

The *Sojourner's* Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 73 No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 15, 2022

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Stony the Road

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

The Truth Contributor

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,
where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with
the wine of the world, we forget these. — James
Weldon Johnson*

*The quest to make Juneteenth a national holi-
day gained steam with the tragic death of George
Floyd at the hands of police in 2020. President
Joe Biden finally signed federal legislation to
commemorate the holiday in 2021.*

*However, Juneteenth, one of the oldest celebra-
tions of the abolition of slavery in the world, has
yet to mainstream its values of diversity, inclusion
and racial equity.*

*Traveling a “stony road” of cultural appropriation and mischaracteriza-
tion of critical race theory (CRT), Juneteenth toils to gain acknowledgment
of the Black community’s significant contributions to America’s democracy.*

*I spoke with the University of Toledo’s Angela Siner about the importance
of commemorating Juneteenth and its pivotal place within the American nar-
rative.*

*Angela M. Siner, M.A., is the director of The University of Toledo Africana
Studies Program and director of the Anthropology Program in the Sociology
and Anthropology Department. Africana Studies seeks to promote greater
understanding and improved socio-economic life in the black community.*

Here is our discussion:

Perryman: What does Juneteenth mean for black individuals and fami-
lies?

Siner: Juneteenth means freedom, celebration, and community uplift and
development. I say it means freedom because June 19, 1865, effectively
ended slavery. Still, officially it didn’t end until December 6, 1865, with the



Angela Siner, PhD

passage of the ratification of the 13th Amendment. So, Juneteenth is connected to the freedom of all people of African descent in the US, so I say freedom in that respect.

The other is community development because when our ancestors attended the early Juneteenth celebrations, they were there for the celebration, parades, music, and food. However, eventually, they were also there for the information, uplift, and empowerment of the community and to pass on information to the community.

Perryman: Since President Biden signed it into law as a federal holiday, what does Juneteenth mean for everyone, particularly those not of African descent? Also, what does Juneteenth mean for employers?

Siner: Americans view holidays, in my estimation, in two ways. One is celebratory, so it’s a day off and time to relax and be with family and fellowship. The other is commercialization, where they spend a lot of money. We’re a Christian nation, and even Christmas has become very commercialized, so much so that individuals say we forgot the ‘reason for the season.’

So I think, on the one hand, that Juneteenth will have to be a holiday driven by African Americans in the same way that we are pushing MLK Day. So we commemorate MLK as a day, not a day off, but a day on to participate in the community, to do things for other people.

In the same vein as Dr. King, Juneteenth should be a push for an understanding of our history and our culture to the larger society. So, yes, we have the celebrations, the parades, and all these things, but we also push the notion of culture and history.

Perryman: What would that look like from a practical standpoint?

... continued on page 7

— FREEDOM DAY —

JUNETEENTH

— JUNE 19 —

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Juneteenth Day ... So What ... Big Deal!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Excuse me if I do not get goose bumps over celebrating Juneteenth Day. You know, the date, or is it the month (?) that slaves in west Texas were told, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, that they were free.

Now, since slaves, back in the day, did not cell phones and much less the battery chargers to keep their phones alive, we will have to assume that such celebratory news did not reach them because Massa still wanted to drain as much free labor as he possibly could from them before the "jig" was up.

For certain, those slaves and their progeny were and are most righteous in celebrating their "freedom," two years later than their earlier freed brethren, but...what is the reason that Black Americans may still celebrate that isolated incident of being free from human bondage?

Now, if the celebration of Juneteenth since 1865 to present date resulted in any of the following positive developments, sign me up for a pointed party hat and strawberry ice cream, but if not, take your whistles and confetti and go sprinkle it elsewhere:

(1) Do we have a centralized Black bank that has amassed capital more than 20 billion dollars that can be used for economic development? ____yes ____no.

(2) Are the Black churches in your neighborhoods doing anything other than food giveaways,

fish fries (probably not even Perch fish!) and hundred-dollar scholarships? ____yes ____no.

(3) Is the rate of Black On Black (B.O.B.) Crime going down in your community? ____yes ____no.

(4) Are you registered to vote and do you know your proper voting precinct? ____yes ____no.

(5) Is your community still being "redlined" by the local white banks? ____yes ____no.

(6) Have you ever complained to any "inner city" store owner about the appearance of their stores in your area? ____yes ____no.

(7) Did you vote in the last local election? ____yes ____no.

(8) When was the last time you had a health checkup about cancer or your blood pressure or being a possible diabetic? ____can't recall ____never have.

(9) When you saw a crime being committed, did you report it? ____yes ____no.

(10) Do you adhere to a moral code for your personal conduct? ____yes ____no.

(11) When asked to help in picking up trash in your community, do you volunteer to do so? ____yes ____no.

(12) Do you regularly read to stay informed about issues that affect you? ____yes ____no.

(13) If you could steal a thousand dollars and no one saw you, would you do it? ____yes ____no.

(14) Are you driving on an expired license? ____yes ____no.

(15) When you are asked to serve on a jury, do you follow through? ____yes ____no.

(16) Are you able to financially withstand a \$500.00 emergency ____yes ____no.

(17) Do you use the 'N' word when talking with your family or friends? ____yes ____no.

(18) If divorced and you have kids, do you gladly pay child support? ____yes ____no.

(19) Are you doing anything educationally or culturally to better yourself? ____yes ____no.

There. If Juneteenth fell on the 19th of June, I have just given you 19 thoughts to ponder to see if you are "worthy" of celebrating a holiday that has morphed into a celebration of Black life.

But, is it?

If all we have is a day in June to whoopee it up about the end of slavery in western Texas and that being over a 150 years ago, we are a people most to be pitied.

To this very day we are still fighting voter suppression laws, too many sin-

... continued on page 4



Lafe Tolliver



Celebrating a Day in African American History



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"Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are. It's a celebration of progress. . . ."

President Barack Obama

JUNETEENTH JUNETEENTH JUNETEENTH

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Trey Murrell: Brothers United Provides This New Father with a Support Group

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

Trey Murrell has experienced a lot at 19 years of age -- two months ago he became a father.

He named his newborn daughter after his mother Tracy Anne Marie, who passed away from congestive heart failure when he was seven years old after giving birth to his younger brother. He was raised by a single father.

Murrell graduated from Bowsher High School in 2021 and enrolled at Ashland University where he played football with a major in computer science. He's moved back home to be closer to his girlfriend and daughter with plans to attend Bowling Green State University as a sophomore in the fall.

Brothers United has helped him in this transition. BU Nation has provided him with the tools to become a father and a man. "Receiving advice from other fathers... it's been a very [big] help," said Murrell.

"It has lifted me to be a better father ... it's great to know that I'm not just in this alone."

Through Pathway's Brothers United Programs Murrell has gained life skills and an invaluable support system. "To know that I have them in my corner... [He mentioned BU leadership Julian Mack, Avis Files, La-Sonya Jelks] 'it's like a second family ... I also gained that connection with everyone in the group... we share personal issues... problems that are going on.... But we also share good stories as well. I haven't really been necessarily able to do that.'"

"You can actually speak what's on your mind- you can vent to them and they will help you out... and that's really great." Pathway provides a space to be real and receive help.

"It like a support group, you tell them what's going on and they support you 110 percent of the way. They try to help you with as much as they can."

"We try to meet the needs of the people that we're serving..." said Julian Mack, Case Manager for Brothers and Sisters United. "We have

a variety of different programs that may meet multiple needs of an individual."

Murrell has completed two programs: Brothers United and Brothers and Sisters United with his girlfriend. Brothers and Sisters United (BSU program) lasts two weeks. Pathways offers Brothers United, Brothers and Sisters United and Brothers United Healthy Start. Classes cover a range of topics from infant mortality to racial stereotypes and can last anywhere from 10 days to a month.

"We also do case management - how can we connect these gentlemen to the proper resources so that they can thrive," said Mack. "For some that looks like home relief, career/ job training... it varies for each individual."

"The key is getting the needs met so that they can thrive as parents." Murrell has received the communication, support and parenting skills needed to succeed as a new father.

About a month ago, a childhood friend of Murrell, who is a mother of two recommended him to the program. Now, he recommends the program to his friends as well. "I strongly encourage every young father, young mother or an experienced father or experienced mother to join [Brothers United]," said Murrell. For more information visit pathwaytoledo.org or call 419-242-7304.



Trey Murrell

Tolliver... continued from page 3

gle-family homes, police brutality, raising monies in our churches to give "fat-cat" gifts to the preacher on his or her anniversary and wasted time watching Beyonce type celebrities shake their booties and we call that entertainment!

If we are going to honor the history behind a Juneteenth celebration, make sure that what you are honoring has substance and adds value to your living and is uplifting and productive.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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~Brian Tracey
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What Is Juneteenth? How Did It Start? What Is Its Legacy?

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863 – by which Lincoln proclaimed freedom for all of the enslaved in the Confederate states.

The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops that were needed to enforce the new executive order. However, with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in April 1865 and the arrival of General Gordon Granger's regiment of Union soldiers, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain the two-and-a-half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down over the years.

Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with news of freedom.

Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

All or none of these stories could be factual. For whatever reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3, which began significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former "masters" – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom.

Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was the logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory.



The celebration of June 19 was dubbed "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members.

Juneteenth continued to be a highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Juneteenth Celebration Decline

Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. Classroom and textbook education in lieu of traditional family and home-taught practices stifled the interest of youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of former slaves.

Classroom textbooks proclaimed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the end of slavery – and little or

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Local Congregation Holds Community-wide Vacation Bible School

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church returned to in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) during a one-day community-wide session on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. The VBS was organized by the church's Christian Board of Education which recruited volunteer teachers for five age-appropriate classes. The VBS theme was, "I've Got This with Jesus," taken from Philippians 4:13, while the adult class discussed how Biblical characters correlate with their everyday life.

"Generally, we would host a five-day vacation Bible School but because of Covid we adjusted to one-day so we can focus on the family. Of course, we invited the members of St. Paul but we also sent out community invitations. I'm thankful that we could reach so many in this special way," shared Sister Gayle, Christian Board of Education chair.

Sister Garner opened the session with singing, Sister Winfield led a scripture call and response, Rev. Clark delivered a prayer and Sister Diggins led the pledge to both the Christian Flag and U.S. Flag. During each VBS, St. Paul selects a local charity, that will receive all donated items. The 2022 recipient was It Takes a Village, a charity that provides domestic violence housing for children.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart, this church and this community have done so much for these babies. Unfortunately, we're adding more children each week, we're pushing about 30 children now. So, thank you," shared Carla Baucam, executive director, It Takes a Village.

The church welcomed an estimated 70 individuals and practiced safe social distancing measures.

"This one-day vacation Bible school was a vision of the Christian Board of Education, which was an awesome idea. Due to Covid, we haven't had many



Carla Baucam, Executive Director It Takes a Village



Adult Class



Children's Class



Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul MBC



Teen Class

... continued on page 7



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Perryman... continued from page 2

Siner: From a practical standpoint, I think the King holiday is being driven that way. Individuals have prayer services in the morning and then go out to do things for the community. People are catching onto that. It's not just a day to celebrate and not go to work, but it's to do for others. It's an opportunity to discuss our history, culture, and who we are as a people, and how this impacts the nation and those not of African American descent.

Perryman: What should our attitude be towards employers, particularly those who view Juneteenth as an obligatory day off?

Siner: Our attitude toward employers should be the same that I've mentioned. How can we assist them in understanding our history and our culture regarding their organization, not just for their employees to have a day off, but what does it mean? What is Juneteenth? How can your organization celebrate Juneteenth? Is it having your employees go out and do community service in Black and African American communities?

And again, I think we have to be the driving force in how we as African Americans celebrate Juneteenth and see it. So, I think we become the driving force behind employers' attitudes and can impact employees and the nation as a whole.

Perryman: So let me go back to what you call the commercialization of Juneteenth. Let me call Walmart, their Juneteenth ice cream, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, and their watermelon salad, examples of cultural appropriation. How should we respond to cultural appropriation, and how should we identify similar situations that could be classified as cultural appropriation?

Siner: For me, that's what we might call a gray area. Once Juneteenth became a national holiday, although it's ours because it's part of who we are, it's now - for lack of a better term, in the public domain. Like President's Day, Christmas, 4th of July, Labor Day, and Memorial Day. Other individuals in America now feel as though they have a stake in this, and they can make some money off it.

Again, how do we want Juneteenth to be represented? We know that appropriation will take place because, again, it's a holiday. Some individuals see it as a means to make some money and big bucks because they know black people love spending money and will appropriate that. But, I think it's incumbent upon us as a community in America to drive the theme and what we want this to be. So, I think we have to remain vigilant.

Perryman: That presents a dilemma for the community. We want to mainstream Juneteenth. We want everybody to be a part of it, but we also don't want cultural appropriation. So, that's an interesting dynamic.

Siner: That is a fascinating dynamic. And this is why I think that one of the primary missions of the holiday is education. We are educating society at large about the African American community and what it means to be Black in America. This holiday is one of the opportunities for us to do that.

Juneteenth provides a space to talk about things considered offensive, that somebody dares to have a watermelon salad. Not that watermelon is bad because historically, people of African-American lineage ate watermelon. After all, it was 92 percent water, being in the hot fields of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. It was potable. They ate it because it hydrated them, but we also know it has been used to stereotype. Again, it can be a moment of education, not people just getting angry about why they have it, but a chance to explain. Again, education is the key, and this holiday is an opportunity to educate.

Perryman: How can the celebration of Juneteenth be inappropriate? When are we doing it wrong, or when are others doing it wrong?

Siner: Whenever we see it becoming a caricature of us. Again, the watermelon salad represents the inappropriateness of what it means to be Black in America. Not understanding that I think they've gone too far when it's just about celebration. We've gone too far when it's only about parades, music, dancing, and our food. That's only part of Juneteenth, again, because empowerment was the other part of the celebration.

Perryman: Please talk more about the empowerment component.

Siner: I often think about the four African-American ministers in Houston who, in 1872, pooled their resources together and raised \$1000. In today's money, that's about \$24,000, and purchased 10 acres of land in 3rd Ward in Houston to establish the first location to host a Juneteenth celebration. But, unfortunately, none of the white land owners would allow them to use their property. So these men, seven years out of slavery, themselves former enslaved individuals, pool together \$1000 and bought 10 acres of land. The park is called Emancipation Park, designated as the location to have the Juneteenth celebration.

I think about that in terms of empowerment. So that when individuals would go to these celebrations, they also talked to them about voting. They spoke to them about new farm equipment. When there were health issues, they talked about that, employment issues, all of these things.

So, when we just do the celebration part, which is a wonderful thing and we should celebrate, but the other part is that Juneteenth was also about empowering the African American community and understanding who we are.

Perryman: We have talked about the mean-

ing of Juneteenth for African Americans and the American society at large. Yet, there remains a chasm between recent immigrants from the continent of Africa and American descendants of enslaved people (ADOS) or African Americans. African immigrants are filling up our most elite universities and getting ahead, while a large proportion of ADOS is falling behind and missing out on many things. What is your feeling on the effects of this lack of shared black experience?

Siner: One of the things we have tried to do at UT is get our African international and African American students to come together and talk to each other and work with each other on projects. So it's a challenging thing.

I love my African brothers and sisters and African American brothers and sisters as well. But I think we have bought into the stereotypes of each other from other people. So, they see African Americans in many ways as some white Americans see us. For example, 'you have all these opportunities and not taking advantage of them and just whining.' Those kinds of issues they see portraying African Americans on television, and they buy into those things. I think we do the same with them, from my perspective. So, we're at cross purposes with each other, and it causes a lot of issues and a lot of problems.

I think the other part is that white Americans, I believe, are more comfortable with our continental brothers and sisters than they are with us. They're more comfortable with them because our continental brothers and sisters have colonialism as their baggage. But, still, they don't have slavery in this country as their baggage.

Perryman: How is UT commemorating Juneteenth? Are you involved in any community celebrations?

Siner: Since Juneteenth is in the summertime and students are not always on campus, there is no celebration at UT this year other than a day off. However, I understand that the Toledo Library is doing a whole event. In addition, other groups in the city are doing some other events, which is excellent. For example, Robert Smith and the African American Legacy Project is hosting an event. The Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN), will also have a commemoration at the Fredrick Douglass Community Center. And, the Toledo Museum of Art will host an event.

Perryman: I hope to see you on Juneteenth. Thank you for your time.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drd1perryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

Vacation Bible School... continued from page 6

children inside the church. The vacation Bible school would allow us to bring the children and their parents back into the church. As the VBS teachers pull content from the theme's scripture, it sends a message to our youth and adults that we can do all things through Christ. It let's them know that no matter what takes place, we have to keep pressing forward," explained Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul MBC.



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2022 SEASON

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Huron Street (Chippewa Market)
- SUMMER SPECTACULAR
Sunday, Aug 21 | 12:00PM-5:00PM
Uptown Green Park & Adams Street (17th-21st)
- DANCIN' IN THE STREETS
Thursday, September 15 | 5:00PM-8:00PM
N St. Clair Street (Huron-Washington)
- HAUNTED HARVEST
Thursday, October 13 | 5:00PM-8:00PM
Uptown Green Park & Adams Street (17th-21st)

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Ten Juneteenth Facts

Fact #1: Following the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, not all enslaved people immediately found freedom.

The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in states then in rebellion against the United States. Union troops operating in said states gave teeth to the Proclamation. This, however, did not apply to the border states.

Fact #2: The Civil War ended in the summer of 1865. Union General Gordon Granger and his troops traveled to Galveston, Texas to announce General Orders No. 3 on June 19, 1865. June 19th would go on to be known and celebrated as Juneteenth.

General Orders No. 3 stated: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

Fact #3: Part of General Order No. 3 encouraged the newly freed people to remain with their past owners.

"The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Fact #4: The period after Juneteenth is known as the 'Scatter.'

Undeterred by the recommendation to remain in place, many former slaves left the area during the original reading. In the following weeks formerly enslaved people left Texas in great numbers to find family members and make their way in the postbellum United States.

Fact #5: Juneteenth has been celebrated under many names.

Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Cel-Liberation Day, Second Independence Day, and Emancipation Day to name just a few.

Fact #6: Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas was bought specifically to celebrate Juneteenth.

The 10-acre parcel of land was purchased by former slaves, Richard Allen, Richard Brock, Jack Yates, and Elias Dibble for \$800 in 1872.

Fact #7: During the early 20th-century Juneteenth celebrations declined.

The enactment of Jim Crow laws dampened the celebration of freedom. In addition, the Great Depression forced many black farming families away from rural areas and into urban environments to seek work—resulting in difficulty taking the day off to celebrate.

Fact #8: The celebration of Juneteenth was revived during the civil rights movement.

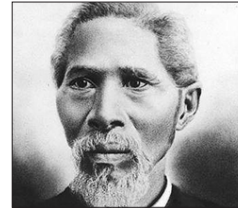
The Poor People's March planned by Martin Luther King Jr. was purposely scheduled to coincide with the date. March participants took the celebrations back to their home states and soon the holiday was reborn.

Fact #9: Celebrations of Juneteenth continue today.

Traditions include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs, and reading of works by noted African American writers. Celebrations can also take the form of rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, family reunions, park parties, historical reenactments, and Miss Juneteenth contests.

Fact #10: Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance.

New Hampshire became the latest state to formally recognize Juneteenth in 2019.



Jack Yates



Richard Allen

Juneteenth Celebration at Toledo Library

The Toledo Library and NAACP of Toledo are celebrating Juneteenth with a daylong event at Main Library on Saturday, June 18. The series of programs will feature local black artists, speakers, workshops, and a job fair. To cap off the celebration there will be a gallery opening and rooftop party in the evening.

For every Juneteenth program you attend, you will be eligible to enter a drawing for a gift basket filled with items from various Black-owned businesses in our community: 419-259-5200.

Full Library Juneteenth Celebration Schedule:

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Job Fair

10 - 11:30 a.m. - The Golden Empire: Kings and Queens of Ancient Egypt & Kush and the Nubian Dynasties (Creativity Lab)

10 - 11:30 a.m. - My Mind's Eye, It's All About Perspective (The Fredrick McDonald Community Room)

10 - 11:30 a.m. - Black Art is the Future: An Archives Workshop (McMaster Auditorium)

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - My \$2 Worth: How to Self-Publish Your Book (Program Room)

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Community Collage (The Fredrick McDonald Community Room)

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Marblehead Lighthouse Demonstration and Discussion (Creativity Lab)

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Gallery opening and reception (Atrium and Gallery)

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Panelist discussion in McMaster Auditorium with Dr. Reverend Willie Perryman (President, Toledo NAACP) and Jason Kucsma (Executive Director, TLCPL)

8 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Juneteenth Celebration on Main Library's Rooftop

OTHER JUNETEENTH EVENTS

FDCA 2nd ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION - Saturday, June 18 - 11am to 6 pm; Vendors, entertainment, activities; 1001 Indiana Avenue

AALP JUNETEENTH CELEBRATE - Saturday, June 18 - 4 PM TO DUSK; 19TH 1 PM TO DUSK - Black Arts Festival; Gospel Jazz Explosion - 1326 Collingwood

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART - JUNETEENTH CONCERT - Sunday, June 19 - Featuring Jane Eugene and Raheem Devaughan - 419-255-8000 or tickets@toledomuseum.org

SAMO ENTERTINMENT 5TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH DASHIKI DAY PARTY - Sunday, June 19 - VIBE LOUNGE - Vendor fair - 2 pm and 6 pm in parking lot; DJ, open kitchen at 5 pm in lounge.

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Toledo Chapter of Links, Inc's Books Donation to Robinson Elementary

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Chapter of Links Inc. donated 175 books to Robinson Elementary Head Start program Thursday morning June 9. The book donation is a part of the national Links, Incorporated's 7,500 book giveaway challenge.

"The Links, Incorporated is teaming up with national partner Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (BSBF) to address early childhood literacy through a Book Challenge. The goal is for members in 299 chapters to donate at least 7,500 new or gently used reading and math books for pre-K to 3rd graders at Head Start Centers throughout the United States and comparable sites in the Bahamas and the United Kingdom." (source: www.thelinksinc.org)

The Toledo, OH Chapter members selected books focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineer and Math) that featured minority representation. The books were purchased at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library Friends of the Library book sales.

"Our goal was to find books that were reflective of the students that are in the Head Start program so probably 85-90 percent [of the books] are by Black authors and are about children of color." Nicole Duhart, vice president, Toledo (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

"It's nothing like escaping in a book and not only be able to see yourself visibly in the book but also to read about adventures and things that kids are experiencing that you also can experience," she added. The aim is to promote positive self-image and literacy among students.

Teresa Quinn, program coordinator of the Toledo (OH) Chapter of The Links, Inc., read aloud to enthusiastic kindergarten and pre-school children of Toledo Public Schools. The children were attending summer school



from Robinson, Pickett and Glenwood Elementary.

James Jones, EdD, principal of Robinson Elementary accepted the donations graciously. Robinson Elementary currently has two Head Start classrooms. The school is undergoing renovations over the summer and, in the fall, will be the host of six Head Start classrooms. This donation will be a big help in that transition.

The Links, Inc. in partnership with Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (BSBF) also provided a literacy kit to Robinson and all selected Head Start Centers. Each kit contains storybooks, educational curriculum, and children's activities, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste.



... continued on page 16

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Tips for Small Businesses to Not Only Survive, But Thrive

Special to The Truth

Small businesses are the heartbeat of communities. They pump life into neighborhoods, making them vibrant places to live, work and raise families, and are key to millions of local jobs. In fact, approximately 50 percent of all Americans are employed by a small business and 99 percent of American businesses are small businesses, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Small business is big business," said Wells Fargo's head of Small Business Derek Ellington. "As a bank that proudly serves over 3 million small business customers, we are still supporting small businesses in their post-pandemic recovery, but we're also seeing many growing businesses bringing new ideas to life, and going from surviving to thriving. Now more than ever, it's an important time for small businesses because they are such a vital part of the economy."

To further power economic growth, strengthen your business, and deliver on the products and services the nation depends on every day, Wells Fargo offers the following four tips to move from surviving to thriving:

1. Be flexible. If there was one glaring lesson business owners learned from COVID-19, it was to be flexible. Businesses had to revamp their online offerings and create a digital, ecommerce presence. Most had to change relationships with supply chains and vendors or reduce hiring. When it comes to business planning for the next six, 12 or even 18 months, one thing is certain: flexibility will be key. Between staffing demands, supply chain delays and rising interest rates and inflation, write your plans in pencil. Most importantly, be nimble enough to pivot, using your experiences over the past two years as a guide.

2. Stay in the know. Stay informed of the latest developments that could impact your business. For example, what do rising rates and growing costs of supplies and services mean for you? A small business banker can help you understand your options based on your particular business and needs, and make any necessary adjustments. Keep in touch with your tax advisor, accountant, and local chambers of commerce to stay in the know.

3. Prepare for new competition. Now that life has regained a sense of normalcy, new business trends are emerging fast. To prepare for new competition, stay ahead of your competitors and drive new growth:

- Know your customers, and find and solve their pain points
- Ensure you have competitive pricing
- Change your business model and services to stay ahead
- Provide exceptional customer service to existing and new customers
- Target new markets


4. Invest in growth strategically. To continue to grow, innovate and attract the best employees, demonstrate that you're willing to invest in the future. However, it's never cheap, and you might not be able to afford needed investments with your current revenue. Before borrowing money or taking out a loan, consider opportunities like changing your payments or receivable collection process, or reducing expenses. Then look into the right lending opportunities when you are ready to accomplish big milestones like expanding, relocating, or adding new technologies with more capabilities. Strategic growth is all about investing in the right areas of your business at the right time to create an infrastructure in which you can flourish.

For more small business tips and resources, visit wellsfargo.com/biz.

Whether you're a seasoned business owner or new entrepreneur, consider using these tips to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing environment.

Courtesy StatePoint

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Seven Easy Ways to Start Investing with Little Money

By Derick Gant

The Truth Contributor

Investing can look very intimidating when you haven't ever invested money. All types of investments are not risky and there are some great investment options that you can start with as little as \$100.

To be a savvy investor when you are starting, here are some easy ways to **invest money for beginners**.

1. Treasury Securities

Treasury bonds, treasury notes, and treasury bills have maturities as short as 30 days to as long as 30 years. The T-bills, T-notes, and T-bonds are backed by the U.S. government which means they are super safe and the return is guaranteed. They are a great place to start growing your cash slowly with no risk. Every T-bill has a face value of \$1000 but they can also be bought at \$900 (or less or more) depending on the market price of the T-bill. Among easy investing for beginners, treasury securities are the easiest as you can purchase T-bills with as little as \$100, which is the lowest minimum investment requirement for T-bills.

2. Savings Account

Putting money in a saving account is the easiest type of investment that is also risk-free. You can choose a bank that offers the best interest rate and you can start depositing your savings into the savings account. Many savings account offer low-interest rate with very few offering inflation-beating interest rates. As a beginner, your goal must be to stay as risk-free as possible, so select a savings account that secures your funds and offers a good interest rate. The compounding may not be able to beat the inflation but as your first investment, it will be a great low-risk investment that is better than cash sitting idle in your bank account.

3. Retirement Plan

Investing in an IRA or Roth IRA is also a great investment that suits many beginners because people with all levels of income can start an IRA. Depending on when you want to retire and how much money you'd like to spend each month after retirement, you can purchase IRA or Roth IRA today. With an IRA also known as traditional, your contributions grow tax-deferred until you start withdrawing funds at your retirement. On the other hand, Roth IRA deducts tax on your contributions so that you can enjoy tax-free withdrawals later.

Saving and investing money for retirement are wise decisions that you should make as soon as possible to take advantage of longer compounding periods and higher returns upon retirement. If you have a plan to spend your retirement days chilling in spas while sipping on margaritas in the Bahamas, then start investing as soon as possible.

4. Employer Contribution Plan

Among many other incentives offered by employers, an employer contribution plan is a great incentive. Find out if your company offers a contribution retirement plan.

A 401k or employer-contribution plan is a retirement plan where your employer also contributes a sum of money every month towards your retirement fund. Let's say you want to pay \$500 each month, if your employer pays 50% premiums, the

employer will be paying \$250 each month!

Whatever sum or percentage on an employer contribution plan your employer is willing to pay each month is free money and you should never leave it on the table.

5. Invest in Corporate Bonds and Stocks

To **invest money in stocks** and bonds, you don't have to be extremely rich or knowledgeable. Investors have made thousands of dollars overnight from stocks because it is one of the best ways to grow wealth both quickly and slowly. To step up your investing game, learn about the best investment options in stocks. These days there are numerous apps in the market that make investing in stocks easier than ever.

Diversify the risk by investing in mutual funds. Even the most successful stock investors had to **invest money in stocks** for the first time. Think of it as a chance to learn more about the stock market and grow your hard-earned dollars.

6. Start a Side Hustle

Investing does not always mean investing money in stocks or real estate. You can also invest money in yourself to learn a skill that generates income. If you have \$100 or more, enroll yourself in a class to learn an in-demand skill for freelancing such as photography, graphic designing, web development, video editing, or photoshop. Freelancing is flexible and it adds additional cash to your pocket whenever you are up for it.

7. Set up an Online Store



Derick Gant

...continued on page 16

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GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is hiring for seasonal maintenance staff. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$12.00/hr. Up to 40 hours a week. Duties include cleaning and facility and grounds maintenance. Employment varies through December based on need. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to view the job description and apply online. EOE

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Chiller Replacement 2022 at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Chiller Replacement 2022 at One Maritime Plaza consists of: Removal of existing watercooled chiller along with associated piping, power feeder & conduits. Power feeder to be removed from chiller control panel. Temporary removal of ductwork and louvers to facilitate demo and installation. Removal of abandoned air-cooled condensing unit along with associated ductwork, piping, power feeder, and controls. Power feeder to be removed from the motor control center. Installation of new chiller, piping, power feeder, disconnect, conduit, and fuses as indicated on the drawings. Reinstall ductwork and louver. Provide testing and start-up as needed. New control work shall be by the Owner. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$321,860.00. Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via conference call. Conference call-in information will be shared in addendum no. 1.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 9:30 am, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins, at TPerkins@Toledoport.org by Monday, June 20, 2022, at 4:00 pm local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES RFP#22-R006

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Marketing & Public Relations Services in accordance with RFP#22-R006. Received in accordance with law until July 11, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



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The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency that promotes housing choice, the creation of inclusive communities, and the protection and expansion of fair housing rights to support communities free of housing discrimination.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

“My Seven Black Fathers: A Young Activist’s Memoir of Race, Family, and the Mentors Who Made Him Whole” by Will Jawando

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

They say it takes a village.

This Abuelita has wisdom to offer. That Grandfather shares good secrets. An Auntie can teach, a Tio can show, and neighbors and ninongs can contribute more to a baby’s life. It takes a village, no one should have to raise a child alone – and as in the new book **“My Seven Black Fathers”** by Will Jawando, no child should have to grow up that way, either.

As the biracial child of a white mother and a Nigerian father, Will Jawando says he struggled to fit in until a boy at the basketball courts befriended him. As with many childhood friendships, the two drifted apart and one day, Jawando learned that his buddy had been killed. The incident still reminds him that compassion and grief are forever interlinked.

It also, he says, “made room in my heart for the mentorship of my seven Black fathers.”

Studies show that “a father in the home matters to his Black son,” no matter their income or what their neighborhood looks like. Even a father-figure works: Jawando says that he is the man he is today because of “the Black men that I gained access to because of my mother’s job and where I went to school.”

His step-father, Joseph Jacob, gave Jawando his “Black American identity.” His fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Williams – the first Black male teacher he’d ever seen – tutored him on respect and respectability. His mother’s co-worker, Jay Fletcher, a gay man, taught Jawando that showing vulnerability was necessary to be “whole.” Coach Wayne Holmes showed him how to

c.2022
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
\$28.00
232 pages

succeed. Deen Sanwoola, a friend and mentor, gave Jawando “perspective” on his “Nigerian identity.” Barack Obama, with whom Jawando worked, showed Jawando his “birthmark” in his outside-of-mainstream name. And from his own birth-father, once they connected again and traveled to Nigeria together, he found forgiveness and understanding.

“Now the healing could begin,” Jawando said. “All it took was a four-thousand-mile journey together.”

Sit up and pay attention.

That’s what “My Seven Black Fathers” asks you to do. It oozes with gratitude and grace, it flashes with remembered anger and calm, and, while author Will Jawando tells his story, it asks you to pay attention.

That’s not hard to do. Jawando’s childhood, which he relates in great detail, was like that of many Black boys, but with a difference: seven Black men gave of their time to help form him, which he indicates doesn’t happen for a lot of children. And yet, despite its benefits, getting the mentorship was a struggle sometimes – a surprising point that surfaces but isn’t belabored, nor is Jawando’s reasoning for why this matters. Like any good storyteller, he tells, then lets his tale linger, leaving an impression you’ll come back to, time and again.

It shouldn’t be a surprise if “My Seven Black Fathers” might also spur you to mentor a kid, or to somehow get involved in a child’s life now or soon. In the meantime, this memoir on being a Black man has a lot to offer.

* * *

On your way to the bookstore or library, pick up **“Daddy Speaks Love”** by Leah Henderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. It’s a cute picture book for kids ages 3-5 about the love between father and child.

Investing... continued from page 13

If you have a small amount of money in savings, use it to set up your online store. Get a web developer to design your website and start selling something online. You don’t need to buy expensive inventory either, collaborate with a local store and sell their products online to earn a percentage for yourself.

Customized, unique, and rare products are in high demand. If a store sells customized clothing items, partner with them. Or set up a store where your clients pay you online in advance to gift wrap perfumes and send them to your clients’ loved ones living away from them. Services or products that are unique sell like hotcakes.

Bottom Line

Many millennials are choosing F.I.R.E.; which means they gain financial independence to retire early. They choose to enjoy life after 40 or 45 rather than working at a 9-5 job until they are 65.

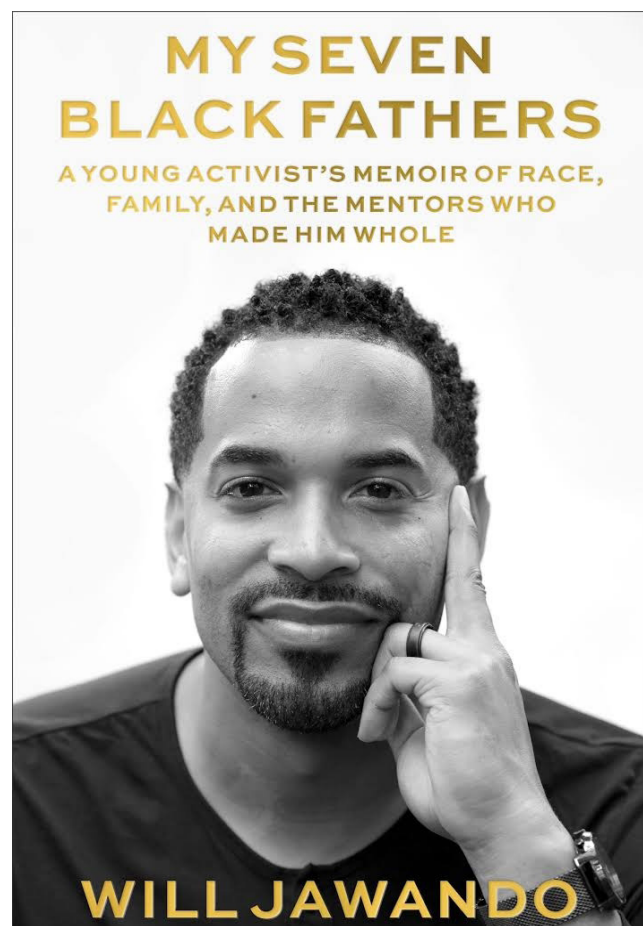
Investment is crucial if you want to build wealth with passive income streams over the years, with little to no effort.

Derick Gant is an American author, speaker, financial advisor, and money coach with over 25 years of entrepreneurial experience. In 2019, Derick published The 24K Life Code: The Only Difference Between Mediocrity and Greatness. This book guides people step-by-step to achieve their best and get the results they so desperately desire.

Links... continued from page 10

Since 1972, Toledo (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has served the community. As one of 299 chapters, membership is comprised of business and civic leaders, role models, mentors and activists. They work towards a common vision by engaging like-minded organizations and individuals for partnership committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. To learn more about the chapter’s work locally, please visit www.toledolinks.org.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946 consisting of more than 16,000 professional women in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the United Kingdom. To learn more, www.thelinksinc.org



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Publication Date 06/22

Wilberforce University Golf Program Elevates with Memorial Tournament

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The nation's first, private, historically Black college/university (HBCU) has a golf team on the rise. The annual Memorial Tournament held at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio proved to be a catalyst for change in the Wilberforce University Bulldog golf program.

Last weekend, Wilberforce University was selected by the Black Golf Alliance to receive \$15,000 from that group's Memorial Tournament donations and the university was gifted again by matching donations from the Memorial Tournament. The total of \$30,000 will be used for the purchase of new golf equipment and uniforms for the WU team.

"Better equipment leads to a better golfer,"

said WU head coach William Ware. "We are exceptionally grateful first, to the Black Golf Alliance for selecting us to be the HBCU of their choice this year, and we have much, additional gratitude for the Memorial Tournament to give us this match."

The donation will give the team a boost, according to Patrick Rokundo, a senior business major. "I am looking forward to the new uniforms and clubs," he said. "It makes a strong psychological difference when you are competing."

Rokundo was one of ten WU students who volunteered during the tournament weekend.



Wilberforce Golf Team

Juneteenth... continued from page 5

nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival in Texas on June 19, 1865.

The Great Depression forced many people off the farms and into cities to find work. In these urban environments, employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. Thus, unless June 19 fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available.

July 4 was the already established Independence holiday and a rise in

patriotism steered more towards this celebration.

Resurgence

The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebration.

While it pulled many of the African-American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's who wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through the Poor People's March to Washington, D.C. with Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington, to show support for the poor. Many of those attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this march are now held in the far northern reaches of Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Texas Blazes the Trail

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Texas State Representative Al Edwards, an African-American legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance all across America.

Juneteenth in Modern Times

Throughout the 1980's and on into the 21st century, Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations across the nation. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum, the Toledo Museum of Arts and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities.


In recent years, a number of Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African-American history and culture.

Juneteenth today celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride continues to grow.

Interestingly, the orders issued on Juneteenth by General Granger applied only to Texas. Slavery didn't end in states like Kentucky and Delaware, which hadn't seceded and therefore weren't covered by Lincoln's proclamation freeing slaves in the Confederate states, until Dec. 18, 1865, when the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was adopted.

Forty-six of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance. The four states that do not recognize Juneteenth are Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

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Local Sorority's Scholarship Presentation

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter acknowledged selected high school seniors during a scholarship ceremony on Saturday, June 11. Parents, recipients and scholarship awardees gathered at Scott High School community hub for a brief ceremony and reception.

"Good afternoon everyone. I am a proud educator and glad to see all of these scholars. We are proud of you, but I am especially proud of you. Go out there and earn every scholarship that is out there. This is only the beginning for each of you, because you are scholars," shared Treva Jeffries-Martin, PhD, chapter president.

The 2022 awardees each received their scholarship notification and a gift from the sorority. The awardees are: Jordyn Bailey, Notre Dame Academy graduate who plans to major in nursing earned a \$2,000 scholarship; Jada Spann, Toledo Early College High School graduate who plans to major in engineering earned a \$1,000 scholarship; Cheyney Nelson, Southfield High School graduate who plans to majoring in nursing earned \$2,000; Ivianna Ballard, Bowsheer High School graduate earned \$1,000.

"I am so proud of each of you and so glad to get to know you during this process," shared Mary Hayes, chapter scholarship committee chairperson.

The chapter noted that 11 applications were received. Applicants must graduate from a Toledo-area high school and earned at least a 3.0 GPA among other mandatory requirements.



Seated - Mary Hayes, chapter scholarship chair and Treva Jeffries-Martin, PhD, chapter president with chapter scholarship committee, scholarship winners with their parents

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated was founded in 1908 while the local chapter was chartered in 1952. The sorority's mission is to serve the mankind and cultivate high ethical and academic standards among young women.

Zeta Alpha Omega has awarded \$166,000 in the last 35 years, and will continue to seek exemplary, qualified high school females to award scholarships.



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