



Volume 76 No. 5

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

January 18, 2023



*"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." --- Dr. MLK, Jr*

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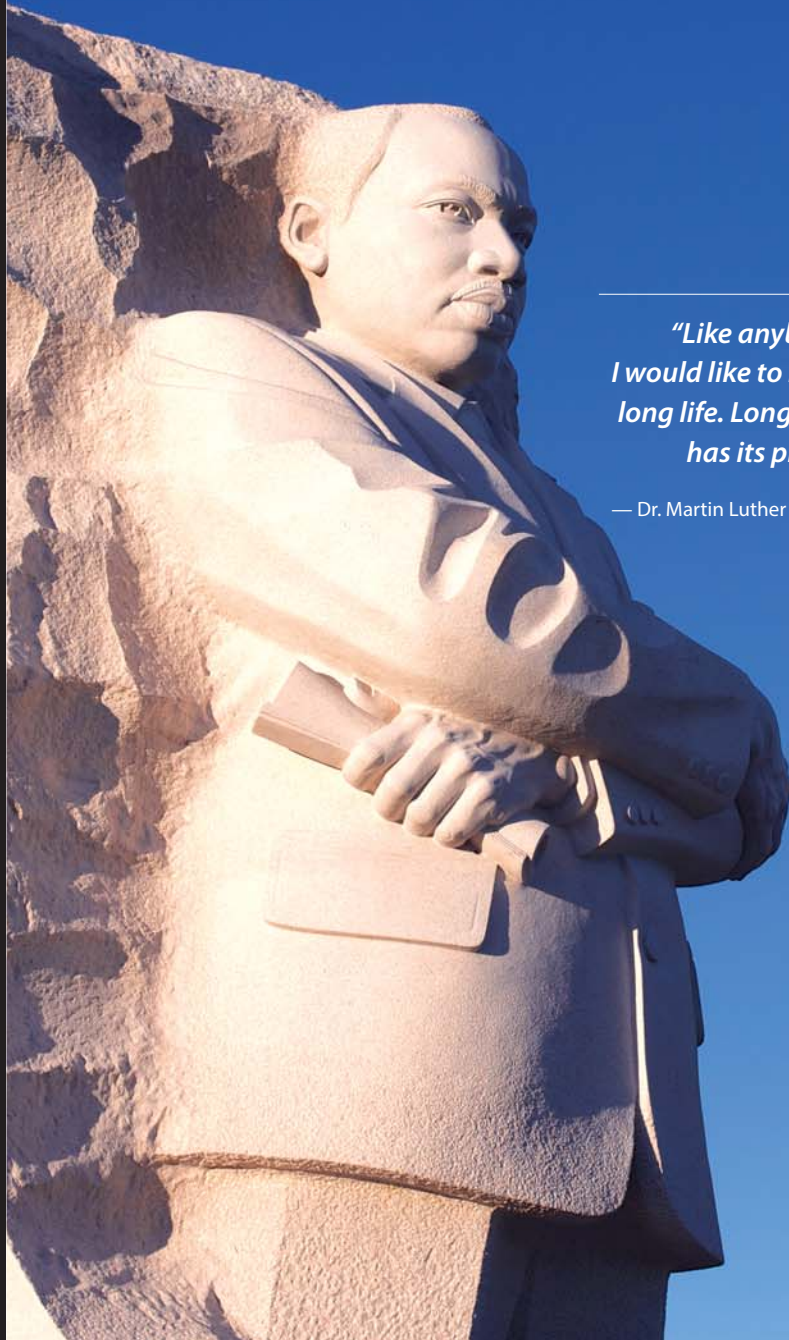
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— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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# What Would MLK Do?

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.  
The Truth Contributor



*We need leaders who are not in love with money but in love with justice, not in love with publicity but in love with humanity, leaders who can subject their own ego to the pressing issues of the cause of freedom.*

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

January is a time to honor the memory of our slain civil rights leader and icon, Martin Luther King, Jr., and renew our commitment to continue addressing systemic injustice and racism.

Yet, systemic change is still a fantasy nearly 55 years after King's death. For the Lucas County Democratic Party, however, it is a clash of egos and "another year, another internal ruckus."

The Party's screening committee prepared to endorse Shawn Strong and Harold Mosely over John Hobbs and Vanice Williams at its January executive committee meeting. Hobbs and Williams had served on city council since September 2020 as interim appointments, which expired with former councilmen Riley and Harper's guilty pleas in December 2022.

However, a faction supporting Hobbs and Williams objected, complaining that an endorsement contradicts the Party's bylaws. As a result, the Party shut down the screening committee's endorsement because "the bylaws don't allow it." The Party took this action despite a tendency to manipulate its bylaws to align with its agenda at any given time. The Dems also should have noticed that the bylaws applied explicitly to elections rather than an appointment.

City Council then voted unanimously the next day to return Williams and Hobbs to their seats along with Carrie Hartman to fill Michelle Grim's seat. Grim resigned from city council on January 2 to begin her first term in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, Michael Ashford, Lucas County Democratic Party chair, left the contentious Party executive session with a punctured tire, which he attributed to the nefarious actions of his intraparty opponents.

## The Problem behind the Problem

It is well known that Ashford, the Democratic Party Chair, actively supported Strong and Mosely. On the other hand, a faction led by Commissioner Pete Gerken supported John Hobbs and Vanice Williams. In addition, the Interdenominational Ministerial Association (IMA) also provided a letter of support for Hobbs and Williams. Members of the NAACP and other ministers also advocated the removal of the interim tag from Hobbs and Williams and the return to their council seats.

However, do not be deceived. The brawl is not about Hobbs/Williams vs. Strong/Mosley. City Council never wanted any endorsement from the Democratic Party because it "always intended for Williams and Hobbs to finish their terms."

Instead, the brouhaha, at the core, is a challenge to Ashford's leadership.

Ashford's opponents accuse him of threatening to withhold all future councilmember endorsements unless they accepted the endorsement of Strong and Mosely. The Gerken bloc also chided Ashford for removing Kwinlyn Tyler from the screening committee at the last minute. Despite the Party's need for youth and diversity, Ashford allegedly said he "just decided to go another way. And the bylaws give him the right to remove anyone at the pleasure of the Chair."

While several complained of Ashford's leadership style, that "he's a tyrant, acts without direction, and imposes his will without consent," would this be an issue if Ashford was not Black? I doubt it.

...continued on page 4

# Black or ... Black-ish?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

With dubious credits to the political imposter, George Santos, the issue of being "ish" with one's cultural and historical heritage has made its rounds in the talk show forums.

Rep. Santos, in his effort to win voters in his Long Island district, boasted of

being a Jew, but when confronted with factual information that he was not, defaulted to saying that he meant to say he was "Jew-ish" since he associated with Jews and identified with their historical plight and culture.

Of course, the outcry from the Jewish community was rightfully loud and scornful of a usurper trying to pimp off their history in order to win an election.

Without morals or any conscience, George Santos stuck with his "Jew-ish" roots until he was found out to be a scoundrel of the first order and has been barred from attending any Jewish functions.

As to what will happen to his scurrilous lies, multiple investigations are underway by various agencies to discern who really is this George Santos personality and from where in fact did his sudden wealth materialize.

When I think of the outrage that his comments caused about the use of that hyphenated word, "Jew-ish", I remember the sitcom called "Black-ish" that had a successful television run for several years.

That sitcom created by a Black person and with many of the scripts written by Black writers created an upper middle class Black family living in white suburbia and trying to both maintain their "Blackness" but yet trying to meld into their surrounding community.

You know, trying to mix oil and water. They are both in the same container but still maintain their own distinctive characteristics and way of circumventing the American landscape which is still either indifferent or hostile to all things, Black.

The sitcom had some really positive portrayals of Black people living the "good life" and some that were exposures of the macro and micro aggressions that still plague this society.

Most of the comic relief, to me, was done by the parents of the father of the household. They were the safety nets and ballast that provided needed balance to the kids of the sometimes clueless parents.

There were times I chuckled at the wisdom of the parents given to their child, the father; and to the sometimes absent-minded doctor daughter-in-law, Rainbow.

Thankfully, the writers, understanding that the show had to be "funny" in order to draw the viewing audience back again and again for subsequent episodes, were both hot and cold in depicting Black life in America.

In some of the episodes, it was painful showing that Black life, no matter how insulated, had to interface with the larger white community and some of those interactions were true to form and others were "loopy and dopey."

... continued on page 6

Honoring

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Everybody can be great...because anyone can serve." — Martin Luther King, Jr.



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# Plantation Mentality

By June Boyd

Guest Column

This new year, 2023, we will vote in a municipal election – Toledo city council for the six districts. There is a very disturbing rumor circulating in our community that Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz has threatened to run a candidate against John Hobbs, III, including helping to fund the opponent's campaign.

If you recall, John Hobbs, III was initially appointed by Judge Jack Puffenberger along with Vanice Williams, Tiffany Preston Whitman and Cerssandra McPherson, all labeled quality candidates.



June Boyd

The foregoing were selected to replace the four people embroiled in the legal battle relative to bribes: Yvonne Harper, Tyrone Riley, Larry Sykes and Gary Johnson. More recently, Hobbs had to be reappointed along with Vanice Williams due to the resignation from council by Yvonne Harper and Tyrone Riley which gave a brief opportunity to anyone opposed to Mr. Hobbs to take advantage of any weakness. John Hobbs, III is no George Santos, that guy from New York.

As a seasoned politician, long-time resident of the central city and a community activist, I abhor the notion of a sitting official interfering with the politics in our community. I am a product of the "Good Old Days" and remember when J.B. Simmons (Toledo's first Black vice mayor), Slater Gibson, Frances Belcher, Anderson Cheeves, George Davis, Jr., Shannie Barnett, Nellie Gales, Bertha Irvin, Casey Jones, Bill Copeland,

and so many others continually made a concerted effort to help others, work together and promote the young in the struggle. This was all prior to the modern civil rights movement.

Today, any person who would let a Caucasian male fund a campaign against a sitting Black member of Toledo city council is the closest thing to Plantation Mentality as it will ever get.

It is obvious there will be a number of candidates vying for the six seats, however, let it be on an equal playing field, and not funded by someone who has established a reason to block Mr. Hobbs from getting elected.

We constantly struggle for our rights, and today, quality leadership is needed as we come together to address the horrible crime and murder epidemic in our community. Too many young people are dying, we have no economic development (excluding the housing project going up in the Warren Sherman community).

However, we need quality education, good parenting and jobs. I do hope the community will reject any attempt to block a sitting council member from running his campaign without interference from someone who has a different agenda.

No one is perfect, many of us have had trials and tribulations relative to life, its path, its challenges; however honesty, integrity, dedication and a love for one's community is the key; not revenge.

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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

It always seems problematic for Black leaders when they don't ask white overseers' permission before acting or making decisions.

The Bigger Issue

Nearly 55 years after Martin Luther King, structural racism still reigns in Toledo due to bickering Democrats who stumble, bumble, and fumble the ball on political change. Homicides occur at a record pace. Meanwhile, policing, housing, education, clean air and water, health-care access, wealth and income disparities, and many other issues remain unaddressed.

What Would King Do?

On what would be King's 94th birthday, he would admonish the Party to recommit to dismantling systemic issues of injustice and racism, especially in neighborhoods of need.

This indispensable imperative can only occur by "centering the people and their needs, and not the politicians and their egos."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org)

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# Hicks-Hudson's Urban Farm Bill

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

As she starts the process of drafting legislation for an urban farm bill, State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson brought together dozens of interested parties on Friday, January 13 to solicit input on the content of such legislation.

The gathering, at Grace Community Center, featured a robust conversation and the input Hicks-Hudson sought from community activists, college representatives, government entities and, above all, experienced urban farmers who are familiar with the very topics Hicks-Hudson hopes to address in her bill.

There are many possible benefits to sustaining and expanding urban farms, noted Hicks-Hudson. "We can have access to healthy food, it can be an economic development driver because we're talking about farming, it can be used to support the neighborhood [such as at the Grace Community Center] and it's a funding source for the Center."

In attendance were Sean Nestor, founder of the Urban Agriculture Alliance of Lucas County; Thomas Jackson, renowned local urban farmer; Sonia Ramelle of SONIA Organics and Urban Wholistics; Jason Gfeller, urban farmer, among others knowledgeable on the topic.

Also joining the discussion was Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who has long expressed an interest in the subject. Kaptur wrapped up the meeting not only by adding to the subject but also by recommending ways to achieve the goals outlined.

"I've been talking about urban farming even before I was in the mayor's office," said Hicks-Hudson at the outset of the meeting. "I will introduce legislation based on our discussions here. Urban agriculture is alive and well."

Hicks-Hudson's objective was to create legislation that will enable urban farming, not only in Toledo but also around the state, to gain traction and become as vital a part of the local and state's economy as is rural farming. She drew a distinction between urban farming and community gardens, noting the breadth and long-range possibilities of the former.

"We have the opportunity to create something my colleagues in Columbus don't think is real," said Hicks-Hudson. "They think in terms of community gardens. I have to educate my colleagues about how important this is."

The state government leaders and legislators are not the only movers and shakers whose attention needs to be redirected, observed Hicks-Hudson and many of the meeting's participants. The United States Department of Agriculture has been woefully neglectful of directing its resources to urban areas.

The benefits of urban agriculture were repeatedly extolled by the attendees – fresh food more easily accessible to city residents, healthier communities, a business venture that can economically benefit the communities, remediation of vacant properties and, noted Sonia Ramelle, such farms are "violence interrupters."

There are also challenges to farming in urban areas, according to attendees. Above all, remediating the land and ridding it of the contaminants from the previously occupied buildings is no small task. Buildings



Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson leads the discussion

are rarely totally removed and contaminants can remain in the soil indefinitely.

Aside from the soil issues, other challenges include zoning restrictions, building codes, lack of education in the community about the benefits of gardens, composting within city limits and acquiring properties that are not adjacent to the farmers' residential properties.

Congresswoman Kaptur summed up the meeting with her perspectives on urban farms.

"I'm trying to get people here to earn money on food and become wealthier," she said. "The USDA only thinks 'rural' and most technical assistance is locked in rural areas. There is a real problem in that department which floats down to the state – here in Ohio most of [the USDA staff] is in Columbus. [Paula Hicks-Hudson] is the only elected official I have ever known who cares about this."

Kaptur also pointed the group towards a number of directions to secure help in those efforts to earn money on food such as how to reach certain departments of the USDA, how to investigate the "special designation that some urban areas, such as Cleveland, have earned and reaching out to HBCUs which have received grants "to get them focused on urban agriculture."

"I do believe we are sitting in the garden and you are the pioneers," she said of the meeting's attendees.

Hicks-Hudson anticipates introducing her urban farm legislation within 60 days.

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# Black, Latino and Indigenous Graduates Could Benefit Most Under Repayment Plan

By Darreonna Davis

Howard University News Service

With the latest revision by the Education Department, Repay As You Earn (REPAYE) would become the most affordable income-driven repayment plan to date. REPAYE, one of four programs offered by the Federal Student Aid office, would cut millions of borrowers' monthly student loan repayments in half.

The Biden Administration is especially looking for these revisions to have a lasting impact on Black, Latino and Indigenous graduates.

"Student debt is particularly a challenge for Americans of color," a senior official said. "This plan should have substantial benefits for Black, Latino borrowers by reducing their payments by 50 cents for every dollar borrowed, and our hope is that it will play a role in reducing inequities in our country."

The college and career site Best Colleges reported last fall that the average monthly student loan repayment for borrowers who obtained a bachelor's degree was \$267. Researchers at the Education Data Initiative reported last summer that 29% of Black borrowers paid back an average of \$350 or more.

"We cannot return to the same broken system we had before the pandemic, when a million borrowers defaulted on their loans a year and snowballing interest left millions owing more than they initially borrowed," Miguel Cardona, the U.S. Secretary of Education, said in a statement.

"These proposed regulations will cut monthly payments for undergraduate borrowers in half and create faster pathways to forgiveness, so borrowers can better manage repayment, avoid delinquency and default, and focus on building brighter futures for themselves and their families."

The repayment program is separate from President Biden's student loan

forgiveness plan, and the government is hoping to implement both later this year, according to a senior official.

Darreonna Davis is a reporter and editor for HUNewsService.com. She is also an environmental justice fellow under a partnership with Inside Climate News.

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

To better ascertain where you, the reader, stands on the issue of being Black and/or being Black-"ish" answering the following scenarios with a B for Black and a B- standing being Black-"ish" at the end of each question.

WHICH OF THE BELOW IS WHICH?

- Going to white museums at the near exclusion of Black exhibits \_\_\_\_\_
- Wearing a Black Lives Matter! Sweatshirt to the grocery store \_\_\_\_\_
- Boys or Men letting their pants drop way past their waistline \_\_\_\_\_
- Afraid to go out in public with your hair in twisties \_\_\_\_\_
- Having a collection of classical music but no Miles Davis \_\_\_\_\_
- Voting Republican \_\_\_\_\_
- Seeking out a white church to attend \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving your kids with names that have a hyphen in it \_\_\_\_\_
- Celebrating Kwanzaa \_\_\_\_\_
- Knowing how to use several forks at a dinner table \_\_\_\_\_

*...continued on page 11*



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# OP-ED: Pursuing Martin Luther King Jr.'s Beloved Community

By Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC)

The NNPA Wire Service

Martin Luther King, Jr. visited Ghana in 1957 to participate in the celebration of the country's independence from British colonialism. Upon returning home, he delivered a sermon called "The Birth of a New Nation," and introduced his idea for a post-Jim Crow society in this country. He explained the concept saying, "the aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community." He equated a beloved community to a successful country.

According to Dr. King, the creation of a beloved community would require the American people to address three great evils of society: racism, poverty, and militarism. My friend and former colleague, the late John R. Lewis, arguably Dr. King's most ardent disciple, often invoked the concept to buttress his calls for a "just society." John was committed to the pursuit, but I always wondered if such were possible until recently.

The Biden-Harris Administration has planted significant pillars upon which a foundation is being laid to tackle the three great evils and undo the generational impacts of systemic racism in our communities. Their efforts and the response of the American people in last November's elections have buttressed my faith in such a possibility. President Biden has spearheaded a "whole of government" approach, directing every agency across the federal government to develop policies that make America's greatness more accessible and affordable to all regardless of skin color.

Racism is a clear and present danger to the success of our "pursuit of a more perfect Union" and the Biden-Harris administration is confronting it. Recognizing the importance of environmental justice to marginalized communities, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the Justice40 Initiative, directing 40 percent of federal investments toward underserved communities disproportionately burdened by pollution.

In their efforts to confront racism directly, the Biden-Harris Administra-

tion has begun to address the racial inequities in our health care system. My father often said that if you don't have your health, you don't have anything. President Biden signed the PACT Act to make it easier for veterans suffering side effects from the contaminated water, burn pits, and toxins they were exposed to at war to receive the care and benefits they deserve. Considering roughly 43 percent of active-duty military are people of color, this will help our Black veterans and their loved ones receive equitable health care.

Reducing poverty, King's second great evil, is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. The American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure bill, and the Inflation Reduction Act, have created millions of opportunities for the American people to achieve upward economic mobility. President Biden's targeting of student loan debt relief will relieve the disproportionate economic burden of student loan debt from the shoulders of over 1.6 million vulnerable borrowers. It will also restructure repayment plans to make them borrower friendly.

Home ownership is one of the quickest and sustainable ways out of poverty. President Biden's Housing Supply Action Plan is designed to help close the housing supply shortfall in 5 years by increasing the supply and preserving the existence of affordable housing across the country. There is an extreme mismatch between the supply of and demand for affordable homes. Closing this gap will create more affordable rental units and purchase options for low- and moderate-income families.

Dr. King's third evil, militarism, has not gone un-responded to by the Biden-Harris administration. No one can forget the images of police outfitted with military-grade equipment in cities across the country during recent

...continued on page 11

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**TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPORT**



# City-wide MLK Celebration: Tributes to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The City of Toledo's Human Relations Commission (HRC) collaborated with multiple community-based agencies to organize a multi-day acknowledgement and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The festivities commenced with a Multifaith Universal Service on Monday, January 9 starting at 6:00 p.m. and continued with a full schedule of activities referred to as the MLK Experience. Those events began on Friday, January 13 and concluded on Monday, January 16, 2023. The observations included faith-based experiences, expression experiences and economic focused experiences.

The MLK Experience weekend began with a Friday night poetry experience held at Lucille's Jazz Lounge, located at 1447 Summit St, and featured local artists of various spoken word styles.

The festivities continued by calling on Toledo residents to support two local black-owned businesses on Friday and Saturday. In partnership with HRC, Jera's Heavenly Sweets and The Onyx Cafe offered a free select menu item for patrons over the two-day period. Jera's, located at 3059 W Bancroft, offered a free cookie to patrons, while The Onyx Café, located at 27 Broadway Street off Ot-



Rev. John Jones, Tina Butts, Calvin Burney

tawa, offered patrons free coffee.

Jera's Heavenly Sweets is conveniently located in the shopping plaza near the University of Toledo. Jera Stewart moved into the location in January 2021, during the height of the pandemic, and opened for business in September 2021.

"I'm excited to have a thriving business at this stage of my life. The dream works. I thank the City of Toledo for allowing us to participate. We have seen many new faces over these last two days that didn't know the business existed," shared Jera Stewart, owner of Jera's Heavenly Sweets.

Saturday's festivities also included the 31st an-



The scholars honored by the Alphas



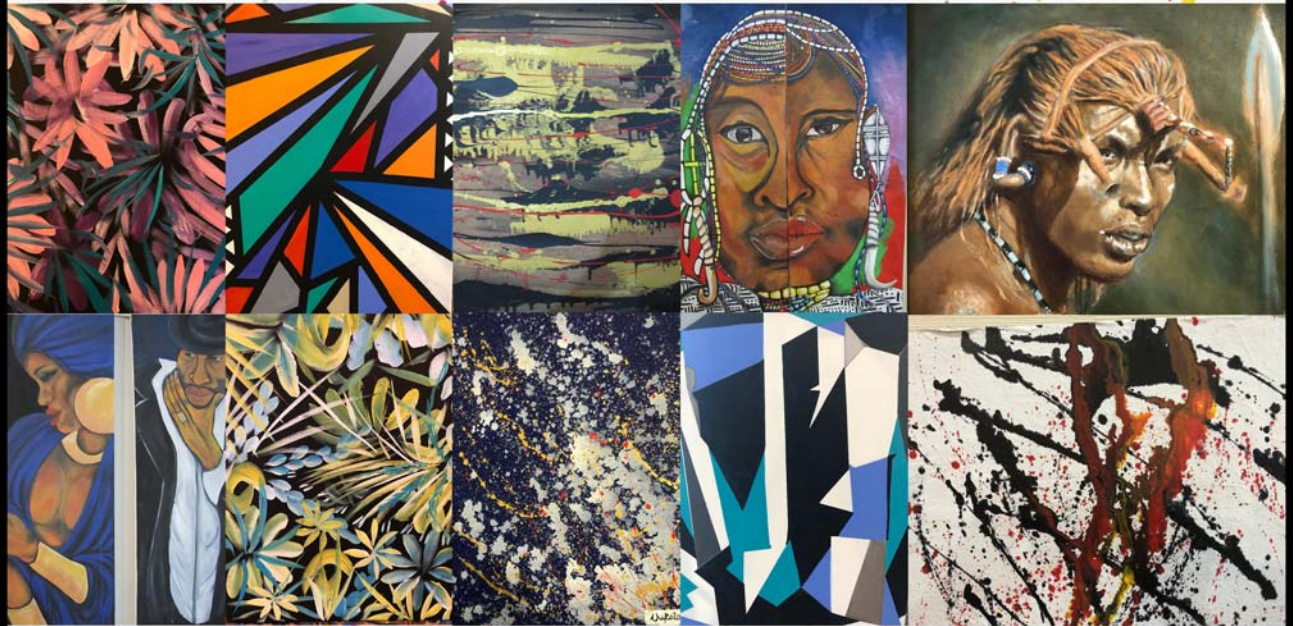
Presidents of the five Black sororities and fraternities

nual MLK Scholarship Breakfast hosted by the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter. The annual brunch raises scholarship dollars for local young men, spotlights a notable community leader and features an inspirational guest speaker.

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Toledo Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr...continued from page 8

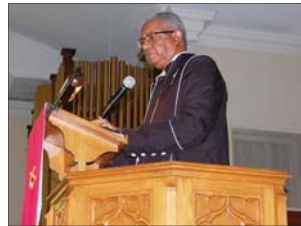
The program opened with greetings from the event mistress of ceremonies, Kristian Brown of 13ABC news, a singing of the Negro National Anthem led by instrumentalist Mike Williams, invocation by Elder David Young and words from Sharon Speyer of the presenting sponsor Huntington Bank.

Immediately following breakfast, Tina Butts of The Movement Toledo Lucas County was awarded the coveted Drum Major for Justice Award.

"If you know Tina, then you know she is The Movement. Her efforts registered voters and led an effort for people to receive the COVID vaccine," shared Brown during the award introduction.

Tina Butts and The Movement Team advo-

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Pastor James Willis



Transformation Church Pastor  
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**Toledo Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr... continued from page 9**

cate and assist the underprivileged. They led a COVID-19 vaccine awareness campaign, are working with Greenbelt Place Apartments and partner with several local partners including the local Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity chapter and Connecting Kids to Meals.

"The women in this community are really out there and supportive. I have also received support and protection from the brothers in our community. We are The Movement," shared Butts during the opening remarks of her acceptance speech.

The 31st annual scholarship breakfast's featured keynote speaker was Brian Dawkins, a Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2018, who also had his Eagles #20 jersey retired in 2012. "I am humbled by this opportunity and I want to thank everyone that made this possible. Hopefully something that I say here will encourage somebody to move. There are ways that your greatness is being kept from the world, whether it's your environment, family or etc. You can overcome it," shared Dawkins.

Additionally, five deserving young men were awarded scholarships. The fraternity's local chapter has awarded more than 120 scholarships to local men. Jaidden Butler attends St. John's High School, is active in several groups including School Ambassadors, maintains a 3.57 GPA, is considering three colleges including Ohio State University and plans to study science.

Malik Dawson attends Springfield High School and is currently the field commander for the marching band, maintains a 2.76 GPA, was accepted to Xavier University and plans to study music.

Cameron Knabbs currently attends Woodward high school, is earning college credits at Owens Community College, maintains a 4.0 GPA, is this year's Homecoming King, has played varsity basketball for three years and plans to attend North Carolina A&T to study computer science.

Noah Langford attends Central Catholic High School, maintains a 3.5 GPA, and has remained on the honor roll since his freshman year.

Benjamin Williams attends Ottawa Hills High School, maintains a 3.68 GPA, and is active in several causes including Books for Buddies.

In addition to the funds raised by the fraternity, presenting sponsor Huntington Bank matched each individual scholarship that was announced. The

fraternity also donated to the Toledo Public School Foundation and Executive Director Ashley Yoakem accepted the check.

"The brothers and I are looking forward to the future and we're not okay with just an annual scholarship. The brothers and I are donating \$2,500 to Write The Future campaign, because this is about our community's children," shared Rev. John Jones.

Day two of the MLK Experience featured a Sunday day of worship at two local faith-based institutions that each inspired their congregations and online Facebook viewers. The

historic St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church began service at 10:45 a.m. and Transformation Church started service at 11:30 a.m.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church located at 1502 N Detroit and is under the leadership of Rev. James Willis, DMin. The service began with spirit-filled praise and worship led by church deacons, scripture, responsive reading and congregational hymn. The service incorporated special moments to commemorate the occasion. Dr. King's favorite scripture Psalm 23:1-6 was read, a presentation of Dr. King was performed by Mikayla Evans, inserts from Dr. King's speech, "I Have a Dream" speech were delivered by Celina Winfield and Rev. Willis spoke from Exodus 14:10-14 and drew inspiration from Dr. King's life.

"Today is special to me because it's Dr. King's birthday and my mother's birthday. My mother who attends every Sunday online from Mississippi is 96 years old. I look forward to our younger generations embracing the work done by Dr. King and I look forward to the time when society will remember and celebrate the advantages made possible by Dr. King not just today or this weekend but every day," shared Rev. Willis.

Transformation Church, located at 5444 Airport Hwy, is under the leadership of Pastor Brandon Tucker. Guests were welcomed at the door as soulful renditions of praise, worship and Christian music filled the sanctuary. The praise and worship team, accompanied by a drummer and keyboardist harmonized various selections before the Pastor Tucker gave words to inspire the congregation and Facebook viewers.

"As we think about Dr. King and think about what he did as a blue print in today's time. Dr. King was talked about, and second guessed as he stood up for others. Your light has to shine at our jobs and with our families. People will dim your light so don't let other people affect us. Be focused in 2023," shared Pastor Tucker.

The third day of the MLK Experience on Monday, January 16 began with a Unity Day Celebration that was held virtually and continued with an entire day of events to celebrate MLK Day at the Toledo Museum of Art.

The Unity Day Celebration began at 10:00 am with a conversation featuring Chuck Ealey. The celebration continued with the National Anthem and

... continued on page 11



Calvin Burney, Jr, Guest Speaker at the Museum's event



Jessica White, TMA Programs and Engagement Manager

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*Toledo Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr... continued from page 10*

Negro National Anthem, greetings from dignitaries and featured Keynote Speaker Bree Newsome. Additionally, the virtual celebration included special performances by The My5tery Music Band, J.P. Dynasty, United Vision Choir, Toledo Opera, spoken artists and musicians.

"Thank you for joining us. The University of Toledo is proud to partner with the City of Toledo to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Gregory Postel, MD, University of Toledo president during a welcome address.

"Welcome to the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr celebration. The City of Toledo and Human Relations Commission for once again partnering with the University of Toledo's 22nd annual community event. Thank you for tuning in to this virtual

event," shared Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz during a welcome address.

The Museum's celebration opened with a performance from BGSU Voices Choir, free screening of SELMA, touring of featured African American artwork and featured guest speaker Calvin Burney, EdD, a developer of youth empowerment and superintendent of Rise and Shine Academy which is located in North Toledo.

The history of Martin Luther King Jr. Day centers around the actual birthday of the civic right icon, which is January 15, 1929. To commemorate his legacy, the third Monday of January was approved as a federal holiday in 1983 and by 2000 all 50 states made it a state government holiday. South Carolina was the last state to ratify the date. The King Center in Atlanta outlined the chronological history and efforts behind this effort. Dr. King would have been 93 this weekend.

## This New Year, Learn About Social Security Online

By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, Toledo,

### Guest Column

Social Security programs touch the lives of more than 70 million people. We work hard to ensure critical benefits and other services are accessible to you. Consider the start of the new year as an opportunity for you to engage with Social Security online. This begins with creating your free and secure personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you create an account, you can:

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- Check your application status.
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- Get estimates for spouse's benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

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Your personal my Social Security account has a secure Message Center. You can choose to receive the annual cost-of-living adjustments and the income-related monthly adjustment amount online. Unless you opt-out of receiving notices by mail that are available online, you will receive both mailed and online notices.

Your personal my Social Security account offers easy access to features that save you time when you do business with us online. Check out our other resources available at [www.ssa.gov/online/services](http://www.ssa.gov/online/services) for your convenience.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

*Tolliver... continued from page 6*

Carrying a Gucci bag \_\_\_\_\_  
 Knowing at least one verse to the Black National Anthem \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driving out of your way to support a Black business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thinking that Elvis Presley was a great entertainer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vacation choice is either Ghana or Rome \_\_\_\_\_  
 Embarrassed to be seen eating watermelon in public \_\_\_\_\_  
 You can name at least five all Black colleges \_\_\_\_\_  
 Straightened hair is all you will be seen in \_\_\_\_\_

You eat Bar-be-Que with a fork and knife \_\_\_\_\_  
 You get nervous in a large crowd of Black people \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have seen videos of Stephin Fetchit \_\_\_\_\_  
 You celebrate July 4th as if it were your freedom day \_\_\_\_\_  
 At the malls, you are wary of eating in the food courts \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)

*OP-ED... continued from page 7*

racial justice protests. The militarization of police is a phenomenon that endangers everyday citizens and precipitates violent policing.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities law reforms policing by investing in violence interruption funding and children and family mental health services. The law provides over \$250 million for community-based violence prevention programs, empowering communities to interrupt the cycle of violence by intervening on behalf of those most likely to commit offenses that require police attention. Similarly, bolstering programs and organizations that can help prevent and respond to emergency calls instead of armed police officers could stop incidents from ending in police violence.

In 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public

Trust and Public Safety. This order mandates the reporting of police misconduct and use-of-force incidents and orders all federal law enforcement agencies to revise their use-of-force policies. Now Federal agencies cannot transfer or sell military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, cutting down on the militarization of our local police departments.

For us to continue our pursuit of a more perfect union, we must embrace Dr. King's vision of a blessed community and confront the injustices that have stymied that pursuit for centuries. It is our solemn duty as Members of Congress to put forth legislation that advances liberty and justice for all. But for all our successes, much remains to be done. As we pause to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hopefully, as we move beyond this year's celebration, we will revisit this idea of a beloved community and recommit ourselves to making his dream, the American Dream, a reality.



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Harold H. Brown... continued from page 16

"Let me give you some advice," he told me," recalled Brown. "This war is going to end in the next three to four months. You are going to be transferred to [a prisoner of war camp]. Keep your nose clean ... don't try to escape or give a guard any reason to shoot you."

The major, who also told Brown that his own goal was to try to get to the United States after the war, was nothing if not unerringly accurate in his assessment of the status of the war. Brown, along with about 10,000 other Allied prisoners, was forced marched to his new home at Stalag VII-A in Moosberg and remained there until May 3 or 4 when General George Patton and his 3rd Army arrived to liberate the prisoners of war.

Brown has no idea what happened to the German officer who extended more courtesies to him than just about any white American officer, or enlisted man for that fact, would during those days when black soldiers, sailors and airmen knew nothing but segregation and constant derision of the notion that they were matches for their white counterparts on the battlefields of World War II.

But the German fighter pilots knew about the "red tails" as did the American bomber pilots.

The American public would not know about the unit until 1995 when Bob Williams, Brown's 44E classmate, would finally get his screenplay produced and his story told about the Tuskegee Airmen in an HBO movie starring Laurence Fishburne. Fifty years after he was shot down in Germany, Brown and his fellow heroes finally emerged from behind the cloak of secrecy in which they had been shrouded.

In December 1998, President Bill Clinton presented General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the commanding officer of the 332nd Fighter Group and the first African-American general of the Air Force, with a fourth star and celebrated the Tuskegee Airmen's collective heroism.

In March of this year, President George W. Bush presented the pilots the Congressional Medal of Honor. "I have a strong interest in World War II airmen," said Bush during that ceremony on March 29, 2007. "I was raised by one. He flew with a group of brave young men who endured difficult times in the defense of our country. Yet for all they sacrificed and all they lost, in a way, they were very fortunate, because they never had the burden of having their every mission, their every success, their every failure viewed through the color of their skin. Nobody told them they were a credit to their race. Nobody refused to return their salutes. Nobody expected them to bear the daily humiliations while wearing the uniform of their country."

Bush praised the Tuskegee Airmen for doing so much for a nation that had done so little for them and he told the story of one such pilot who had sacrificed virtually all of his worldly possessions in order to get to the training site to become a pilot. It's a story with which Brown was thoroughly familiar.

Brown's own love of flying was instilled at an early age when he dreamed

of becoming a pilot while building model airplanes and reading books such as "The Life of a Flying Cadet," a book Brown read so often he said later he could probably recite it from memory. A Minneapolis native, Brown volunteered in 1942, at the tender age of 17, for the Army Air Corps in order to become an airman. He was still in high school at the time.

He passed the written test easily, but flunked the physical. "I weighed 128 and one quarter pounds," said Brown. "You needed to weigh 128 and a half pounds. I couldn't believe they would reject me over a quarter pound." They did. But the examiner did clue Brown in on how to pass the physical when he would be permitted to retake it in a week's time.

"He asked me if I liked chocolate malteds, which of course I did," said Brown. "He told me 'on Wednesday, start early with a chocolate malted in the morning and one in the evening and put a raw egg in both of them.'" Brown did as he was advised and on the following week, he had ballooned up to 128 and three quarters pound, safely passing the physical by a quarter pound.

He would leave for Biloxi, MS in December 1942 to start his flying lessons, graduating in 1944 when he went overseas to Italy to begin flying his 30 missions. After the war, Brown reenlisted in what would become the Air Force. He remained in the military for 23 years. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in math from Ohio University and his master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University.

Brown joined Columbus State Community College as the vice president for academic affairs in the mid 1960's when the two-year institution had 67 students and was located in a basement. He retired about 20 years ago having witnessed the school become the third largest community college in Ohio. Today CSCC has over 24,000 students.

Retirement doesn't exactly describe Brown's current status. He formed a consulting company and the curriculum specialist stays on the road these days visiting two-year institutions around Ohio. And he stays in touch, of course, with the rest of the surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen.

In his home on Catawba Island, as he spoke of the war days and the exploits of the pilots, Brown pulled out a miniature replica of a Mustang P-51 in which the Tuskegee Airmen flew so many sorties. The model has the familiar "red tail" that the black pilots painted on in order to identify their group.

Near the door of the model plane is a replica of a bit of writing that then-Captain Davis painted on his own plane and that message is a reference to the fact that white bomber pilots kept insisting more and more that the red tails escort them on their particular missions as the war went on.

It's also a reference to the fact that their nation, however reluctantly, had called upon them for their assistance.

The two-word message describes ultimately just why the Tuskegee Airmen were in that place at that time. They were there ... "by request."



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# Deadly Hearts: History's Most Dangerous People

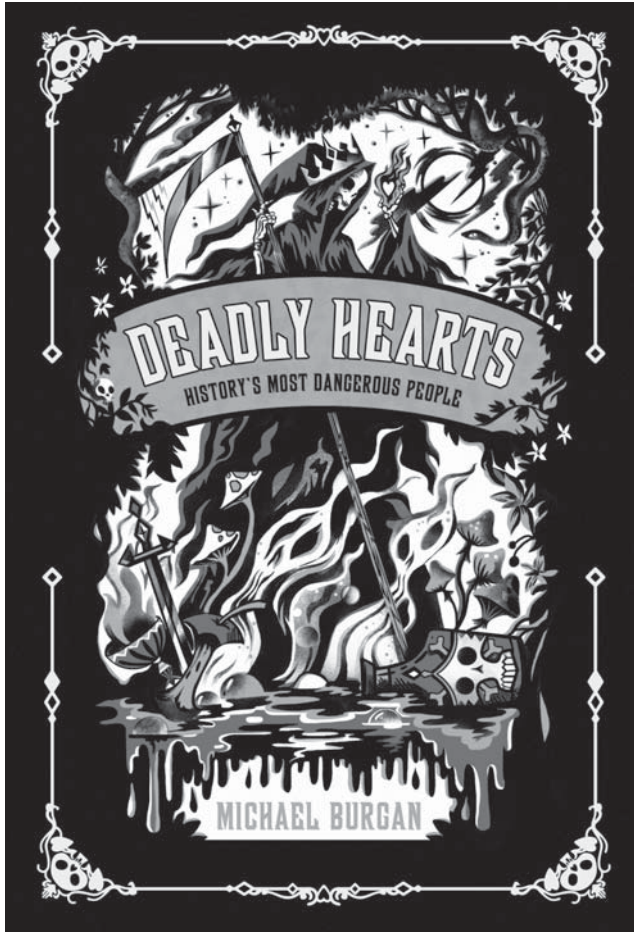
## by Michael Burgan

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Oh, that's so mean!

It's not what was said or done, it was really a lot of both. Words are painful when they're flung at you in anger or hatred, and they can cut the same as a knife or sword. But actions? Man, those things really hurt. As in the new book, *Deadly Hearts: History's*

c.2022  
Penguin Young Readers  
\$14.99  
138 pages



*Most Dangerous People* by Michael Burgan, actions can kill.

When there's something you want, you probably know how to politely ask for it. If that doesn't work, then you either use patience or you work hard to get it but throughout history, there have been some leaders and rulers who used pain instead of "please" to achieve their goals. In this book, you'll read about some of them.

Burgan begins with Alexander the Great, who wasn't so great, actually. He told everyone that he was the son of the god Zeus, when in reality, he was really the son of the King of Macedonia. Either way, it went to Alexander's head and resulted in a lot of dead soldiers.

The Romans thought that Attila the Hun was an "uneducated" barbarian, but Attila was smart enough to conquer a lot of Roman land and kill a lot of Romans. Burgan writes that yes, the Hun was "ruthless" and cruel and could make people tremble in terror but some folks claimed that if you knew Attila personally, he was really a nice guy.

In fifteenth-century Spain, there was a lot of distrust against the Jews by the country's Catholics. Tomás de Torquemada was chosen to lead the Spanish Inquisition, to find the Jews and get rid of them – and that didn't mean just showing them the door, either.

Vlad the Impaler got his name for a reason: to inflict the maximum amount of pain on his enemies, he impaled them on large stakes and let them die slowly. Queen Mary I of England had hundreds of Protestants killed, and Elizabeth of Bathory killed a lot of young women for fun. And Ivan the Terrible? Yeah, he was pretty terrible...

Here's a warning to adults: page through *Deadly Hearts* before giving it to your young reader, and your eyebrows might pop to the top of your head. To say that the beginning of this book is gruesome without warning is to severely underestimate things here.

Remember, though: this book isn't for you.

It's for the kid who loves a really great scare and can handle it with zero nightmares. It's for the young reader whose favorite section of a museum is awash in fake blood, and who absolutely lives for the after-dark version of the haunted house at Halloween. That's the kid author Michael Burgan writes for, and that's the one who'll love what's inside this book, never mind that its short chapters are full of things that will teach your child about the past and spark interest in learning. For your eight-to-12-year-old monster-lover, the thrill is the gateway, history comes free, and *Deadly Hearts* means a good read.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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January 18, 2023

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BOND COUNSEL RFP#22-R011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Bond Counsel in accordance with RFP#22-R011**. Received in accordance with law until **January 5, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street, 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.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MASONRY & TUCKPOINT SERVICES RFP#22-R014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Masonry & Tuckpoint Services in accordance with RFP#22-R014**. Received in accordance with law until **January 5, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street, 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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## PROGRAM MANAGER - TRIO TRIO PROGRAMS

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The Upward Bound Program is federally funded TRIO Program that provides intensive services to ensure that low income and potential first-generation college students complete their respective secondary programs and are prepared to pursue a postsecondary education.

The Program Manager of the Upward Bound Program is responsible for providing leadership and supervision to the Program. The Program Manager coordinates the implementation of all aspects of the UB Program including the coordination of the academic and summer components, budgetary oversight, and the day to day operations as related to the goals and objectives of the BGSU federal grant and in accordance with the US Department of Education federal policies in both the OMB Circular and Edgar. Legislation in the UB program requires that all participants meet federal guidelines to be eligible for participation in the program. The Program Manager oversees and approves all applications to the program to ensure their compliance for participation with the program.

The Program Manager also works cooperatively with University staff and faculty, Toledo Public School administrators and teachers and community agencies to ensure that the mission, strategic plan and objectives of the UB Program are achieved. The Program Manager also cultivate and sustain relationships with target middle and high schools and ensure collaborations with other TRIO programs and community programs to ensure that successful initiatives are implemented towards student successfully graduating from secondary school and entering college.

Deadline to apply: The search committee will review applications until the position is filled; however, **for best consideration, applications should be provided by January 18, 2023.**

Full-time 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.



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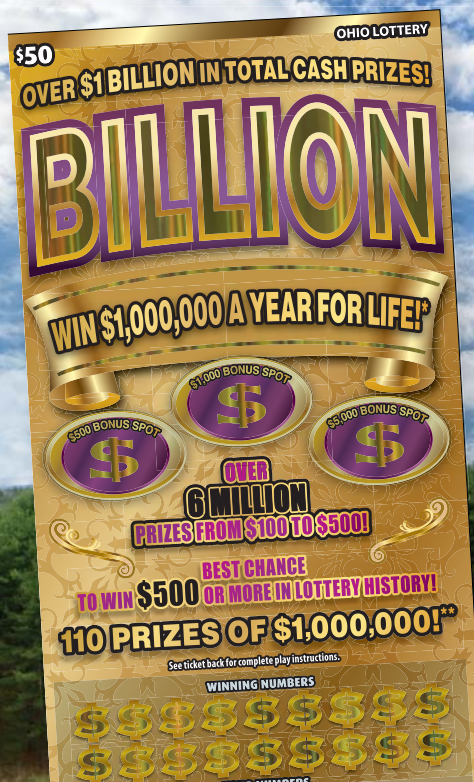
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# In Memoriam – Harold H. Brown August 19, 1924 – January 12, 2023

Harold Brown, a Catawba Island resident and frequent visitor to Toledo, passed away last week at the age of 98. The following is an article The Truth published in 2007 about this airman and educator.

November 14, 2007

Harold Brown: There ... By Request

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor



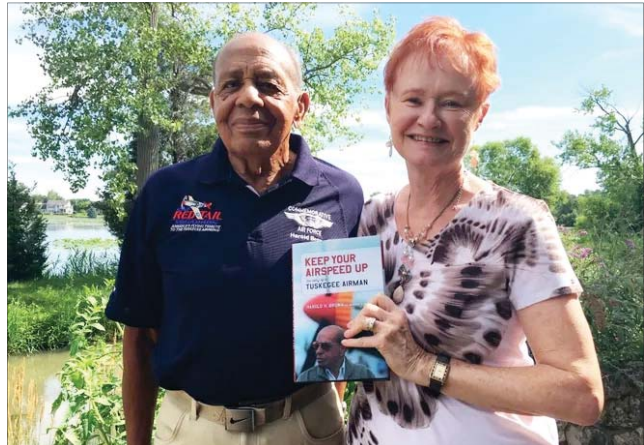
Harold Brown Terrie and Brian Cook

After a long, fitful night, 2nd Lt. Harold Brown was once again taken from his cell and brought before his Oxford-educated interrogator. Name, rank and serial number was all he had offered on the previous day but ... name, rank and serial number had proven to be unsatisfactory responses to the German major's inquiries at the Nuremberg interrogation center.

The major, in perfect English, assured the 20-year-old fighter pilot who had been shot down on his 30th mission that if more complete answers were not forthcoming, he would be turned over to the German civilians.

German civilians were particularly hard on downed Allied pilots who, after all, had been responsible for such extensive damage to their country. And Brown had just recently seen the toll that civilian justice had exacted on one of his fellow Red Tail pilot colleagues.

"He was a mess," recalled Brown of his comrade in arms. Fortunately, the



Harold Brown and his wife, Marsha Stanfield Bordner

following morning somehow produced a change in attitude on the part of the German. He greeted Brown and offered him a large, sweet orange – a gift Brown accepted without hesitation. "He then told me I didn't know anything about my outfit that he didn't already know," said Brown.

As if to prove that his statements were not empty boasts, the German took the young lieutenant into his office and produced books on each of the four squadrons that comprised the by the known 332 Fighter Group – the Tuskegee Airmen.

Well known, it appeared not only to the American bomber pilots who were requesting the "red tails" with increasing urgency as the strategic air campaign raged on but also to the Germans who had taken note of the black pilots' exploits – exploits that included never losing any of the bombers they escorted to enemy aircraft fire.

The German major had concluded that Brown was in the 99th Squadron and that, given his age, he must have graduated the previous year in class 44C, 44D, 44E or 44F. Brown, a graduate of class 44E and member of the 99th, munched on his sweet orange in silence wondering at that time how the Germans had obtained such information.

"They had so much," said Brown recently as he recounted a few war stories for a visitor at his home on Catawba Island. "I heard later that the sources of so much information were the newspapers of every major city in the United States." The orange was not the only thing the major had to offer his prisoner.

... continued on page 12

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