

20 years
2002-2022

The Sojourner's Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 30, 2022

Mayors of The 4 Largest Cities!



New York Mayor Eric Adams



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner



Los Angeles Mayor-elect Karen Bass



Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot

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It's All in the Game

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

The Truth Contributor

Little by little, the pimps have taken over the world. They don't do anything; they don't make anything – they just stand there and take their cut.

– Jean Giraudoux



The extreme tightness of the extended Senate race in Georgia between Rev. Raphael Warnock and his Republican challenger, “notorious” former football star Herschel Walker, surprises many.

The race should not be close, given Walker’s glut of missteps.

Walker’s persistent nonsensical responses to basic policy questions suggest that he is unfit for the job. The well-known star also has a “history of violent criminal behavior and inadequately treated dissociative identity disorder, and several children with multiple different women, a fact Walker attempted to hide during his campaign.” Walker also lied about other issues, including graduating from the University of Georgia at the top of his class, even though he left his junior year to play pro football.

On the other hand, Raphael Warnock’s resume and character are impeccable.

The pastor of historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the same church led by icon Martin Luther King Jr., Warnock graduated cum laude from Morehouse College. He also earned two master’s degrees and a doctorate from Union Theological Seminary. Warnock is a well-respected incumbent of the U.S. Senate noted for working across the aisle to bring tangible benefits to the people of Georgia.

Will the State of Georgia elect a simple-minded Herschel Walker over an imminently qualified Warnock, a progressive known for fighting for the empowerment of Black Georgians and other marginalized groups?

Here are a few factors to consider.

Silence on Black Excellence:

In *The Propaganda of History*, the final chapter of his book *Black Reconstruction*, DuBois bemoaned that U.S. history is based on the “unsupported evidence of men who hated and despised Negroes and regarded it as loyalty ... to lie, steal or kill to discredit these black folks.”

DuBois asserts that the goal has always been to portray all Negroes as ignorant, lazy, dishonest, and extravagant without disclosing the Black race’s central role in American democracy.

The truth is that Black freedmen furnished 200,000 soldiers in the Civil War who took part in nearly 200 battles and contributed an additional 300,000 other effective laborers and helpers.

In proportion to the population, more Blacks than whites fought in the Civil War. Even President Lincoln said: “Without the military help of Black freedmen, the North could not have won the war against the South.” Yet, these and many other facts were omitted from history or suppressed because they portrayed Blacks as playing a major role in their freedom and not mere recipients of the North’s magnanimous benevolence.

The Eager Stereotype Syndrome:

Keith Reed of *The Root* portrays Herschel Walker as a Black prop, “willing to play to stereotypes and ignore or make excuses for racism.” Walker and his minstrel show candidacy remind us of another character that harkens back to slavery. Use whatever term for not standing up to racism that comes to your mind. Walker also appears to be thirsty to win the approval of the overwhelmingly white GOP, which he uncritically accepts its goals and values.

Use Me but Give Me My Cut:

Walker appears to have acknowledged that the GOP was “pimping” him. According to NBC News, several conservative groups used Walker’s campaign to raise money from donors to support his Senate seat. However, conservative groups reportedly kept as much as 90 percent of the money raised, funneling “just a dime for every dollar given by small donors,” *The Root* reports.

Will Georgia elect Herschel Walker, an unqualified Black prop?

The GOP clearly sees Walker as counterpoised to the progressive and amazingly accomplished Warnock.

Yet, the struggle of living in a racist society teaches us that institutions use Blacks against other Blacks as a racial tool to remove those seen as a threat to white ideology or competence.

Nevertheless, this strategy won’t work in the Georgia U.S. Senate runoff.

Every racial demographic except white people overwhelmingly voted for Senator Raphael Warnock in the midterm.

Therefore, knowing that Walker’s candidacy is all a part of the game of cynical racial politics, voters will choose Warnock again in the runoff on December 6.

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

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Mayor Michael Bell photo reprinted with permission of The Blade, 2013

Meanwhile, says Warnock’s opponent:

“So what we do is we’re going to put, from the ‘Green New Deal,’ millions or billions of dollars cleaning our good air up. So all of a sudden China and India ain’t putting nothing in there – cleaning that situation up. So all with that bad air, it’s still there. But since we don’t control the air, our good air decide to float over to China, bad air. So when China gets our good air, their bad air got to move. So it moves over to our good air space. And now we’ve got to clean that back up.”

Warnock Continues Runoff Tour Over Coffee and Eggs

The coffee shop was small. The support for Warnock? Anything but.

By Toni Odejimi

Howard University News Service

It was all about early voting again for Sen. Raphael Warnock who spoke at Omni Coffee & Eggs in Atlanta on Wednesday as a part of his "One More Time" runoff campaign.

This is especially true on the cusp of his lawsuit win against Georgia state officials. Warnock and the Democratic Party of Georgia filed a suit against the provision that prohibited early voting on Nov. 26, and won. This allowed for early voting to occur in various participating counties, like Rockdale, Cobb and Gwinnett. Douglas and DeKalb counties started early voting last weekend. Early voting across the state began on Monday, November 28.

Warnock was pretty candid that the event in hand wasn't to encourage the people standing in front of him to vote. No, he already knew they were going to do that.

"I didn't come this morning to convince y'all to vote," Warnock explained. "I came to convince you to convince others."

This push to re-energize voters came after the 2022 midterm elections saw Democratic candidates lose up and down the ballot. Even Eshé Collins, the chair of the Atlanta Board of Education, understood that some voters were feeling reluctant to hit the polls again. She stressed that voters, particularly the 18-35 and 65+ crowd, need to run it back and vote.

Despite the push to get voters back to the ballot box, Warnock's supporters in attendance didn't see this runoff as a time to despair. No, they saw it as a time for hope. They were aware of the voter fatigue, some of them even admitted that they have it. But, to Takara McGee, there's quite literally no other choice.

"He has to win," McGee said. "There's no other choice as far as Black people, women."

McGee was referring to Herschel Walker, who believes that abortion should be illegal regardless of the reason as he denies allegations from women that he has encouraged and paid for their abortions.

In his speech, Warnock maintained his stance on keeping politicians out of the abortion clinic. He also criticized Walker's comments on how diabetes can be avoided with proper nutrition and exercise in reference to insulin pricing. Warnock has been pushing to reduce insulin's cost, which he eventually did by lowering it to \$35 for people covered under "traditional Medicare."

But insulin and attacks at his contender aside, Warnock still holds faithful that he'll win his reelection.

"We have a lot of momentum behind this race. And we're going to win," Warnock said.

Nevertheless, Davida Huntley, a Warnock supporter and former candidate in a school board election, said turnout for this year's midterm was disappointing.



U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock poses with his supporters at Omni Coffee & Eggs in Atlanta. (Photo: Toni Odejimi/HUNewsService.com)

Huntley said more people should have turned out for early voting, especially with the money spent on campaigning, which she described as

...continued on page 7



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Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden Appointed to Michigan Supreme Court by Governor Whitmer

Special to The Truth

State Representative Kyra Harris Bolden will be appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2023 by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, making history as the first Black woman to serve on the high court. Bolden, an experienced attorney and bipartisan lawmaker, connected with constituents across the state during her campaign for Michigan Supreme Court earlier this year.

"I am honored to have been selected by Governor Whitmer to serve the wonderful state of Michigan and ensure greater trust and justice for generations," said Bolden. "This is an important time for Michiganders, and I am grateful for the continued support to bring a fresh perspective to our highest court. This is a court that will ultimately have the final word on many items that will affect not only our lives, but our children's, and their children's lives for generations to come. I'm excited and ready to get to work!"

Rep. Bolden is a life-long resident of her hometown of Southfield, Michigan and currently serves HD-35 (communities of Southfield, Lathrup Village Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin). While working in Lansing, she advocated for Michiganders as a member of the Judiciary Committee and focused her work on criminal justice reform, crafting and passing pieces of critical bipartisan legislation into law, including the "Medically Frail" prison reform package, the revision of the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act, and the "Address Confidentiality for Survivors of Domestic Violence" package.



Michigan State Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden

Rep. Bolden will be replacing Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, who announced her departure from the court in September.

Toledo Public Schools to Host Career Connect Expo

Over 100 Employers, Colleges / Universities, Military Recruiters, TPS Career Technology Programs, and TPS Magnet Academies to Participate

Toledo Public Schools is once again hosting its annual Career Connect Expo.

More than 100 local and regional employers, colleges, and TPS career technology and magnet school representatives will be on hand to provide demonstrations and respond to student questions regarding the joys and challenges of various professions while providing students with individual advice on required training and networking for their career choices.

This event is open to all TPS 6th-grade, 8th-grade and 10th-grade students, along with 12th-grade students who are currently enrolled in a career technology program. In addition to hands-on career exploration activities, representatives from numerous career fields will also be promoting and recruiting for positions in local industry, the military, and enrollment in higher education.

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce college and career-ready graduates and we strive to provide our students with meaningful experiences that enhance their college and career readiness by giving them the tools needed to pursue pathways toward their future.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 30th and Thursday, December 1st from 9:30 – 11 a.m.

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The Four Largest American Cities; The Four Black Mayors

The Truth Staff

When U.S. Representative Karen Bass takes the oath to be sworn in as the mayor of Los Angeles in December, the mayors of the four largest American cities will be Black. They include Eric Adams of New York, Lori Lightfoot of Chicago and Sylvester Turner of Houston. It's an extraordinary achievement for a segment of the population which only reached the top office of a major American city 55 years ago.

The four cities are more than just huge population centers (combined 17,148,199 – 2020 census figures), they are the economic, business, cultural, trading, scientific, fashion, entertainment, athletic centers of American life.

Interestingly, the Black populations of these cities are, in the aggregate, only the third largest portion of the population, behind the White and Hispanic segments. Only in Chicago, in fact, does the Black population exceed the Hispanic population and only by a half of a percentage point.

Karen Bass, the newest member of this exclusive club and a former social worker, has served as a U.S. representative for several areas of south and west Los Angeles since 2011. A Democrat, as are they all, Bass previously served for six years in the California State Assembly, the last two years as speaker of that body. She was the first African-American woman to serve as th speaker of a state legislative body.

In Congress, she was elected chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 116th Congress (2019-2021). She also chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations and the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

She won the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2010 for her leadership during the Great Recession.

Bass will be leading a city of 3,893,986 residents, of which the Black population is 8.8 percent

"The idea of having new perspectives on our planet, and actually being able to get that message out, gets me out of bed every day with a spring in my step," said Bass.

Eric Adams, a former officer with the New York City Police Department for more than 20 years retiring at the rank of captain, served in the New York State Senate from 2006 to 2013, representing the 20th Senate district in Brooklyn. He was elected Brooklyn Borough president in 2013, re-elected in 2017, and was the first African American to hold the position.

In 2021, Adams defeated Republican Curtis Sliwa in the general election to become mayor of the Big Apple, a city of 8,804,190 residents, 23.8 percent of whom are Black.

As mayor, he has taken a tough-on-crime approach, reintroducing a plain-clothed unit of police officers that had been disbanded by a previous administration and has worked to increase police presence

"I'm going to make some tough choices and people are not going to agree with some of them. They are going to look through their primary lens. But generals lead from the front. I ws not elected to follow. I was not elected

to be fearful, but to be fearless."

Lori Eleane Lightfoot, a lawyer, took her oath of office in 2019 to serve as Chicago's 56th mayor, the first Black woman to do so. Prior to that, Lightfoot worked I private legal practice as a partner at Mayer Brown and held a variety of government positions in Chicago.

She had served as president of the Chicago Police Board and chair of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force.

Lightfoot ran for Mayor of the Windy City, a population of 2,747,231 in 2019

(29.2 percent Black) in 2019, advancing to a runoff election against Toni Preckwinkle in the February 2019 election. She defeated Preckwinkle in the runoff on April 2, 2019.

"Our children... deserve to grow up in an environment where fear is not their constant companion. And I'm determined to do everything I can to make sure every kid - in every neighborhood regardless of zip code, economic status and race or ethnicity - is able to live a life of safety."

Sylvester Turner is a lawyer who is serving as the 62nd mayor of Houston, Texas. He is the senior member of this group of four. A member of the Democratic Party, Turner was a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1989 until 2016. He attended the University of Houston and Harvard Law School.

Turner ran for mayor of Houston in 1991, losing in the runoff election to Bob Lanier. He lost again in 2003, coming in third and thus missing the runoff.

Turner won the 2015 election, defeating Bill King in the runoff by 4,082 votes out of 212,696 votes cast in the closest mayoral election in Houston history by percentage.

On December 14, 2019, Turner won his second term as mayor over the more conservative Tony Buzbee, 56-44 percent in a turnout of less than 20

... continued on page 10



Los Angeles Mayor-elect Karen Bass



New York Mayor Eric Adams

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It Is Messy, and I Am Still 'Thankful in Many Ways'!

By Nina Corder, Managing Director, Women of Toledo
Guest Column

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! As I sipped my cup of coffee on Thanksgiving morning, I was debating if I should click send our normal 4th Thursday #419newsletter campaign or take a leap of faith, and draft something new. Well, if this message is in your inbox, the guess is my intuition at overcoming the fear wins the challenge. It has been a while since I just wrote something 'from Nina's heart'. I hope your time reading my reflection on thanksgiving day is worth your while. Much appreciation to you all :)

It is not easy when you are in the business of challenging the status quo in the human services and social progress fields. Then, you added a framework with one of the goals to elevate the quality of life of the women and young women that you serve especially when it comes to helping creates a positive foundation of well-being and opportunities for them to thrive - Things can get pretty messy. Yet, I have witnessed our team continue to serve with passion, integrity, authenticity, and joy at doing the work.

This week itself, our task team received four inquiries for assistance that are now, move to our Intake System process for referral, resources, and mentorship.

A 23-year-old single mom, 1st generation on track to graduate college with a goal to be a teacher, with a 4-year-son, and now in financial burden because of a custody battle with the biological father, who happens to resurface after 3 years. (what?) She is currently in our Young Women Mentorship program to help with empowerment and is in the process to facilitate a connection with our partners for legal assistance/support.

We received a referral from Michigan's Family and Job services, to support a Ukraine refugee residing close to our state line who is now in need of mentorship and job connection. We enrolled her in our mentorship program and await further connection with our partners at Toledo Helps Ukraine and Welcome TLC.

A referral from 211, a woman in her 30s who is in need of a women's circle or support group to help build empowerment and confidence, as she recovers from the trauma of witnessing two of her young children taken

away by their biological father. Then, she lost the custody battle because she was labeled as 'unfit' to care for the children. Why? She was not financially stable or have a history of holding a steady job because, during their life together, she dedicated her unpaid work as a full-time mom. (Duh!) We are facilitating a connection with a mental health provider, a wellness coach, legal support,



Nina Corder

and perhaps she will be able to be part of our Women's Circle or Mentorship cohort 2023 since we wrapped up our 2022 programming end of November.

A week before Thanksgiving, a grandmother, who is a guardian of her granddaughter lost their home because grandma was late at filling out their renewal for housing assistance. I was devastated by this situation as the granddaughter is one of our fellows at Young Women of Toledo. Unfortunately, we don't provide basic human needs service, but happy to provide the space to listen, resources and validate her 'frustration' feeling.

I am sharing these stories because I know comes Monday, I will be disappointed. However, I know my team will remind me - how 'this' is not within our organization's work scope, control or choice and we might have to let one or maybe two of these individuals know that we are unable to provide direct services, however, our team will try their hardest and facilitate connection with the hope other partners or agencies can support or assist them with the crisis.

I am so afraid the reality of the 'No Women Left Behind' statement is no longer a reality. There's a flaw in the system of care in this country, and so does in other countries. I witness this every day, and while I was on sabbatical and diving deeper into global work, for which I have not yet shared my reflection on my experience with the EU and UN Women advocacy (stories soon). The point, it is a messy world out there too.

But, I believe in humanity and hope.

Our leadership team is bold and imaginative, we focus on building the movement and efforts that will equip us in the moment of both crisis and opportunity. To be impactful at serving, with the Governing Board's support, this year I did my continuing education and Human Rights training. Now, I am certified in 'Human Right Advocacy and Diplomacy' with the US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, Washington, DC.

In 2023, it is our goal to train, educate and equip our Young Women with Human Rights Advocacy. With this certification and curriculum partnership with the Youth for Human Rights International, we will be able to teach our local youth about human rights, specifically the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and inspire them to become valuable advocates for tolerance and peace.


It is a messy world and we cannot undo this mess quickly in our time, but we can choose not to leave this future this way. Our youth are the future. I believe, this education program will not only teach human rights fundamental but also, help equip our youth to defend and protect the message of tolerance and cooperation, and the ultimate goal - a world without VIOLENCE.

As I wrote in my journal this morning, I was reminded of Jay Shetty's weekly wisdom - Don't avoid the hard things. Don't avoid the fear. Don't avoid the uncertainty.

React with love, kindness, and gratitude! And continue to Educate, Engage, and Empower.


I do believe Thanksgiving serves as a strong reminder to be grateful

... continued on page 7



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It Is Messy... continued from page 6

for all of the curiosity, messiness, and joys in our lives. And give hope. I do believe, we at Women of Toledo are thankful for each and every one of you - to our Founding Boards & Members, Leadership Team of Advisory & Board of Directors, our past/current Task Team, our Supporters & Stakeholders, our community, women & youth that we serve... and the list just keep continue... In the nutshell, from my heart to yours, with gratitude, thank you!

Thanks to you we are able to offer hope to others. Thanks to you we are able to offer much-needed programs and services to individuals in our community from diverse backgrounds. Thanks to you we are able to provide mentorship and opportunities for women/youth who may not have had them before. Because of you, we are able to serve our purpose and live our mission daily.

Therefore onward to challenging the status quo.

With gratitude, **THANK YOU**, and **Hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving.**

****Each individual gives us permission to share their story publicly, however, we choose not to share their names, just their story**

Established in 2014, Inclusive for Women Inc DBA Women of Toledo (WOT) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving the Northwest Ohio community that advocates for diversity and inclusion with a focus on economic empowerment. Their mission is to educate, engage, and empower local young women and women to keep moving forward. Under the three initiatives of Economic Development, Mentorship Institute, and Advocacy, the organization offers programs and services that help tackle issues that are critical to women's economic advancement and interrupt various biases in the marketplace, workplace, family, and community. Their Leadership and Task Team thrive at teaching women and young women to lean in for support, connect with other women, build new skills, connect with opportunities and resources while creating a mentorship and peer circle to share ideas, offer support or seek advice. More info www.womenoftoledo.org

Coffee and Eggs... continued from page 3

"deplorable." Overall turnout in Georgia was 3.96 million, or 57 percent, of the 6.95 million registered voters, according to the Secretary of State. About 2.9 million voters cast early ballots in person.

Why are these voters not coming out? Huntley thinks it's down to a lack of faith within the election system. And she has some words for that.

"Everything you do is political," Huntley said. "There is no such thing as 'I'm not political. It doesn't matter. It doesn't affect me.' If you're living and breathing, if you have a heartbeat, you are a part of the political process. And as long as you're of the correct age, you should participate."

Toni Odejimi is a student at Georgia State University and reporter for HUNewsService.com. She is part of the election team and has been covering the Warnock-Walker race.

Gun Safety-Anti Bullying Presentations

The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers MC will present two of their elementary school programs Tuesday afternoon at The Victory Academy 3648 Victory Ave. off Byrne Rd.












The Gun Safety program begins at 1p and will be given to lower grades. The Anti-bullying program will be presented to middle school students beginning at 2p.

These two programs along with the signature Buffalo Soldier program "What To Do When Stopped By Police" are offered free of charge to any school group K-12 throughout the Toledo area.

If you have questions contact Fred LeFebvre PIO for Toledo Buffalo Soldiers at fred@wspd.com or 419-343-3577

The Truth Colours Art Gallery

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Simply D'Vine Gives Back to the Community Once More

On Saturday, November 19, Terrie Cook, founder and owner of the Simply D'Vine Boutique on Sylvania Avenue, teamed with Competition Corvette, Kendall Harvey, Sr, Earl Landry and Leo Arnold, to donate Thanksgiving baskets and ensure that 31 families enjoyed a holiday feast.

Assisted by her husband, Brian Cook, ... continued on page 9



Weekends or Weekdays

RAIN OR SHINE

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Simply D'Vine... continued from page 8

and friends Tige Cage, Joyce Lewis-Johnston, Mary Huddleston and Tiffany Whitlow, Cook handed out baskets containing turkeys, dressing, mac/cheese, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy and cake.

Others contributing to the successful event included Rev. Willie and Lady Perryman, Dave and Brenda Young, Warren and Casaundra Jenkins and Linda Howard, all of whom helped with the storage of the items beforehand.

Cook and Simply D'Vine will have a Christmas basket giveaway on Saturday, December 17 starting at 9:00 a.m.



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CASA Volunteer Information Meeting



Sunday, December 4
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Four Black Mayors... continued from page 5

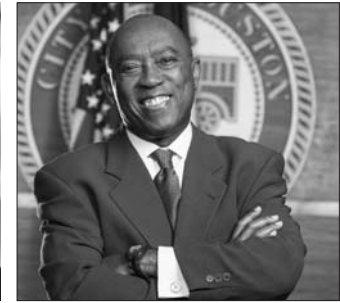
percent of registered voters.

Houston, the smallest city of the four, but also the fastest growing, has a population of 2,302,792 – 22.8 percent African American – and may well overtake Chicago for third place by the 2030 census report.

"I am honored to be one of four African American mayors leading in the nation's largest cities. It is historical an inspirational and reflects that this country has come a long way. All over the map. African Americans are leading and when you view us collectively, it is more than one-third of the GDP[gross domestic product] of the United States. What we, as mayors, represent is not just about being Black, it is about being ready to serve in these defining moments based on qualifications, work and experiences," said Turner.



Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner

Howard University Law School Hosts a Missing Black Women Panel Honoring Tamika Huston

By Alana Matthew

Howard University News Service

Experts from all over the country assembled at Howard University on Tuesday for a panel and frank discussion about missing Black women and the lack of media coverage.

Actress Ericka Alexander moderated the panel, which included Tiffany Cross, former host of MSNBC's "Cross Connection," Derrica and Natalie Wilson, founders of the Black & Missing Foundation; and Billi Wilkerson, managing director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard's School of Law.

The event, which was held in the law school's Moot Court Room, also amplified the Audible original series "Finding Tamika," co-produced by Alexander's company, Color Farm Media.

The disappearance and death of Tamika Huston happened almost 20 years ago in 2004. Yet her death, and the lack of media coverage surrounding it de-

... continued on page 11



TAMIKA By Alana Huston

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS

The 11th Annual

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH

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Brenda Singletary's Art Factory Presents

"A Holiday Art Burning and Live Auction" to benefit

Once is Enough, Non-Profit Corp.

White House Artist and Toledo's Art Commission Merit Award recipient Brenda Singletary exhibits her art to help non-profits.

Sunday December 4, 2022 2-5pm

The Art Factory, 425 Jefferson, Suite 304, across from the Huntington Center.

What is An Art Burning?
Selected artworks will be destroyed on the spot unless they are rescued and saved with a winning bid. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase art that is remarkably affordable and help raise funds for a local non-profit organization. **There are over 100 works of art in the collection with bids starting at \$50 and up.**

Brenda Singletary is a nationally known community service artist whose work has been added to numerous Fortune 500 company's collections. Her original artwork reflects forty years of cultural stories with images. She creates artwork that benefits community non-profit organizations and helps to raise funds.



This is a Fun and Exciting event to benefit "Once Is Enough", a non-profit organization supporting local families impacted by Domestic Violence.

This Holiday Art Burning Auction is sponsored by The Art Factory and The Toledo Arts Commission on Sunday, December 4, from 2-5 pm located at her downtown Toledo studio, The Art Factory, 425 Jefferson, Suite 304, across from the Huntington Center. You can preview the artwork from 2-3pm. The auction begins at 3pm. Admission is Free. Refreshments. For more info email: lisenoughcorp@gmail.com or call 419-540-2905

COMMENTARY: The Fight to Save Affirmative Action for All of Us

By Emil Guillermo

Don't think for a second that Asian Americans are rooting to end affirmative action.

You might get that impression as the Supreme Court heard two cases concerning the use of race in college admissions at Harvard and the University of North Carolina.

The Harvard case in particular has Asian American plaintiffs represented by a group called Students for Fair Admissions, or SFFA.

Don't be misled. The group isn't representative of Asian Americans at all. They're a minority within a minority. National polling data of Asian American voters show that nearly two-thirds actually support affirmative action.

What you're witnessing is a classic "divide and conquer" strategy, where some Asian Americans are being used by a white anti-civil rights activist named Ed Blum, who has dedicated his life to upending diversity and race equity in society from voting rights to higher ed.

And now it looks like his time has come.

Remember, conservatives aren't automatically against affirmative action. The late Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wasn't—totally. To the court's credit, it's always allowed for race to be addressed within reason. No quotas, of course. But race has always been allowed as a factor.

Then came 2012, the Fisher v. Texas case, where Blum hand-held a white female plaintiff in an attempt to destroy the use of race in admissions at the University of Texas. It didn't work, but Blum learned a lesson.

He realized he didn't have a perfect victim. That was clear when even Antonin Scalia wondered aloud what the damage was to the white Fisher when she was not able to gain admission in a process where she had to compete fairly against people of color.

Indeed, what was the harm? The cost of the application fee?

So, this time, Blum found aggrieved rejections from Harvard and UNC on the internet. And he found a large group of plaintiffs among a new generation of Asian Americans immigrants from the 1990s and after, or rather their sons and daughters.

They were the ones who never quite understood why their little darlings with the straight A's and perfect scores would be rejected from Harvard.

They have enabled Blum's yellow-faced attack against affirmative action.

It's created a civil war between Asian Americans, only the Mason/Dixon line is the year of your family's immigration. 1980s? '90s? 2000s?

These are the folks within our community who have been used by Blum in an attempt to topple this thing in society that has allowed previous generations of not just Asian Americans, but all people of color, and women, and anyone else who has been qualified, to break through the color barriers in life.

They just needed that benevolent boost we've known as "affirmative action."

It's impossible to say exactly how the court will come down on the Harvard and UNC cases. You can't really tell by the questions asked by the justices.

Clarence Thomas took a swing at UNC by questioning the educational value of diversity.

"I didn't go to racially diverse schools, but there were educational benefits," he said. "And I'd like you to tell me expressly when a parent sends a kid to college, that they don't necessarily send them there to have fun or feel good or anything like that; they send them there to learn physics or chemistry or whatever their study. So, tell me what the educational benefits are."

North Carolina Solicitor General Ryan Park, arguing for UNC, spoke of

the benefits of racial diverse environments, but not to Thomas' satisfaction. "Well, I guess I don't put much stock in that because I've heard similar arguments in favor of segregation, too."

Thomas would be indicative of the hardline conservative attitude.

But the court's first African American female was there, too. Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson questioned the SFFA attorney about the harm the race conscious approach had in admissions. The SFFA attorney couldn't speak to any significant harm and admitted that even whites benefitted from the system now in place.

So, why even bother with the plaintiff's SCOTUS appeal if the lower courts have already decided Harvard and UNC's programs weren't discriminatory?

Well, the only thing that's changed is the six solid, unyielding conservative justices in the high court.

You saw what they did to abortion. Would they do the same thing to affirmative action?

In a heartbeat.

That's what worries people. A decision is expected in 2023. I'm being optimistic while I still can. Affirmative action has been a considerable tool to fight racism. Without it there'd be no BIPOC middle class.

So, what's the ultimate way to beat a court hell-bent on playing politics?

Emil Guillermo is a journalist and commentator. He does a webshow on <http://www.amok.com>

Howard University... continued from page 10

spite best efforts, is still relevant in highlighting the magnitude of the problem.

As Alexander said in her opening speech: "This series isn't just a series about her life. It also guides on why and how national media distorts the rules of engagement for so many missing persons."

Hudson's aunt, Rebekah Howard, spoke about her experiences as a surviving family member. As a publicist, she essentially made her niece a client after her disappearance.

"I knew that I had the skill set, the contacts, the ability to get Tamika's face out there, get her story told because that, to me, was the best hope in finding her," Howard said. "In my naivety, certainly everyone would want to hear Tamika's story, too."

One resounding theme of this event was the intersections of creatives and social sciences like sociology and criminology. Many don't automatically connect the two until situations like this arise. Cross, no stranger to authentic representation in media and the cross between the two, shared some insight as to why African Americans, especially Black women, are overlooked for coverage.

"So often as Black folks, we have to be perfect, in every capacity even in our death," Cross said. "We have to have the most clean, pristine background to invite any sort of empathy from so many people."

Howard has hosted many events this year, but this event stuck out to the students in attendance, especially sophomore broadcast journalism major Mackenzie Williams.

"I was fangirling for half the time; so that was amazing," Williams said. "The whole reason I came to Howard was to be able to network and to have these type[s] of panels."

"These people are coming to us, because they want us to speak to these issues when we get our degrees."

The event also featured representatives from the White House and an audio presentation by second-year law student Jasmine Epps.

More information and resources can be found at findingtamika.org and blackandmissinginc.com.

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Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History by Kristina R. Gaddy

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

One dollar.

That's not a lot of cash when it's your turn to pick the tunes and you want to hear your song now. Just a buck for the juke box and everybody can enjoy what you've chosen. That's not a lot for four minutes of entertainment, especially when, as in the new book *Well of Souls* by Kristina R. Gaddy, it features your favorite instrument.

c.2022
W.W. Norton
\$30.00
284 pages

In 1687, the English slave ship, the Benjamin, left the coast of Loango with a cargo of 375 adults and children headed for Jamaica and lives of slavery. Three hundred sixty-nine people arrived but not with much, if anything at all – and yet, says Gaddy, like their fellow slaves in the Islands and northward, they brought new “cultures that would become foundational to every colony and country they lived in.”

Shortly after the Benjamin arrived, some noticed that when the slaves had a bit of free time, they spent it dancing and making music, sometimes with a gourd impaled by a stick, a bit of animal skin, and strings to pluck. Though the instruments closely resembled lutes and were called “mbanza” in the Kimbundu language, white men called them “Strum Strumps” and the fascination was such that Strum Strumps were taken to England, and collected.

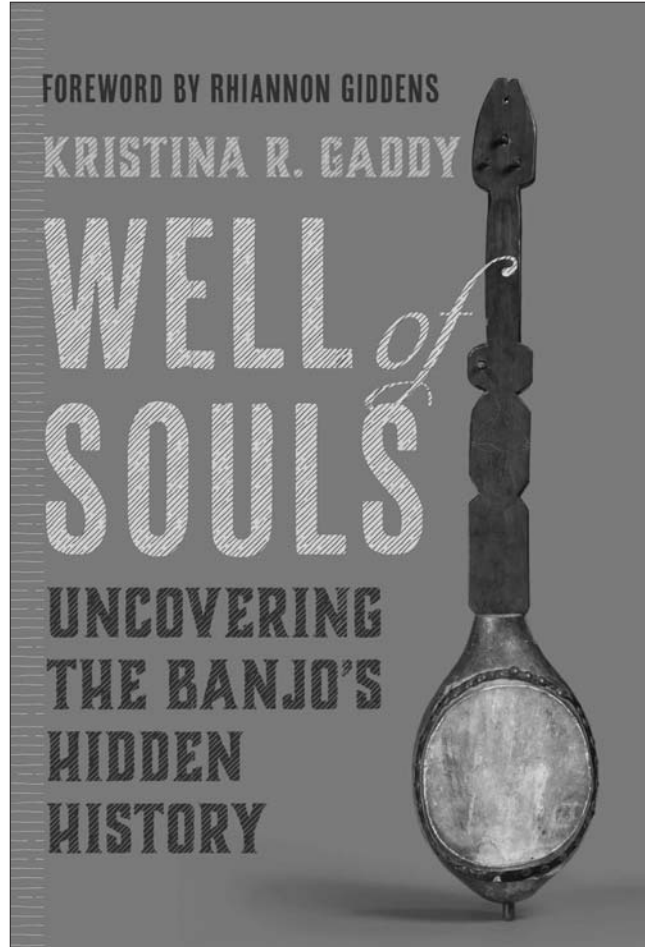
The instrument made its way to Martinique, where it was refined with better strings. It went to Barbados, where it was called a bangil. When it arrived in France, it became “the bangeau,” but in America, it was quickly becoming “an uncouth Black-originated instrument of little worth” that slaves used for celebrations and funerals, though whites remained intrigued by it.

“Whenever the instrument had arrived in Louisiana,” says Gaddy, referring to the early 1800s, “it would soon transform again.”

And by the 1840s, it had transformed into an instrument embraced by white performers in New York and elsewhere, in the most ironic of ways: minstrelsy performers loved the banjo.

Though you've been warned all your life not to judge a book by its

... continued on page 13



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The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times by Michelle Obama

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your entire life is like a gigantic game of "Chutes and Ladders."

Shake the dice, move two steps ahead, and you hit a ladder that takes you to higher places on the game board. Three more squares, and you hit a chute that sends you back to the bottom. Life and children's games are alike in this way: as in the new book *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama, the only way to win is to keep playing.

Pandemic, recession, political divide, market volatility. For many months, you've wondered every morning what fresh chaos you'll deal with that day. So, what keeps you going? How do we overcome feelings of being "wobbly and unsettled"?

Michelle Obama says she ponders this "a lot." She thinks about the things she uses to keep her "balanced and confident... moving forward even during times of high anxiety and stress." She calls them her "personal toolbox" and she shares them in this book.

Most recently, she says, the pandemic taught her the value of having a hobby to relax into, to let her hands work, "my mind trailing behind." Her early life taught her the value of seeing the difference between real fear and fear of newness and change, the latter of which is surprisingly easy to overcome. Newness offers us "chances to grow."

"I've come to understand," she says, "that sometimes the big stuff becomes easier to handle when you deliberately put something small alongside it."

Listen to your body, Obama says, and "Pay attention to how you're feeling." Collect small boosts and learn to look at yourself in a more

c.2022
Crown
\$32.50
319 pages

positive way. Love your differences and be kind to yourself because it's "everything." Be open to connections with others; cultivate friendships you can count on. "Know your own light," Obama says, and "Share it with another person."

Be authentic.

And finally, she says, "Tell the truth, do your best by others, keep perspective, stay tough. That's basically been our recipe for getting by."

Chances are that at some point in the past nearly-three years, you got out of bed one morning and you weren't even sure why. It's been a long haul and you're tired but *The Light We Carry* can get you to the next goal, then the next.

At first glance, it doesn't look like that kind of a book, though.

Author Michelle Obama is a true storyteller, and she uses a Show, Not Tell method of writing. Readers are lulled into an entertaining story of life in the White House, or a gossipy snip of Obama's married life, or a shared memory from her childhood and BAM! the words seamlessly roll over to an easy, do-able tip to survive in hard times. Nice surprise.

Readers will be further glad to know that this isn't a cheerleading book. Instead of U-Rah-Rah, it's U Can Do This, told in a calm, knowing manner. And if that's what you need in this time of turmoil, let *The Light We Carry* help you back onto the ladder.

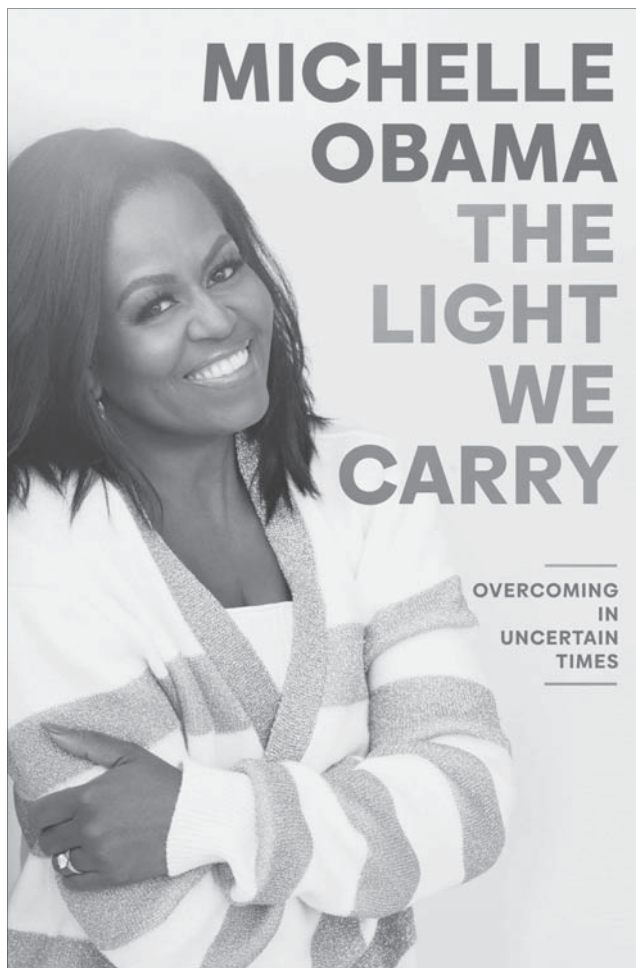
Well of Souls... continued from page 12

cover, *Well of Souls* absolutely calls for doing so. Let the cover photo be your guide.

As promised by said cover, a "hidden history" of the banjo is in this book. It's there, going back – way back, more than 300 years as author Kristina R. Gaddy reveals an art-lover's eye to explain why she focuses on this instrument, why she's eager to tell the deepest story about it and why it matters.

The thing is that she stopped too soon. Her book, thorough as it is, offers teases for modern-day musicians, but the bulk of it ends just before the Civil War. Readers get a fascinating, lively background of the banjo from a Black history standpoint, but nothing about its influence in the 20th-century or beyond.

Use that as a warning: if you enjoy early American history with a hint of the Islands, *Well of Souls* is the book for you. If you were hoping for a more modern history of the banjo, though, this isn't the book to pick.



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MAINTENANCE AND FORECAST COORDINATOR

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Maintenance and Forecast Coordinator. This position will support Metroparks initiatives through planning and construction activities, projects, and oversight of planning, forecasting and improving scheduled maintenance work. Bachelor's degree or other related education or experience equivalent to a degree is required. Moderate level of experience related to process management, long range planning/scheduling and construction project management. Some experience in maintenance management systems. Salaried. Full time with benefits.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY!!

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County is pleased to announce its FY 23 Mini-grant funding opportunity.

Mini-grants are an important strategy in MHR SB efforts to encourage activities throughout Lucas County that promote positive mental health and prevent substance abuse. MHR SB seeks to provide funding up to \$5,000 per project to grassroots organizations in Lucas County that provide programs and/or services aligned with MHR SB's mission and goals. Services can include programming that offers skills, strengths, resources, supports, or coping strategies to support mental wellness.

Interested grassroots organizations are encouraged to apply.

For more information and qualification criteria and to submit your proposal on our easy-to-fill online application, please visit www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/



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The primary purpose of Educational Advisor is to provide supportive services to achieve the performance objectives of the Upward Bound program. The Educational Advisor recruits and retains new and continuing middle and high school students to increase secondary school achievement, assists students with supportive services necessary to help their promotion to next grade level, graduation from high school and then be prepared to matriculate to a post-secondary institution. In addition, the UB Advisor also assist persons who have not completed a program at the secondary school level and have the desire to do so, to reenter those programs and then matriculate to a post-secondary institution of their choice. The Educational Advisor also help plan activities including college tours, cultural enrichment opportunities and summer programming to ensure that UB participants are exposed to college and career/cultural events to broaden their perspective on opportunities outside of their normal activities. Program assessment is also important to effective outreach and performance of the UB program and Educational Advisors also participate in this activity as well as writing semi-annual and annual reports. Search will remain open until filled.

Full-time, twelve-month Administrative Staff position available. For a complete job description & to apply for this position visit <https://bgsu.hiretouch.com/> or contact the Office of Human Resources. BGSU. AA/EEO/Disabilities/Veterans. In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Bowling Green State University, please call 419-372-8421.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GUTTER MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND REPLACE- MENT SERVICES RFP#22-R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Gutter Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Services in accordance with RFP#22-R007**. Received in accordance with law until **December 6, 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.



NOTICE TO BIDDERS TARTA ON-BOARD VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit responses from qualified firms to furnish and install hardware and software components to provide surveillance capabilities on the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority's (TARTA) fleet of revenue vehicles. TARTA seeks a Proposer with the experience, expertise, and qualifications to provide an all-inclusive On-Board Video Surveillance System (OBVSS), fully supported by the proposer, or any combination of proposer, manufacturer, and integrator.

TARTA currently has a mix of MobileView (8+ years old) and Seon (3+ years old) surveillance camera systems installed on a limited number of revenue vehicles with many of the cameras non-functional. The new OBVSS will equip the full fleet of fixed route buses (currently 81) and paratransit vehicles (currently 33) and replace all the existing cameras/systems. Cradlepoint routers provide the core network on the Vehicles both wireless and wired. The existing CAD/AVL system on the fixed route fleet is being replaced with ETA Transit Systems. Trapeze PASS is in use on the paratransit vehicles. TARTA has set a DBE goal of 11.6% for this procurement. TARTA reserves the right to solicit or to waive a new solicitation, for new bids if sufficient effort, as determined by TARTA, has not been made to comply with the DBE goals and requirements.

Sealed bids must be received by TARTA on or before Friday, February 17, 2023, via sealed envelope and email. Mailed bid packages should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bidder's full name, address and telephone number and "TARTA On-Board Video Surveillance System Project," and sent to:

Sophie Giviyan
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
1127 W. Central Avenue
PO Box 792
Toledo, OH 43697-0792

Email submissions should be marked with the same information and sent to sgiviyan@tarta.com

TARTA officially distributes bidding documents from the Purchasing Department. Copies from any other source are not considered official copies. Only those vendors who obtain bidding documents from the Purchasing Department are guaranteed to receive addendum information, if such information is issued.

Questions about this project should be directed to Sophie Giviyan, sgiviyan@tarta.com.

Call to place your ad:
419-243-0007
www.TheTruthToledo.com

Child of God Celebrates Ordination Weekend

Special to The Truth

Child of God Ministries, in conjunction with Kingdom Life Outreach Center of Baltimore, MD, was birthed on November 12, 2022 during the ordination service of Elder Dorian Rayford as Pastor.

The ordination weekend began with a free concert on Friday night at the Peacock Cafe located at 2007 Monroe St. This concert featured local artists as well as artists from Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC.

On Saturday the ordination service, officiated by Overseer Ann Coles II, DMin, of Washington, D.C. was held at the Corinth Baptist Church located at 2283 Putnam St.

Child of God Ministries is an outreach ministry seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the community. Our mission is to introduce people to God's love through fellow man.

Be on the lookout for future events!#ChurchDifferent



Pastor Gary Hynson, Pastor JoAnne Boykin, Pastor John Young, Pastor Dorian Rayford, Shannon Rayford, Overseer Ann Coles II, DMin, Minister Keisha Young



Pastor John Young, Pastor Elect Dorian Rayford, Shannon Rayford and Dr. Ann Coles II

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