hicks-Hudson... continued from page 3

cess prescription drugs. However, the program has vague eligibility criteria and unclear definitions of how hospitals can use the savings. These loopholes have allowed hospitals to participate in the program without providing the level of charity care intended by the program's design. The Pacific Research Institute (PRI) found that not only do "non-profit" 340B hospitals make 37% more in profits compared to the average of all hospitals, but these 340B hospitals that are supposed to provide charity care give 22% less of their net patient

...continued on page 6

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Ohio Black Women Leaders Celebrate Historic Confirmation of Judge Jackson To the Supreme Court

Special To The Truth

Following Judge Jackson's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court, despite baseless attacks from the Republicans who hope to oversee judicial confirmations as members of the U.S. Senate, Ohio Black women leaders released the following statements in response:

"With the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, our country is one step closer to a Supreme Court that understands the struggles of working families and prioritizes civil rights. Today's historic vote gives hope to millions of young Black girls, who for the first time see someone who looks like themselves on the highest court in the country, that they can achieve their dreams. Judge Jackson is a supremely qualified jurist with the right disposition for the job - and it's embarrassing that Ohio Republicans running for U.S. Senate have parroted lies about her to cover for their anti-worker agenda that harms Ohio families." -Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President Juanita Brent, Cleveland

"Congratulations to Judge Jackson for her historic confirmation to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is uniquely prepared to serve on the highest court in our country, which is why her appointment has earned bipartisan support, uniting civil rights groups, law enforcement, labor unions and business groups. While Judge Jackson has repeatedly shown she has the right temperament and judgment to serve on the United States Supreme Court, the GOP Senate candidates have pushed baseless personal attacks and lies about her character - proving they do not have the temperament or judgment to serve the working people of our state." -State Representative Tavia Galonski, Akron

"Today, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson made history as she was confirmed to serve as the first African American woman on the United States Supreme Court. Judge Jackson is exactly the right nominee for this moment who will protect civil rights, workers' rights and more. It is shameful but unsurpris-



State Rep. Juanita Brent



State Rep. Tavia Galonski



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

ing that the Ohio Republicans who have focused their campaigns on petty feuds and posturing have stooped so low to attack the character of a qualified, fair-minded jurist." -State Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson, Toledo

"Representation is important - and history will remember today's historic vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Judge Jackson is an extraordinarily qualified nominee and an accomplished jurist. It is unfortunate that some running for office in Ohio would rather echo the baseless attacks and conspiracy theories spewed by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee than treat her with the respect she deserves as a highly-qualified nominee." -Geraldine Hayes Nelson, PhD, former president of the Portage County NAACP



Geraldine Hayes-Nelson, PhD

Paula Hicks-Hudson... continued from page 5

revenue to charity care than all hospitals.

In addition to these loopholes, 340B hospitals' use of contract pharmacies has ballooned. Under the original program, hospitals were only allowed to contract with one pharmacy, but now they can contract with an unlimited number of pharmacies. The unfortunate reality is that in the current environment the 340B program incentivizes hospitals to figure out how to prescribe more drugs through their huge network of contract pharmacies while patients are paying up to three times the purchase price.

An analysis of the 340B program found that 57 percent of the hospitals surveyed did not provide discount drugs to low-income uninsured patients getting their medications at the hospital's contract pharmacy.

PRI also found Ohio's hospitals are making tens of millions of dollars in revenue and profit thanks to their low spending on charity care and massive networks of pharmacy contracts. For example, two hospitals the study analyzed in Ohio had 168 and 141 contract pharmacy arrangements. Both hospitals gave away meager amounts of their net patient revenue towards charity care: 0.66 percent and 1.36 percent, respectively. While the report did not include the hospitals in Lucas County, there is a need for better government oversight to ensure that these benefits reach their intended recipients.

Lastly, the number of 340B hospitals has expanded from 90 to 2,500 and the number of contract pharmacies increased from 1,300 to 30,000. The regulatory agency responsible for 340B oversight can't keep up. In fact, based on the Government Accountability Office, hospitals were allowed to self-attest to the required documentation to participate in the program. Since mid-2020 many drug manufacturers have said that the lack of consistent regulations and baseless expansions of the 340B program has gone too far and have restricted drug discounts to 340B hospital pharmacies. In the last couple of months, hospitals, drug manufacturers, and the government have forced the courts to decide on this issue, but the courts have said they need help from Congress because 340B guidelines are too ambiguous.

The 340B program is worthy of being redesigned to make sure drug discounts are reaching the uninsured and low-income patients. Congress should take action to downsize the program and close loopholes so hospitals participating in the 340B program are providing the level of charity care in their community that the program intended.

The Truth

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June Boyd Celebrates Her 87th

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

"I don't hide it!... I'm 87 today and I'm very proud of it."

June Boyd, lifetime community activist and public servant, celebrated her 87th birthday with family and friends Friday, April 8 at Studio 323.

Boyd, who experienced a near death experience this year when her home was struck by gunfire, emphasized that the celebration is a reminder to enjoy life.

... continued on page 12



Simply Shann (vocalist Shandonna Flunder and keyboardist Emmitt Williams)



Singer Dianne E'Laine, son Steven Boyd, June Boyd, keyboardist Emmitt Williams (Simply Shann)



June Boyd with son Steven Boyd

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Robin Sulier-Charney's Black Barbershop Initiative

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Robin Sulier-Charney, ProMedica's oncology community liaison, began speaking to barbers in 2017 after developing an understanding through her research that such advocates would be an effective way to reach the Black male population that has such disproportionately high cancer mortality rates.

"I was hoping to create bridges and begin the conversation to develop trust," says Sulier-Charney of her efforts. "I wanted the guys to know that there are people that can be trusted."

Sulier-Charney and ProMedica then started supplying barbers with health screening, health education and resources for their clients and, from that collaboration, grew ProMedica's Black Barbershop Initiative, a group of 10 barbershop

owners, working with cardiologist Dr. Brian Dolsey, "trying to define what do we want to work on," recalls Sulier-Charney.

That collaboration resulted in a mental health first aid workshop that "barbers could easily relate to," says Sulier-Charney. Several pointed out to her that listening to their clients on an everyday basis was exactly what they did in their everyday lives and what the workshop emphasized.

One program that emerged was the "Art of the Cut," an annual event hosted by the Toledo Museum of Art, during which local Black barbers performed haircuts in styles ranging from the 1950s to 2000s.

One project that emerged from Art of the Cut was Sons of Toledo, a short film that officially



Marcus Temple, Jamal Grant, Shinaul Jones, EleSondra DeRomano, John Jones - photo courtesy Jennifer Beachy and Carlos Washington

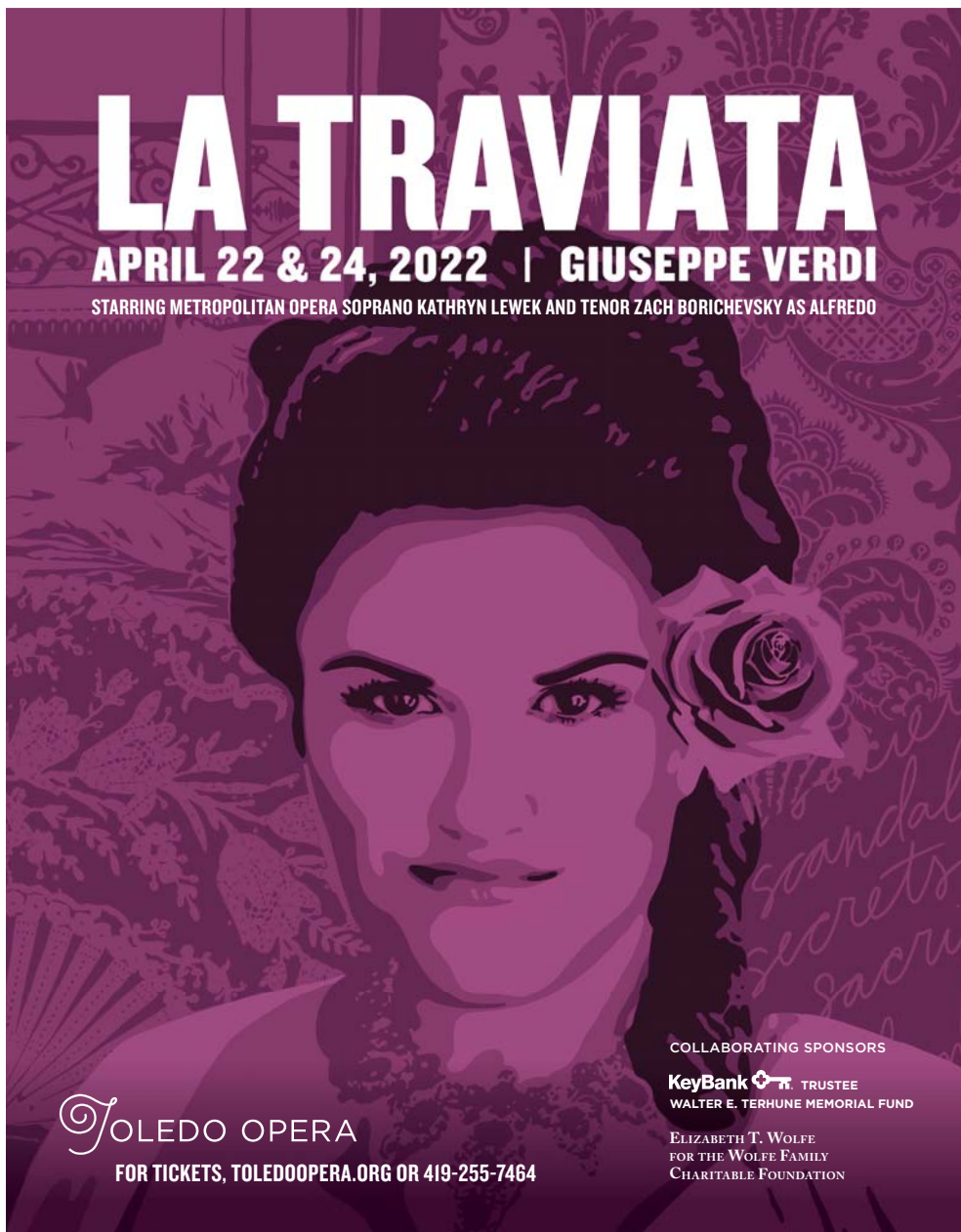
premiered on March 26 in the Toledo Museum of Art's Peristyle. The film, co-written by Matt Foss, an associate professor of theatre at the University of Toledo, and Monty Cole, a Chicago-based film director who also

... continued on page 11

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The Sons of Toledo Premier at the Peristyle

By Jodie Summers

Special to The Truth

On Saturday afternoon, March 26, at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theatre, a red-carpet premier of the short film Sons Of Toledo was held. The official showing brought out a lot of Toledo's connected bridge makers and many of the cast and crew who worked on the film.

This film sheds light on many of the systemic problems we face in the urban community and is filled with local first-time actors and people who actually live in the city of Toledo. Everyone in the audience was awe struck as the show opened up with poets from Madd Poets Society Inc.

Brittany Edwards opened the show followed by Kenneth Dinkins.

After the film played and the lights came up to not a dry eye in the room, Jabari Crawford closed the stage.

This was definitely a night of celebration as the audience was able to experience something homegrown that has been entered into many film festivals around the world, shedding light on our little piece of home.

David Bush, founder of Madd Poets society Inc had this to say about the red-carpet event: "Moving and powerful event, a must see for ALL Toledoans!"

As writer of this article and one of the people in the film, I can definitely see myself, every time I see this beautiful production, I can think of someone who it will touch here and the person out in the world that it can change the view on how they see us

If you would like a private screening for the community, please contact Matt Foss, associate professor of theatre at the University of Toledo and the co-writer of this beautiful piece of history, for more information on how the film can be brought to you.

Black Barbershop... continued from page 10

directed the film, came about when Foss had the opportunity to sit in during the first "Art of the Cut" event and listen to the barbers' discussions about life in a Black barbershop.

"Black barbers are leaders and have started all sorts of programs – they have taken initiatives," says Sulier-Charney.

Sons of Toledo's opening scene reenacts a call to a barbershop – a mother calling her son to inform him that his little brother has been killed and would he go to the morgue to give him one final haircut.

The main part of the film takes place in P and J's Da Shop in East Toledo – a documentary part of the film featuring participants such as Jeremy Pratt, whose uncle Jamal Grant owns the shop, talking about what the shop has meant to him and barbershops in general mean to the Black community. Pratt is now completing law school, the first in his family to go to college.

Sons of Toledo is now available for all to view online.

Sulier-Charney's work with the local Black barbershops was slowed by the pandemic but not halted. All of the shops closed for a while but many took that time when they couldn't cut hair to focus on other matters – working on the physical areas or trying to cope with issues of clients' mental health – issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

"I was really impressed," says Sulier-Charney. "They were prepared;

they asked 'what can we do while we are waiting?'"

Now that life is almost back to normal, there is more for Charney to focus on.

"For five years I've been going in giving information, getting information for the social determinants of health, talking about what they hear. We are following the lead of the barbers and using research-based evidence."

For her work in the community, Sulier-Charney is this year's YWCA Milestones honoree for Social Services.

A graduate of Whiteford Agriculture High School, Sulier-Charney began her college career in her 40s studying sociology and justice at Lourdes and then earning a graduate degree at the University of Toledo in criminal justice under the guidance of then-Professor Morris Jenkins.

"Reducing recidivism was my passion as was being part of the community to mitigate horrible injustices," she says.



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Toledo Library and Books 4 Buddies Partner to Improve Literacy in Lucas County

Special to The Truth

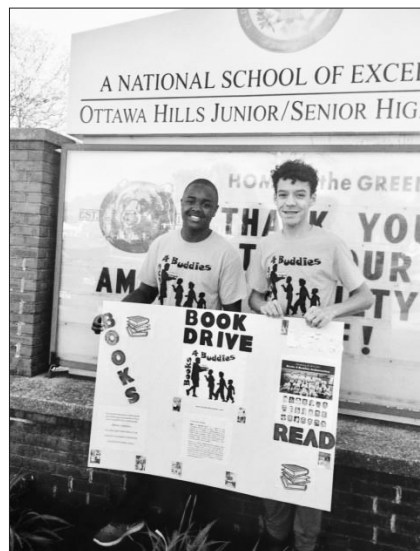
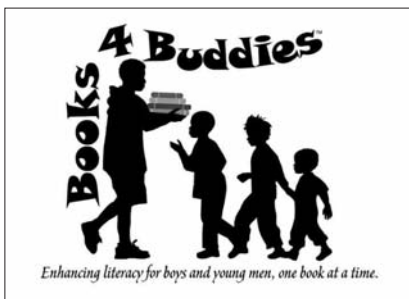
In 2021, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) revealed its new strategic priorities – a set of goals and focus that would define the Library over the next five years. As part of that work, the Library challenged itself to think of new ways to support the customers and to work better with community partners.

To that end, TLCPL is excited to announce a new partnership with Books 4 Buddies (B4B), a non-profit organization that has been supporting literacy initiatives in neighborhood communities for nearly 10 years. The Library is happy to share that B4B will become a new affinity organization for the Library, supporting the Library in achieving its goals of improving literacy in the community, but specifically three of its new strategic priorities:

1. Help Children Learn to Read (birth – third grade)
2. Help Students Succeed (third – twelfth grade)
3. Serve as the Go-To Community Connection and Hub

B4B, founded in 2012, by L. Touré McCord, II and his grandmother, Laneta Goings, is a campaign that encourages literacy and provides leisure reading material, free of charge, to underserved youth, especially boys, in Northwest Ohio. Schools, community centers, and other locations near youth who may lack access to books at home, serve as sites for B4B's lively, interactive giveaway events where reading is always presented as big fun!

While both organizations will remain separate legal entities with their



own operating boards, becoming an official affinity organization for the Toledo Library will allow for greater collaboration, setting and meeting of goals, and community impact. TLCPL will work alongside of B4B to continue their mission, as it aligns so very well with the work the Library is committed to doing.

At your Toledo Lucas County Public Library

Mobile hotspots: Borrow a free, mobile hotspot and have access to WiFi anywhere!

On-site Mercy nurses: Community nurses are at select TLCPL locations from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to examine blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight screenings. First come, first served.

- First Mondays: Kent Branch
- First Fridays: Main Library
- Second Fridays: West Toledo Branch
- Third Fridays: Oregon Branch
- Fourth Fridays: Holland Branch

Author visits and discussions: Travel back in time, sail across the

world — while never leaving your armchair with the Online Fiction Book Group. Read various titles and discuss with new friends and the author.

Personalized book recommendations: Share what you've enjoyed reading recently and librarians will send you a list of personalized recommendations.

TutorSmart: TutorSmart provides free after-school tutoring for 1st-8th grade students in the greater Toledo area. Academic tutoring will be provided at 5 Library locations (Kent, Locke, Main, Mott, and South) beginning on May 16. Visit toledolibrary.org/tutorsmart to register.

All of this and more at toledolibrary.org

June Boyd... continued from page 8

"The main reason I'm celebrating is because I had a near fatal accident when someone shot into my home on January 3rd and the Lord gave me another chance." Boyd says she's energized. "I want to work with as many people as I can so we can have more love and not so much hatred and violence. You know it's just gotten out of hand and we don't have to live like that. We never did. It's not in our DNA."

Guests enjoyed food, refreshments and entertainment by Simply Shann (vocalist Shandonna

Flunder and keyboardist Emitt Williams). The colors for the evening were black and yellow. Cards on the table thanked guests and read: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Enjoy it."

Boyd was the first African American to graduate from St. Ursula Academy and was crowned Miss Sepia City at Buckeye Girl's States. She was one of the founding members of the Toledo Club National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and helped organize the Democratic Business and Professional Women's Club of Lucas County. In 1993, Boyd along with Sen. Edna Brown became the first two African-American women elected to Toledo City Council.

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Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Some things, well, you just make them your own.

You know it happens when you just can't let something go. You turn it over in your mind six ways daily, and talk about it until everybody around you's sick of hearing about it. Pretty soon, it's your problem to have but be careful: as in the new novel, *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, these kinds of things change lives.

If you'd have asked her, Civil Townsend couldn't exactly tell you why she was on a road trip, alone, heading from Memphis to Birmingham. Maybe it was because she'd heard that India was sick with cancer. Maybe it was guilt.

She wondered if India would even remember her. It had been more than 40 years since Civil last saw her. India was a girl then.

In a way, so was Civil.

That was 1973, a year of women's rights and political upheaval, and she was fresh out of school, a new nurse at her first job at a family planning clinic in Birmingham. The clinic was funded by the government and most of its clientele were poor, a fact that was hard: Civil had grown up with privileges that few Black Alabamans enjoyed, and she'd been made to fear the people who looked like her, but were not like her at all.

Wasn't it ironic, then, that the first folder she received on her first day at work was for Erica and India Williams, two girls who were living in squalor, filthy, and illiterate? Wasn't it ironic that Civil was told to give those little girls birth control shots that could make them sick when she, herself, was carrying a birth-related secret?

Reluctance to do her job led to rebellion, which led her to try to make a difference in the lives of the girls, their father, and their grandmother. Civil stepped in and got them new housing, new clothing, and new lives. But she didn't help in the end, she made things worse.

c.2022
Berkley
\$27.00
368 Pages

Would her own daughter would understand someday?

Based loosely on a real-life, historic case, *Take My Hand* seems poised for an outrage that only barely arrives, perhaps because the reason for the railing is overshadowed by the main character, fussing at herself and her own decisions. In the beginning, in fact, author Dolen Perkins-Valdez doesn't make her Civil very likable; even Civil admits that she's "uppy" and that never really goes away.

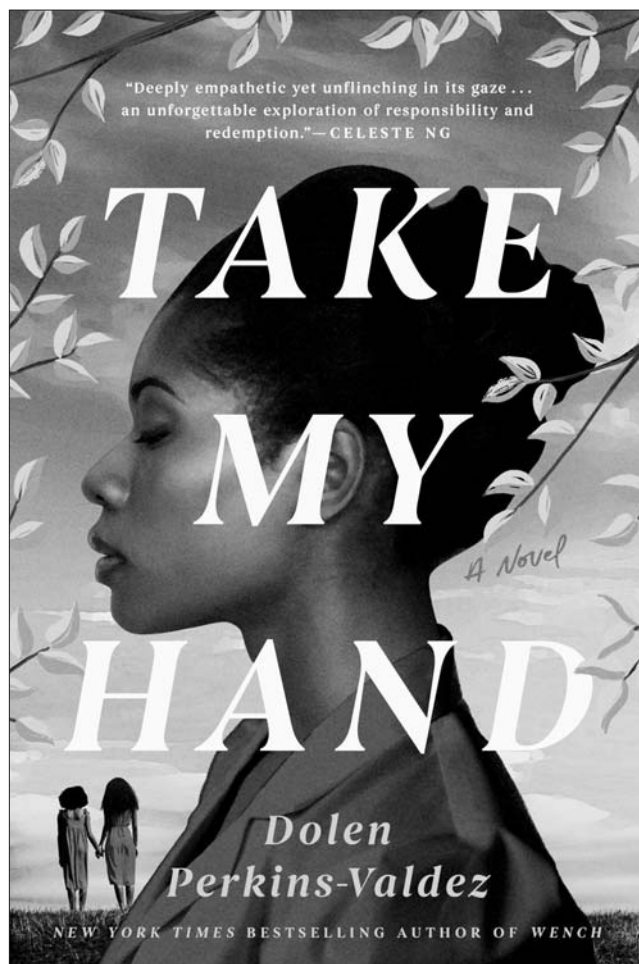
As for the plot, well, it's slow – except when it's not, and then reading it feels like skimming it, as though you only caught the highlights of it all. This unevenness can sometimes be hard to get through, but you must: that's where the good of this novel lies.

Which is part of the answer to the question: Should you read this book anyhow?

Yes, maybe, if you're unfamiliar with *Relf v. Weinberger*, since this tale may act as a gentler, softer way to learn about it. Just beware its bumps, try *Take My Hand*, and make it your own.



Take My Hand author;
photo courtesy Norman E. Jones 2021



MANAGER/LIBRARIAN VII

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 leader with a passion for actively engaging youth and community involvement at the Kent Branch Library. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library ([toledolibrary.org](https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs))<<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

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

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RECORDS CLERK SYLVANIA TOWNSHIP, OHIO

Sylvania Township is accepting applications for a full-time Records Clerk position in the Police Department. Competitive health and pension benefits are available. Starting salary is \$20.81 per hour. Applications are being accepted and reviewed until April 22, 2022. Please visit www.sylvania-townshippolice.com/careers/ for a complete job description, application and submission instructions. All potential employees will be required to pass a background investigation, physical examination, drug and nicotine screens. The Sylvania Township Police Department is an equal opportunity employer.

ALL WELCOME!

Need intercessory prayer. Call and get prayer by a seasoned prayer-warrior. Monday -Saturday, 9am – 9 pm. Call 419-346-1582. Sponsored by Braden United Methodist Church Prayer ministry.

PUBLIC ART COORDINATOR

THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOW HIRING for a part time Public Art Coordinator and a full time Marketing & Communications Manager. Deadline to apply is April 18, 2022. The Arts Commission is committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process and is an equal opportunity employer. For position details and how to apply, please visit TheArtsCommission.org/about/Employment.

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB22-B002 SITE IMPROVEMENTS – OAK TERRACE & WILLOW BEND

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the removal and replacement of concrete and asphalt driveways and / or sidewalks at selected locations in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until May 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



PATHWAY'S SPECIALIST FOR QUEENS VILLAGE

The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio Pathway's HUB division has a Pathway's Specialist position open that will be focusing on the Queens Village program. The candidate will have a bachelor's degree in health-related field or equivalent, be able to advocate for and possess cultural competency around black families and communities, have a strong sense of connection, compassion, concern for the well-being and success of black women, proficient in Microsoft office and have excellent presentation and writing skills. This is a great opportunity to help connect and build bridges between Queens Village community programs and members. This position is remote with flexible hours, travel within OH and live within Toledo area.

Visit our website for the full job description at www.hcno.org and candidates can email resume, cover letter to Tina Hacker, HR Director at thacker@hcno.org or fax to 419-842-0999.

HCNO is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage minorities and qualified candidates with disabilities to apply. We offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience, along with a comprehensive benefit package.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

LMH Office Renovation

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for LMH Office Renovation, a renovation of the previous United Way building in downtown Toledo, into a new corporate headquarters for Lucas Metropolitan Housing. Located at 424 Jackson Street, Toledo OH.

Bids are due April 27, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Documents and additional information are available on Builders Connected.com

This project has MBE/WBE requirements and is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

For more information on this project, please contact Mary Willbur at 419-725-3249.

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

Project #1130-21-243
Research Laboratory Renovations
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, May 3, 2022; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

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

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$450,000.00
Alternate #1 - Corridor Finishes	\$25,000.00
Alternate #2 – Demolition in Rooms 0104, 0106, 0106A and 0108B	\$20,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: April 19, 2022, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 1135 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for April 19, 2022 immediately following Pre-bid meeting.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Lance Mushung, SSOE, 419-255-3830, E-mail: lmushung@ssoe.com

POLICE OFFICER

The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the position of full-time Police Officer.

Required Training and Experience: Minimum two-year college degree or equivalent, from an accredited college.

Testing must be conducted through the National Testing Network (www.nationaltestingnetwork.com). Lateral entry applicants may bypass testing and complete an employment application for consideration. For more information, please visit www.ottawahills.org/employment or email police@ottawahills.org.

Pay Range: \$64,050-76,150

Benefits: Health care is available for full-time police officers. The Village provides full-time officers with vision and dental insurance. Full time officers receive paid holiday time, sick leave accrual, sick leave bonus, vacation accrual, and comp time. A \$3,000 signing bonus will be awarded to officers who successfully complete their field training and probationary period.

The Village of Ottawa Hills is an equal opportunity employer.

Gamma Phi Delta... continued from page 16

"We're here to celebrate the occasion, the 35th Northern Region founders' day," shared Jennifer Lewis, sorority's Northern Regional Director.

The sorority members and guests opened the event with social networking before the official program began at 7:00 p.m. The occasion also included a photo corner, vendors, a dessert bar and various menu options.

"We're celebrating our 35th founders' day of the Northern Region, and tonight's theme is, "Unique Women Empowered with a Vision to Serve. As a black business sorority, we are willing to work in our communities through our service, focus on economic development and social action," said Joyce Lewis-Johnston, Beta Phi chapter president.

A procession featuring the family of sorority founder and one of the 13 original pearls, Violet Lewis, national and regional officers and recognized guests opened the celebration's program. The program continued with a meditation and an introduction of master of ceremony, Nikyle Fitzgerald. Guests were officially welcomed, the National Negro Anthem was sung, and a community service presentation to Bethany House was conducted by Anna Turner, the sorority's community engagement coordinator.

Immediately following dinner, the program continued with a tribute to the sorority's founders, and a presentation of awards and recognitions, before special guest speaker, Violet Ponders, delivered words to the audience.

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc. was founded in February 1943 by Elizabeth Garner and Violet Lewis, owners of Lewis Business College in Detroit. The sorority's founders, along with 11 other members are known as the sorority's 13 original pearls.



Event musicians from Woodward High School

The headquarters is located on West Grand Blvd in Detroit. The college, which is the first and only historic black college in Michigan, closed in 2013. Michigan's governor, Gretchen Whitmer, signed two bills that will reopen the college in 2022 and will include a name change to Pensole Lewis College of Business and Design.

For more information about the sorority visit www.gammaphideltasorority.com.

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



When We Were Birds
by Ayanna Lloyd-Banwo



Take my Hand
by Dolen Perkins-Valdez



The Lost Dreamer
by Lizz Huerta



Star Child
by Ibi Zoboi

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Gamma Phi Delta Sorority Celebrates Regional Anniversary

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority's Northern Region hosted a Founders' Day celebration on April 9, 2022 at Brandywine Country Club in Maumee. Official sorority colors of baby pink and baby blue with hints of masks decorated the facility and coordinated with the masquerade ball theme.

... continued on page 15



Gwen Moore Browne, Beta Phi treasurer; Patricia Crockett Durhan, Gamma Mu Financial secretary; Alisha Gant, Beta Phi Financial secretary; and LaShonda Horton, Beta Phi Vice president.



Nykice Johnson, Sorority's Northern Region Editor; Regina Stevens, Sorority's Northern Region Secretary; Karen Streetee, Sorority's Assistant Regional Director; Jennifer Lewis, Sorority's Northern Region Director; LaShanda Horton, Sorority's Northern Region Financial Secretary; Jacqueline Dixon Beaty, Sorority's Northern Region Treasurer; and Malia Harwood, Sorority's Northern Region Assistant Secretary



Janis Flournoy and R. Michael



Joyce Lewis Johnston, Beta Phi Chapter president, and Jennifer Lewis, sorority Northern Region director



Margaret Greenridge Armstead and Karen Duiguid



Katrina Barry, member, and Treva Jeffries, president of AKA, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter



Patsy Bolden and Shirley Nelson

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