

The *Sojourner's* Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 15, 2023

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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Every day at Center of Hope we look into the eyes of our **ELEVATE!** students and we see hope. We see determination. We see the confidence to rise up and begin again each new day. This is how we honor those who paved the way and change our future — by elevating their futures, by beginning with hope.

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Celebrating Black History Month

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Yes! It Is Time Again for Legal Freebies!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

To show my appreciation to my loyal readers (if you are not one of them, you are not allowed to read this article!), each year I give out what are called Legal Freebies.

Simply, information that you may use without charge. Of course, I would also give out the caveat that, "A person who is his own lawyer, has a fool for a client" but we need not go there at this time.

So, here we go with some Legal Freebies!

One: Consider forming a trust in which you would place your properties, rental or otherwise, so as to avoid those properties going through the time consuming and expensive proposition of a court probate. The trust document would spell out your intentions as to who is to receive the properties upon your demise or at a certain stated date.

You can still control the properties and are liable for taxes and expenses and you can be both the trustor (you set it up) of the trust and also the grantee (you receive the property of the trust). What a sweet deal!

Two: When it is time to end your rental agreement, make sure that you take pictures of the property, inside and outside and with the landlord present so that if there is a dispute as to how you left the property, you will have a video or pictures showing that there are no damages to the rental unit and you are entitled to receive back your security deposits.

Three: If you have a landlord who has four or more rental units and she or he will not fix up the property and it is causing safety concerns, place your rent in escrow at the Toledo Municipal Court and there will be a hearing as to whether those funds will be released back to the landlord for purposes of repair. Again, take pictures of the areas of concern so that you have evidence and not just a lot of, "he said...she said" evidence which goes nowhere.

Four: If need to file a bankruptcy and you are married, you can file

without your spouse but if your spouse is working and you are living together, the spouse's income will be calculated as to whether you qualify to file for a fresh start (debts wiped out) or whether you must file for a payback plan (Chapter 13 Plan).

Five: When you make out a will, remember to change any monetary contracts so that they reflect the name of the proper beneficiaries. Pension plans, insurance agreements, bank accounts and stock and bonds go to the named beneficiaries already stated on those documents and do not need to be included in a will.

Six: Whenever you are asked by any agency of the state or federal government to appear for an interview about possible criminal behavior, always appear with legal counsel. Never make any statements over the phone and do not consent to a phone search. Treat such inquiries as if you are a person of interest and thus treat them as your adversaries.

Seven: If you are an employee and are working in a hostile environment, report all adverse incidents to human resources or your immediate supervisor; and if they refuse to take action, go above their level and report it to corporate officers. Always, make a written record of the date, time and incident and who was present so that if it has to go to a trial, you can refresh your memory of the incidents.

If you are a union member, always have your union rep present with you when you are asked to speak with management about your issues. Always be proactive and stay calm and collected when asked for details and let management know that you are not comfortable in the work



Lafe Tolliver

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TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum. From kindergarten through high school, TPS teachers and administrators support students as they strive to reach their academic potential.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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W.E.B. Du Bois Should Serve as a Reminder about the Importance of Black History Month and What Is at Stake in Current Conversations about African American Studies

By Chad Williams, NewsOne

The opening days of Black History Month 2023 have coincided with controversy about the teaching and broader meaning of African American studies.

On Feb. 1, 2023, the College Board released a revised curriculum for its newly developed Advanced Placement African American studies course.

Critics have accused the College Board of caving to political pressure stemming from conservative backlash and the decision of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to ban the course from public high schools in Florida because of what he characterized as its radical content and inclusion of topics such as critical race theory, reparations and the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Feb. 11, 1951, an article by the 82-year-old Black scholar-activist W.E.B. Du Bois titled "Negro History Week" appeared in the short-lived New York newspaper The Daily Compass.

As one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909 and the editor of its powerful magazine The Crisis, Du Bois is considered by historians and intellectuals from many academic disciplines as America's preeminent thinker on race. His thoughts and opinions still carry weight throughout the world.

Du Bois' words in that 1951 article are especially prescient today, offering a reminder about the importance of Black History Month and what is at stake in current conversations about African American studies.

Du Bois began his Daily Compass commentary by praising Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, who established Negro History Week in 1926. The week would eventually become Black History Month.

Du Bois described the annual commemoration as Woodson's "crowning achievement."

Woodson was the second African American to earn a doctorate in history from Harvard University. Du Bois was the first.

Du Bois and Woodson did not always see eye to eye. However, as I explore in my new book, "The Wounded World: W.E.B. Du Bois and the First



W.E.B. Du Bois

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CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK RESISTANCE

Lourdes.edu/blackhistorymonth

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Eleven Black History Facts You should Know

For far too long, Black history has been overlooked, minimized or — even worse — erased. Yet there's no question that the contributions of Black people influence every part of how we live today, from the art and culture we consume to the rights we have (and are still fighting for).

Their impact is felt daily, but how much do we really know about the famous figures who worked — and continue to work — tirelessly to make America a fairer, richer place for all? Read through these little-known Black history facts from the book "Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies."

This is only just a start, though. To take things one step further, add these inspiring reads and movies to your queue during Black History Month and beyond.

1. One of the greatest African rulers of all time, **Mansa Musa (1280–1337)** led the Mali Empire at the height of its power and creativity. He directly controlled the price of gold, and he has been described as the richest person in human history.



A Black soldier in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War (Minnesota Historical Society / Corbis via Getty Images) © Minnesota Historical Society

2. **Rebecca Lee Crumpler (1831–1895)**, the first Black woman in the United States to qualify as a doctor, opened her own medical clinic in Boston and dedicated herself to treating women and children who lived in poverty. She treated patients regardless of their ability to pay and often took no

money for her work.

3. During the U.S. Civil War, more than **178,000 Black soldiers** served across 175 regiments, making up 10% of the Union Army's soldiers and representing the key to the Union's victory. 4. Though they were forbidden from signing up officially, a large number of **Black women served as scouts, nurses and spies in the Civil War.**

5. A teenager named **Claudette Colvin** got arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her bus seat for a white woman. Some local civil rights leaders saw the event as a chance to highlight the city's unfair bus policy, but decided that Colvin was too young to represent the struggle. Still, Colvin's act inspired



...continued on page 8



Civil Rights Trailblazer Claudette Colvin (Dudley M. Brooks / The Washington Post via Getty Images) © Dudley M. Brooks


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Pictured are the Tuskegee Airmen 332nd Fighter Group pilots in Italy in 1945.



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Honoring African Americans Who Helped Shape the Nation

Black History Month, also known as African Americans-History is a month in which we honor many who have helped shaped the United States. In honor of this celebration, we wanted to recognize several historical figures who showed courage, resilience, and, at times, risked their lives for the benefit of others.

Harriet Tubman

Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman escaped and made 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people using the Underground Railroad. How much do you know about this revolutionary woman? Here are a few facts: Harriet was born in an area in Maryland where the lines between slavery and freedom were often blurred. Her first husband John was a free man. Harriet earned the nickname "Moses" after the prophet Moses in the Bible who led his people to freedom. In all of her journeys she "never lost a single passenger." Harriet wore many hats: She was an active proponent of women's suffrage and worked alongside women such as Susan B. Anthony. During the civil war, Harriet also worked for the Union Army as a cook, a nurse and even a spy.



Harriet Tubman - 1895

Sojourner Truth

In 1851, Truth began a lecture tour that included a women's rights conference in Akron, Ohio, where she delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. In it, she challenged prevailing notions of ra-

cial and gender inferiority and inequality by reminding listeners of her combined strength (Truth was nearly six feet tall) and female status. Truth ultimately split with Douglass, who believed suffrage for formerly enslaved men should come before women's suffrage; she thought both should occur simultaneously.

When the Civil War started, Truth urged young men to join the Union cause and organized supplies for Black troops. After the war, she was honored with an invitation to the White House and became involved with the Freedmen's Bureau, helping freed slaves find jobs and build new lives. While in Washington, DC, she lobbied against segregation, and in the mid 1860s, when a streetcar conductor tried to violently block her from riding, she ensured his arrest and won her subsequent case.



Sojourner Truth

Senator Hiram Revels

On February 25, 1870, visitors in the Senate galleries burst into applause as senator-elect Hiram Revels, a Republican from Mississippi, entered the chamber to take his oath of office. Those present knew that they were witnessing an event of great historical significance. Revels was about to become the



Sen. Hiram Revels

... continued on page 9

In Celebration of
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 and the historical end to slavery in the United States

We salute
Officer Albert McKinney King
(posthumously)



Over 130 years ago, the Toledo Police Department hired its first African American Police Officer. Officer King was appointed to the department February 1, 1887. He served 26 years, during a time of major change in America at the turn of the 20th century. He was a prominent member of the African American community, setting a standard for black officers to follow.

Toledo Branch NAACP
 &
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 Mr. Micheal Alexander, Sr. - 1st Vice President
 Ms. Christal Moreland - Youth Council President

Get involved! We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 7pm

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Eleven Black History Facts... continued from page 5

Rosa Parks to do the same thing nine months later — and Parks' arrest sparked one of the biggest civil rights campaigns of all time.

6. Businesswoman **Annie Turnbo Malone (1869–1957)** became one of the first Black millionaires. Malone set up the Poro Company, which produced popular hair and beauty products for the Black community. She hired the young **Sarah Breedlove (1867–1919)** as one of her door-to-door sales agents and inspired Breedlove to build her own multi-million-dollar beauty brand.

7. Acclaimed writer and poet **Maya Angelou (1928–2014)** had another noteworthy distinction: In 1944, she became the first female Black cable car conductor in San Francisco.

8. Civil rights activist and campaigner **Septima Poinsette Clark (1898–1987)** helped to found nearly 1,000 citizenship schools, which contributed to helping Blacks register to vote.

9. Described as a “forgotten pioneer,” **Althea Gibson (1927–2003)** was the first Black tennis player to win a tennis Grand Slam in 1956. She won 11 Grand Slam tournaments over the course of her career.

10. **Lewis Howard Latimer (1848–1928)** invented and patented




Maya Angelou (Michael Ochs Archives / Getty Images) © Michael Ochs Archives



Tennis - Wimbledon Championships - Ladies' Singles - Final - Althea Gibson v Angela Mortimer (PA Images via Getty Images) © PA Images via Getty Images

the carbon filament, which allowed lightbulbs to last longer than they did with the paper filament used in Thomas Edison's design. (Latimer eventually went on to work for the Edison Electric Light Company.)


11. The ironing board (invented by **Sarah Boone**), the traffic light system (invented by Garrett Morgan), and the home security system (invented **Marie Van Brittan Brown**) all came down to us from Black inventors.



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Black History Month

strives to amplify Black voices. The words of leaders and visionaries who devoted their lives to Black empowerment and the fight for equality are paramount to understanding historical struggles. These messages empower and inspire future generations, and call on every member of society to treat all humans with fairness and dignity.



"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part." ~ John Lewis

Tolliver... continued from page 3

environment with such verbal language being spoken against you or the micro abrasions that other employees are directing towards you. Don't get mad...get even. If nothing is done, file a charge with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission located in the One Government Center Building.

Eight: In an issue of a landlord accusing you of not paying the rent, never pay with cash without getting a receipt, on the spot. Make sure the receipt is properly signed by the landlord or their agent and it shows the correct amount paid.

Be careful not to pay with a debit card since in most cases, you may have to provide the security number and which can lead to unscrupulous landlords invading your account for monies that they are not entitled to receive.

Nine: If you are brought in for a police questioning and they do not read your Miranda Rights, stop and demand to have your lawyer present. Remember, these "interviews" are taped so be careful and don't outsmart yourself thinking you will not see and hear what you said being used against you at another time and place.

Ten: In a personal injury case, from the date of the injury, you have two years by which to bring a lawsuit against the person who injured you. If you do not file a lawsuit within that time frame, you are forever barred from suing

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Honoring African Americans...continued from page 7

first African American to serve in the Senate.

Born 42 years earlier to free black parents in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Revels became an educator and minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. During the Civil War, he helped form regiments of African American soldiers and established schools for freed slaves. After the war, Revels moved to Mississippi, where he won election to the state senate. In recognition of his hard work and leadership skills, his legislative colleagues elected him to one of Mississippi's vacant U.S. Senate seats as that state prepared to rejoin the Union.

When Hiram Revels' brief term ended on March 3, 1871, he returned to Mississippi, where he later became president of Alcorn College.

John Parker

Born a slave in Norfolk, Virginia, John Parker was sold at the age of eight to a doctor in Mobile, Alabama. The doctor's family taught Parker to read and write and allowed him to apprentice in an iron foundry where he was compensated and permitted to keep some of his earnings. Persuading an elderly female patient of the doctor's to purchase him, Parker, at the age of 18, bought his freedom from the woman with money earned from his apprenticeship. Parker moved to southern Ohio and around 1853 established a successful foundry behind his home in Ripley. Patenting a number of inventions from his foundry, Parker was one of only a few African Americans to obtain a U.S. patent in the 19th century. Though busy with his business, Parker was also active in the Underground Railroad and is believed to have assisted many



Parker house in Ripley Ohio

slaves to escape from the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. Parker, who was well-known by regional slave-catchers, risked his own life when he secreted himself back into slave territory to lead fugitive slaves to safety in Ripley.

Mae Jemison

Mae C. Jemison (born October 17, 1956) is an American astronaut and physician who, on June 4, 1987, became the first African-American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program. On September 12, 1992, Jemison finally flew into space with six other astronauts aboard the Endeavour on mission STS47, becoming the first African-American woman in space. In recognition of her accomplishments, Jemison has received several awards and honorary doctorates.



Mae Carol Jemison

Garrett Morgan

Garrett Augustus Morgan was an African American inventor and businessman as well as an influential political leader. Morgan's most notable invention was the gas mask originally named "smoke hood". Morgan also discovered and developed a chemical hair-processing and straightening solution. He created a successful company based on the discovery along with a complete line of hair-care products.



Garrett Morgan

The first black man in Cleveland to own a car, Morgan worked on his mechanical skills and developed a friction drive clutch. Then, in 1923, he created a new kind of traffic signal, one with a warning light to alert drivers that they would need to stop, after witnessing a carriage accident at a particularly problematic intersection in the city.



The Lucas County Commissioners join The Sojourner's Truth in celebrating Black History Month



Honor Our History by Teaching Our History



Celebrate Black History 2023 by Reciting the Accomplishments of Our Ancestors



Tell the Story of the African American Experience



Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

Ohio Senate District 11



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Historic Church Celebrates Newly Elected Pastor

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Sunday, February 12, 2023 was a momentous occasion as the congregation and leaders of the historic Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church welcomed Rev. William C. Foster, Sr, the pastor-elect.

“Still trying to process God calling me to a historic church. It doesn't seem real. People have said to me, that God got you, and I don't take that lightly. I want to do God's will, no matter what it looks like,” shared Rev. Foster.

The service opened with a high energy and spiritual devotion led by the church's deacons, immediately followed by the congregational song, scripture reading, and prayer. The pews were filled with smiling faces and hand claps as the newly elected pastor was escorted to the pulpit. Rev. Graham led the church congregational hymn and the service continued with several congregational hymns sang by the church choir.

The service continued with a Black History Month presentation by Ward Barnett Jr, tithes and offering, recognition of visitors, induction of officers and sermon from the pastor-elect.

Rev. Foster wanted the congregation and guests to hear and feel moments from the congregation's history that will shape and influence the future. “I want to shine a light on where the church has been and where the calling is for the next chapter. I understand the shoulders I am standing on, he was a giant. I will always honor Dr. Roberts and Mother Roberts legacy, but God has called me to be William Foster. All I would do God a disservice, if I didn't stay

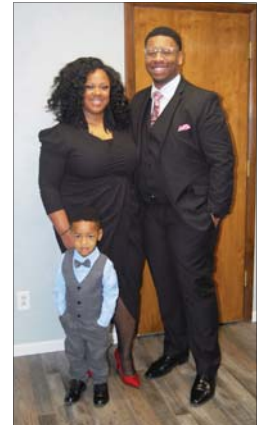
true to his calling for me.”

Rev. Foster was born in Kokomo, Indiana and credits his strong spiritual upbringing to his parents, James Foster, and Michelle Copeland and Mike Copeland. Rev. Foster accepted Christ and was baptized at the age of seven at Second Missionary Baptist Church, by 2010 he was a member at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, accepted the call to preach and preached his initial sermon in 2012, earned his license to preach in 2014 and ordained in 2022.

He graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor in general studies and is currently attending Baptist Seminary of Kentucky to pursue a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Rev. Foster is married to Brittany and father to a two-year old son.

The service concluded with church announcements, communion and benediction.

The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church is located at 640 Indiana Ave in Toledo, Ohio. Service is held in-person and live streamed each Sunday at 10:30am.



Rev. Foster, wife Brittany, son Deuce

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Rev. William C. Foster, Sr.



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“Bayard Rustin: An Unsung Hero for Equality”

A decade before Rosa Parks’ arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, police dragged Bayard Rustin off a bus in Tennessee for the same act of protest. When pressed about why he was resisting segregation, Rustin gestured to a young white boy seated at the front of the bus. “If I sit in the back,” Rustin said, “I am depriving that child of the knowledge that there is injustice here, which I believe is his right to know.”

Bayard Rustin, an often unsung hero of the civil rights movement, spent his entire life exposing injustice in our nation. Even before he served as lead organizer of the 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared his dream, Rustin was labeled a Communist and a radical by the government. When he traveled to the segregated South during the first-ever Freedom Rides, he experienced a barrage of racial slurs and violence.

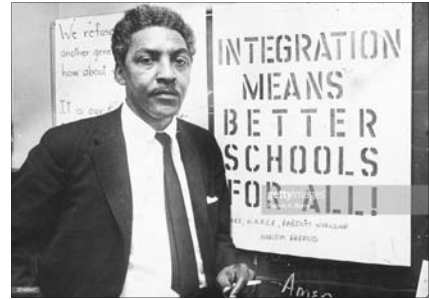
But in America, in the 1950s and 60s, no label stuck to Bayard Rustin quite like “homosexual.” As an openly gay man, Rustin was attacked by everyone -- Congressmen and activists, black and white -- simply for living openly. Yet, at a time when few others would, Rustin proudly wore that label.

To Bayard Rustin, fighting for his equality as a black man, while leaving his identity as a gay man unspoken, would have been an unthinkable betrayal. It was his firm belief that silence about either identity meant he accepted the system of discrimination that allowed hatred about both to persist.

Long before it was easy or safe, Rustin was motivated to live openly. He could have hidden the fact that he was gay. When confronted about it, he could have lied -- that’s what everyone did in those days. But Bayard Rustin was exceptional. He lived openly because to do otherwise would be a missed opportunity in exposing the injustice and intolerance he, along with other members of the LGBT community, experienced.

Despite a lifetime lived in service to justice and nonviolence, Rustin’s legacy was marginalized by his sexuality. His 1987 New York Times obituary demonstrated the evasive language about LGBT people that was all too

common in the media just a few short years ago. The obituary skirted the topic of his being gay and referred to his longtime partner by euphemism only. Even today, his name is not nearly as well known as the other greats of the Civil Rights movement.



Bayard Rustin

This Black History Month, we should not forget trailblazers like Rustin. Out of dedication to his life and legacy, let us uplift the stories of LGBT African-Americans who felt and still feel the burdens of discrimination -- those whose very lives illustrate the insistent fact that the fight to treat all people equally is both this country’s greatest accomplishment and its greatest unfinished obligation.

Today, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation’s oldest civil rights organization, and the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT civil rights organization, are proud to work together toward equality. And we’re proud that President Barack Obama used his second inaugural address to link the Civil Rights movement and the LGBT Equality movement just last month. But long before a president like Barack Obama was even possible, Bayard Rustin was preaching an equal future. We shouldn’t forget his sacrifice, and the greatest tribute to his legacy would be to finish his work.

Benjamin Todd Jealous, NAACP President & CEO
Chad Griffin, HRC President

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Cecil Williams Documented the Events that Culminated in Three Young Men's Deaths on the SC State Campus in 1968

Special to The Truth

The tragic events of February 1968 in Orangeburg are clear in the mind of renowned Civil Rights Era photographer Cecil Williams 55 years after the fact.

"I remember every minute, every moment, every day and every face that I came upon," Williams said Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, at South Carolina State University's commemoration of the Orangeburg Massacre's 55th anniversary. "We photographers have a natural ability to remember events and people and circumstances just a little bit better than most people because we take pictures all the time.



Cecil Williams

"With our cameras, we photographers freeze moments in time. Every time we take a picture we capture a slice of life," he said.

Williams was the keynote speaker for Wednesday's event in SC State's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. He documented the series of events that culminated in the police shooting deaths of three young men on the SC State campus on Feb. 8, 1968 – known today as the Orangeburg Massacre.

Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond and Delano Middleton were killed when police opened fire on some 200 unarmed Black students who were demonstrating in the name of integrating a local bowling alley. Another 28 protestors were wounded. Smith and Hammond were both enrolled at SC State, and Middleton was a 17-year-old student at Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg.

Each year on Feb. 8, the university honors Smith, Hammond and Middleton, their families and Orangeburg Massacre survivors. Representatives of the Smith, Hammond and Middleton families were present at Wednesday's commemoration and took part in a flame lighting ceremony at the campus monument enshrined with bronze likenesses of the three men.

Also attending the commemoration were several survivors of the shootings. Williams recognized them as "genuine American heroes."

"You stand on their shoulders," Williams said. "We owe them a great debt. We owe them respect. We hold them to the highest honor.

"We owe them no less than to be recognized perpetually as heroes who hold to this country's Constitution so that all people, regardless of their race or color, will be recognized as 100% citizens of this great democracy we call America," Williams said.

The theme for Wednesday's commemoration was "Black Resistance."

"It was Black resistance and Black persistence that was needed to bring down the walls of segregation in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and throughout the state and throughout the nation," Williams said.

Williams later spoke of the sacrifices made in that resistance.

"We must never forget that some paid with their blood and loss of life," he said. "It is indelibly stamped on all of us who were there that this was Black resistance – just like our theme today.

"We've been fighting for a long time – for 400 years – in this country for freedom, justice and equality. By now, it should be something that's understood, but we still have a ways to go before we live in a colorblind society," Williams said.

Williams, whose work is collected in the Cecil Williams South Carolina

Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg, concluded his remarks with a slideshow presentation of photographs he took in 1968 along with those of other photographers who documented the massacre itself. One slide questioned how far the nation has come from



Smith Middleton Memorial




Williams and Conyers

the events of 1968 in light of the recent deaths of George Floyd, Tyre Nichols and others at the hands of law enforcement.


SC State President Alexander Conyers thanked Williams for sharing his perspective and for "bringing us up to date."

"Because 55 years later, we are still dealing with similar situations," Conyers said.

*Celebrating
Black History
Month*



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Brothers & Sisters United: Creating Healthy Families

Eric Williams and Kayla Harris are a product of how Brothers & Sisters United can benefit your life! They live out what it means to be in a healthy and loving relationship, as well as being great co-parents. Most times staff will always refer to them as the poster family for Brothers & Sisters United because they carry out the principals of what they learned in their Brothers & Sisters United class.

Though the co-parenting program, Brothers & Sisters United wasn't created when Eric and Kayla took their classes, the principles remain the same for what they learned in their separate classes. That's one of the reasons the Brothers & Sisters United Co-Parenting Program was started; to bring co-parents together to learn how to build healthy co-parenting relationships for the benefit of their children!

Kayla started out in Sisters United first, she decided to join the program because she was a first-time single mother who felt lost and was solely relying on her parents for help. By joining the program, she originally just wanted the money that was to come with it, yet as time went on, she began to become eager to learn more about motherhood, womanhood, and being able to gain a support system of other women who were experiencing the same things that she was experiencing. During this time, Kayla didn't have many people that she talked to besides her mom, sister, and one friend so building this support with the other mothers in Sisters United was important for her.

About a year later, Kayla and Eric started dating, they had already been friends for some time but decided to then make that transition into an intimate relationship. After some time in their newfound relationship, Kayla told Eric to join the Brothers United Healthy Start Program because she thought that it would be beneficial for him, especially for him stepping into a father figure role with her son and soon-to-be father to their daughter. Before the Brothers United Healthy Start Program, life was mentally draining for Eric, and he felt that he truly wasn't ready to be a father yet. Still, he decided to join the program because his daughter was coming soon whether he was ready or not. He gave the coaches a rough time when they tried to get him enrolled into the program and to follow through with completing the classes, though they didn't give up on him and kept trying and trying, because of that, Eric gave in and finally committed to the classes. He's grateful to have finally joined the program because he learned an abundance of information that allowed him to gain confidence in himself with him becoming a first-time father.

Brothers & Sisters United helped both, Eric and Kayla, get back on their feet, not just as parents but as human beings. Before the program, they both were drained, lost, and just didn't feel ready or qualified to be someone's parent, yet after taking the program, they felt more confident in themselves. The programs not only helped them become better prepared parents, but it also helped their relationship gain more substance. According to both, Brothers & Sisters United helped their relationship a lot, especially when it came to communication and understanding each other's perspectives. Kayla said, *"I learned how to communicate better and see things from a man's perspective. After going through this lesson in class, I wanted to hear Eric's perspective on things more to seek a better understanding of situations. This greatly improved our communication and our relationship because I learned to listen to understand and not just listen to respond. This also allowed me to really learn who he was and how to understand him."* Just as Kayla began to learn and listen to Eric more, Eric was learning the same thing about Kayla. Eric said, *"There were many rough patches between me struggling to find better employment, financial mishaps, and all the hormones that were bubbling up within Kayla. Even through it all, Brothers & Sisters United allowed us to understand each other's viewpoints better and allowed us to empathize with each other on what we wanted to voice out. This allowed us to have a calming way to resolve issues and to help each other find the solution."* In any healthy relationship, communication and understanding is key to be able to connect with one another in a way that is beneficial for both parties. Eric and Kayla learned that through Brothers & Sisters United and used what they learned to strengthen their relationship.

So, when the opportunity came to work for Pathway Inc. Brothers United, Eric openly accepted! He felt that it was his duty to return the type of help that he received when he was a Brothers United Healthy Start participant. He also feels that every child should be able to have the full experience of having two active parents with a healthy relationship, even if those parents are not together and living in the same household. As the Coach for the Brothers & Sisters United program, Eric pushes to connect with his participants for them to get the help and support that they need. Eric uses what he learned dur-



ing his time in Brothers United and what he has been trained on to successfully help co-facilitate each co-parenting and fatherhood group month after month.

Through the work that he does with Brothers and Sisters United, he has learned that a lot of parents have an abundance of resentment against themselves and because of that they're walking around with a lot of mental distress, shame, and guilt. Eric says, *"It's so good to see men and women come together in a setting where they can get an insight into each other's perspective and even learn from each other on what they can do to become better co-parents for their children."* He believes that every man and woman should join Brothers & Sisters United because they can gain a wealth of knowledge that'll help them become better parents and build better relationships with their co-parents. There is something to be learned from the program whether you are co-parenting, married, in a relationship, or even if you're not communicating with your co-parent.

Brothers and Sisters United is here to make a difference in your life just how it has made a difference in the lives of Eric Williams and Kayla Harris, you don't have to do parenting alone when there is help here for you! The program won't only help you with your co-parenting struggles but will also help you look at yourself to see where you can grow and make changes. The change starts with you, and you have to make the decision to want to change your situation, not just for yourself but for the benefit of your children.

Expanding Access to Homeownership

<p>APPROVAL CRITERIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum loan amount Locked-in interest rate lower than current conventional rates First Time Home Buyer Education course Financial Wellness Center Coaching program 	<p>LENDING PROGRAM:</p> <p>NeighborWorks® Toledo, KeyBank®, and The Fair Housing Center have partnered to offer a non-traditional lending program with relaxed borrow requirements such as no minimum loan requirement for borrowers.</p> <p>LENDING APPROVAL:</p> <p>Approval decisions are based on NWR's approval standards which consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher debt to income ratio • borrowers' individual circumstances 	
<p>CONTACT US: Alesha Hall Mortgage Loan Officer 419-691-2900 Ext. 346 ahall@metrowest.org</p>		

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Enslaved: The Sunken History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade by Simcha Jacobovici & Sean Kingsley

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

A good story requires lots of switchbacks.

It's boring if it moves too smoothly without a hitch. No, you need a detour or two, a couple of switchbacks, a pothole in the road to make the story interesting, and a good meander to smooth it out.

Even so, as in the new book *Enslaved* by Simcha Jacobovici & Sean Kingsley, sometimes, the story is a wreck.

Were it not profitable – if it hadn't been for the money in it – “the transatlantic slave trade would never have happened,” say the authors in the first sentence of their book. This fact launches a tale of high seas, low tides, and the people of Diving With a Purpose who volunteer their talents to find former slave ships that lie beneath the ocean. This work helps tell the stories of ancestors who died beneath the waters, victims of the slave trade.

Jacobovici and Kingsley start out with a tale of three divers, “a story they did not want to hear. And... a dive to a haunted slave wreck they did not want to dive” in Paramaribo, a port city in Suriname. There, 664 Africans were purposely locked in the hold of a sinking ship for reasons that the ship's captain kept to himself.

Just off the coast of Gibraltar, the site known as 35F was an accidental find discovered by treasure hunters. At first DWP workers weren't sure there was anything left of the shipwreck; it had been destroyed

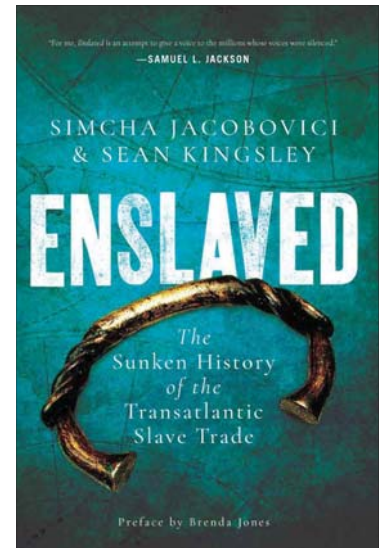
c.2022
Pegasus Books
\$28.95
332 pages

by area trawlers and fishermen. A second look showed ceramic pots, ivory, and copper bracelets called “manilla,” that were used “to buy gold, elephant tusks, and humans.”

And then there was the *Clotilda*, a ship that was illegal from the start, and was sunk on purpose in a small waterway. Today, many descendants of its survivors live in a “sleepy” town near Mobile, Alabama, a “purely African town in America” founded by former slaves, “started from scratch...”

Many thoughts may swirl around your head when you read *Enslaved*.

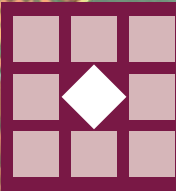
... continued on page 17



Break the stigma surrounding mental health & addiction by talking about it.

Start a conversation that can offer HOPE... instead of the shame that comes with silence.

For information for yourself or someone else, call the **Crisis Care Line** at **(419) 904-CARE (2273)**
Free & Confidential - Available 24/7



Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

For over 50 years, the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) has served Lucas County residents, ensuring a safety net for their mental health & recovery support service needs. Visit www.LCMHRSB.oh.gov for more information.

Driving the Green Book: A Road Trip Through the Living History of Black Resistance by Alvin Hall

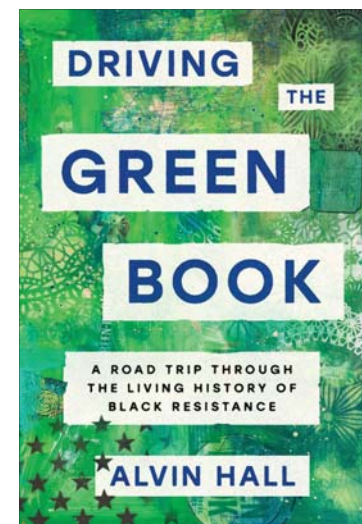
By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The gas tank is full of fuel.

The tires are new, you checked the oil twice, the speedometer's calibrated, your headlights are intact, all good. The vehicle's not flashy, so there's absolutely no reason to attract attention. And yet, as in *Driving the Green Book* by Alvin Hall and as your ancestors did, you sweat that all-day roadtrip.

In 2015, while doing research for a podcast, Alvin Hall discovered something that intrigued and surprised him: one of his sources mentioned *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. Granted, when he was small, his family didn't travel much from their home on Florida's panhandle but still – how did Hall not know about that book? Surely, his aunts had one, right? How did *The Green Book* escape notice by his and other generations, when it was such an essential part of Black America for decades?

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HarperOne
\$29.99
288 pages



... continued on page 17

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Driving The Green Book Review... continued from page 16

Needing to know, and needing to understand what it was like to “drive the Green Book,” Hall and two younger colleagues took a road trip after the podcast was done. They started in Detroit and traveled through small towns and cities, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, Birmingham and Montgomery, Mobile, Jackson, ending in New Orleans, which was the approximate route a northern-living, Jim-Crow-escaping Great Migration worker might have taken on an annual trek to visit kin back home in the South.

That route, as Hall points out, could’ve been uncomfortable, at best, or dangerous, at worst.

Not all gas stations, restaurants, or hotels welcomed Blacks; some places actively chased them off with threats or more. *The Green Book*, “small and thin” and meant to be tucked inside the glove box, changed all that with a guide to help the Black traveler find safe accommodations, fuel, and places to avoid.

With the latter in mind, Hall and his fellow travelers took to the road, and while they drove, they separately wondered if they’d be stopped by a policeman.

An adult man and two younger women – they could handle a stop like that today, right?

So what was DWB like in 1945?

Also relevant: how far have we come? That question, a ton of relevance, and a small whiff of threat accompany every mile that author Alvin Hall writes about, and in *Driving The Green Book*, we’re taken along for that ride.

Maybe you’ve seen the movie or read about *The Green Book* elsewhere, but those things pale in comparison to the stories Hall tells. These are tales of making do in embarrassing ways to avoid jail, of sleeping on concrete, of driving as an act of defiance, and of being warned to leave town or else. These authentic tales, told by experts and those who “lived” the *Green Book*, are like punches to the gut, but they aren’t surprising. They’re shocking but not unexpected. “We’re still living it,” says Hall, and that’s just plain sobering.

Readers who love to travel will want to tuck this in their carry-on or console. If there’s a bit of quiet activism inside you, *Driving The Green Book* will fuel it.

Enslaved Book Review... continued from page 16

The first is that there’s something to learn everywhere, but also a good amount of information that you already know. It’s filled with powerful stories, but they’re written in sometimes-florid language that can make those tales hard to follow. And some of the tales will make you wince and cringe and cringe again.

Authors Jacobovici and Kingsley weave history inside tales of recovery, which is helpful in an overall understanding of slavery around the world, beginning well before 1619 and including how it came to be that Africans were the people most captured. There are times, however, when that history gets in the way of DWP’s fascinating involvement – what they found, how it was discovered, what was done with the information, and how it matters. It’s easy to miss those parts of this book, and that’s too bad.

This book will satisfy readers who want history, but armchair archaeologists may be left wanting. Come at *Enslaved* with that in mind: devour it, perhaps, or switch it out and put it back.



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The Nat Turner Rebellion

Nathaniel “Nat” Turner (1800-1831) was an enslaved man who led a rebellion of enslaved people on August 21, 1831. His action set off a massacre of up to 200 Black people and a new wave of oppressive legislation prohibiting the education, movement, and assembly of enslaved people. The rebellion also stiffened pro-slavery, anti-abolitionist convictions that persisted in that region until the American Civil War (1861–65).

Turner was born on the Virginia plantation of Benjamin Turner, who allowed him to be instructed in reading, writing, and religion. Sold three times in his childhood and hired out to John Travis (1820s), he became a fiery preacher and leader of enslaved Africans on Benjamin Turner’s plantation and in his Southampton County neighborhood, claiming that he was chosen by God to lead them from bondage.

Believing in signs and hearing divine voices, Turner was convinced by an eclipse of the sun (1831) that the time to rise up had come, and he enlisted the help of four other enslaved men in the area. An insurrection was planned, aborted, and rescheduled for August 21, 1831, when he and six others killed the Travis family, managed to secure arms and horses, and enlisted about 75 other enslaved people in a disorganized insurrection that resulted in the murder of an estimated 55 white people.

Fifty-six Black people accused of participating in Nat Turner’s rebellion were executed, and more than 200 others were beaten by angry mobs or white militias.

Tolliver... continued from page 8

(exceptions if you are a minor) that person for your losses and pain and suffering.

Eleven: Remember, all contracts to buy and sell real estate must be in writing and signed by both parties. Verbal agreements are dead on arrival. And never buy property without a title search being done as to what liens or obligations show up on the property. If you buy it, you also own the liens and any overdue taxes. Buyer, Beware!

Twelve: Unless you signed onto a debt with your spouse, when that spouse dies, only that deceased spouse is accountable for that debt, not you. So, do not be badgered by a creditor saying that you also owe the debt. Non joint debts are not transferrable at death.

Well, there you have it. Soak in the above tips and call me if there are questions.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Join Us!
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42

Worship EXPERIENCE

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E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com
Website: www.drjwilliams.org

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A Brief History of Slavery in the New World

Though slavery in America has long since been illegal in the United States, the ramifications of the African slave trade that almost broke the new nation are still felt throughout American society, politics, and culture today.

While the rest of the world had long engaged in the forced servitude of people throughout history, America was introduced to the first African slaves by Dutch merchants in 1619, which spiraled into more than 200 years of economic reliability on slaves.

However, the enslavement of Africans in the New World was just one faction of slavery in America, with the forced servitude of Native Americans throughout the American Southwest and California also being present, and resulting in the genocide of many Native Americans throughout the territories.

The first incidents of slavery in the Americas came with the Spanish conquerors when they settled in Mexico, California, and what is today known as the American Southwest, and was also used frequently throughout the American Southeast as well. As early as 1542, when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Spanish explorer, claimed the California territories for Spain, the forced servitude of Native Americans resulted as many of the soldiers used native free labor to help build battlements, forts, and Catholic missions.

The ship carrying the first Africans to Jamestown, the first colony in America, in 1619 was made up of 20 Africans, and they were not immediately made slaves. The early American colonists didn't particularly have a problem with slavery, but they were deeply religious, and as the first 20, and the next thousand Africans who would follow, were baptized as Christians, the colonists considered them exempt from slavery.

Many Africans, some even of mixed race with Spanish and Portuguese, lived as indentured servants, exactly the same as the Europeans bartering passage in exchange for years of labor, and were later freed and able to own land and slaves of their own (which some did).

The slave trade in America as we know it today was not an immediate institution, but one that evolved as the economies and social constructs changed with the times. Massachusetts became the first colony to legalize slavery, in 1641, but it wasn't until 1654 that a Black indentured servant was legally bound to his "master" for life, rather than a designated time that could be finished.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, missions throughout Mexico and the Southwestern United States would capture the Native Californians, baptize them as Catholics, and then force them to work in different missions around Spain's extended empire. While many missions stated they would

lease the Natives, who worked as planters, masons, cattle herders, carpenters, and more, after a decade of servitude, but often this never happened.

In fact, the trade of slaves with Native Americans was very popular in the South-eastern colonies, with

colonists trading labor for goods and weapons in return for other natives that had been captured during battle or sieges. Some Native Americans were then traded to the Caribbean, where they were less likely to run away.

However, the Native Americans proved to be less reliable, and physically able, to live with the harsh working conditions of slavery, which, in conjunction with the profitable economy for cotton, tobacco, and other agricultural trades in the South, led to the increase of the African slave trade.

Though the number can't be exactly placed, historians believe that as many as seven million Africans were transported from their native home to the United States throughout the 1700s, despite many colonists feeling strongly against slavery, and if not strongly against slavery, they were at least in favor of emancipation due to the fear of slave revolts.

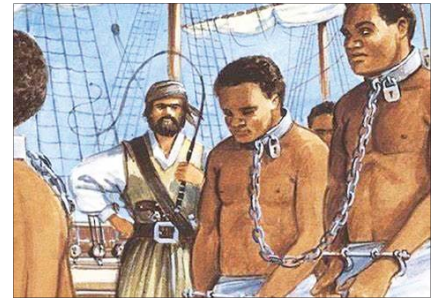
In 1775, one year prior to America's inde-

pendence, the governor of Virginia proposed freeing the slaves of the colony in return that they fight for the British. Some 1500 slaves, which were owned by American Patriots, left their masters to fight for the British, and 300 are said to have made it to freedom back in England.

Under the proclamation however, the slaves owned by loyalists were not freed, and remained in servitude. Many more slaves used the general disruption of the war to escape, running to the North, or to the West, to escape from their capturers while battles raged on around them. For those who fought for the British, around 20,000 freed slaves were taken to freedom in Canada, the Caribbean, and England.

Many more Africans, however, fought against the British during the Revolutionary War, winning the respect of the European-Americans, who came to regard the African slaves as being as oppressed by slaveholders as they were by the British. George Washington personally promised that any slaves who fought for the Patriots would be freedmen, and throughout the Revolution-

... continued on page 19



Join State Representative
Elgin Rogers

in

Celebrating the ongoing legacy
and contributions of African
American Achievement and
progress.

Remember to

"Lift Every Voice & Vote"

Happy Black History Month

Elgin Rogers, Jr., State Rep. #44



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History of Slavery... continued from page 18

ary War, the American army was up to a one-fourth black, which included both freemen and former slaves.

While the war raged in the colonies, Britain became the dominate international slave trader, and the American government forbade the importation of more foreign slaves, although later, after the turn of the century, due to the economic reliance on slaves on plantations such as tobacco, rice, and indigo, the trade was once again opened in Georgia and South Carolina.

Though the North was well on its way to industrialization, the South was a robust agricultural economy, one that made the thought of slavery as an illegal practice in the new country a pipe dream, for there was one plant in particular that would change the slave trade in America forever: cotton.

Those who say that America was built on the backs of slaves harvesting cotton are a lot closer to the truth than they think; after the fields of the 13th colonies were picked dry of nutrients for growing tobacco, and the English textile industries picked up, the huge demand for American cotton meant a huge demand for slaves. Prior to 1793, the process of separating cotton from its seed was a tiresome, and time consuming task done by hand by slaves.

Cotton was profitable, but not as much as it could be. After Eli Whitney, a young school teacher from the North invented the cotton gin, a machine that separated the see from the cotton ball, the lives of Americans changed almost overnight. No longer were slaves required to sort the cotton, but the demand for more and more crop and the work of a cotton gin, increased the

country's dependency on slaves, so instead of cutting down on the slave trade, it more than doubled the need for slavery.

After the Revolutionary War was won by the Patriots, the Constitution of the United States set to deal with the subject of slavery while the country was not uniform in its decision to legalize slavery, it did provide provisions to protect the slave trade and slaveholders. among those provisions included laws that would allow dates to require the return of escaped slaves to their proper homes.

As previously set down by the British, A state population was determined by the rate of 3/5 per slave, in relation to a whole vote from freed citizens. Prior to the Revolution and continuing after the war, the Northern state abolished slavery throughout their region, with New Jersey being the last to adopt the practice in 1804.

Freed status however did not mean a lack discrimination; most freedmen still were subject to racial segregation. And while the Southern economy is somewhat vilified in history as the sole protector of slavery, much of the wealth generated by the North during the 18th century was as a result of landowning and wealth aggregates that originated in the South. However with the large slave populations, the South continued to gain power in Congress due to the three-fifths agreement, and all of the wealth generated by the slave labor, ultimately resulted in a South that was too powerful to give up slavery; or so it thought.

As America moved into the 19th century, abolitionism took reins of the North. A movement designed to end slavery, the support above the Mason-Dixon line was overwhelming and thoroughly angelical. Considered "a peculiar institution" among contemporaries, though, slavery was seen as a necessary evil to keep up with the demands of the international cotton trade, at least from a ruling perspective.

No one wanted to upset the fragile balance of the new democracy, or wreak the thriving economy that was building out of it. Not only did the drive for more cotton increase the domestic slave trade in the U.S., but it also incurred a second side effect: migration of slaves out West. Dubbed the "Second Middle Passage," it was a defining moment of the 19th century, and the resounding event between the American Revolution and the Civil War.

During this time, many slaves lost their families, ethnicity, and historical identity as communities were broken up, traded across slaves, and moved out west. Whipping, hangings, mutilation, torture, beating, burning, and branding were just a few of the punishments and cruelty shown to slaves



by their slave holders. While conditions varied throughout the South, the harsh conditions were fueled by the fear of rebellion, and the slave codes, based on colonial era law, defined the relationships between slave and master, with the master hardly ever being prosecuted for wrongdoing.

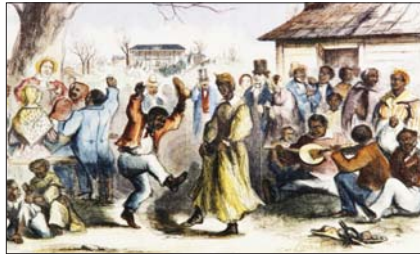


The slave rebellions that plantation and slave owners feared were not a false fear—there were several rebellions after 1776 that are worth mentioning, including Gabriel's conspiracy (1800), Igbo Landing slave escape (1803), Chatham Manor Rebellion (1805), 1811 German Coast Uprising (1811), George Boxley Rebellion (1815), Denmark Vesey's conspiracy (1822), Nat Turner's slave rebellion (1831), Black Seminole Slave Rebellion (1835-1838), Amistad seizure (1839), Creole case (1841), and the 1842 Slave Revolt in the Cherokee Nation.

Of those, perhaps the most famous is Nat Turner's slave rebellion, also known as the Southampton Insurrection, where Nat Turner, an educated slave who claimed to have divine visions, organized a group of slaves and then murdered 60 white people in Southampton, Virginia. The lasting effects of this rebellion were tragic—the North Carolina militia retaliated by killing some 100 slaves, not just those suspected, free people of color lost their vote, and other slave states began to severely restrict the movements of both slaves and free people of color. Among these laws included anti-literacy rules, which levied strong penalties on anyone who was suspected of educating slaves.

Led by free Blacks such as Frederick Douglass and White abolitionists like Harriet Beecher Stowe, writer of Uncle Tom's Cabin, their activism grew between the 1830s and 1860s. Not only were abolitionists actively petitioning

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The YWCA of Northwest Ohio

Celebrates

Black History Month

yesterday, today and tomorrow

Visit our website to find out how you can get involved: www.ywcanwo.org

CLASSIFIEDS

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February 15, 2023

PATHSTONE

Are you 55 or older? Unemployed and looking for part time work?

WE CAN HELP!!

Paid training. You can apply today.

Call Adetra Butler at 419-392-7279. Questions? Please call

CUSTODIANS WANTED

We want YOU to join our team! Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL), a public library that inspires lifelong learning and provides universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment, is seeking candidates to fill Custodian positions. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library (toledolibrary.org) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING) STATE OF OHIO STANDARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

PROJECT # 1130-23-308

Electrical System Enhancement Ph 3
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm EDT/EST Tuesday, March 7, 2023; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,307,000.00
Alternate #1	\$110,000.00
Alternate #2	\$22,000.00
Alternate #3	\$1,800.00
Alternate #4	\$50,000.00
Alternate #5	\$50,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: February 21, 2023, 10:00am – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walkthrough: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for February 21, 2023, immediately following Pre-bid.

Walkthrough Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Bill Link JDRM Engineering, Phone: 419-824-2400, E-mail: blink@jdrm.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County invites proposals from interested parties with expertise in developing and implementing detailed operational plans focused on organizational infrastructure transformation. The plan's development and implementation will follow the recommendations from the ITP Phase 1 report developed during the Discovery Phase (Phase 1) of the ITP process. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on April 10, 2023. Details regarding the project deliverables and submission criteria are located on the MHR SB's website: <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS AUDITIONS

Toledo Opera is seeking boys and girls ages 9-14 with unchanged voices to sing in the children's chorus of *Celebrazione del Coro* (Mar./Apr. 2023 commitment) on February 19, 2023. Auditions will be held at Toledo Opera Offices, 425 Jefferson Ave., Suite 601 from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm.

Rehearsals will take place on Sundays from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm at the Toledo Opera Offices. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachel Cammarn at rcammarn@toledopera.org.

Celebrazione del Coro
April 21 & 23, 2023
Valentine Theatre

Toledo Opera will present *Celebrazione del Coro*, a concert of Great Opera Choruses with conductor Kevin Bylsma leading the renowned Toledo Opera Chorus and soloists accompanied by orchestra. The Toledo Opera Chorus is at the heart of Toledo Opera's musical activity and in this concert, we feature them. The Toledo Opera Chorus members are involved in almost every production, performing as everything from priests and nuns, to townsfolk and milk maids to courtesans and everything in between! Highlights will include famous choruses and arias from popular operas by Bizet, Verdi, Puccini, Bernstein, Wagner, and much more.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Lucas County Sheriff's Office is implementing its first Citizen Police Academy. The goal of the academy is to provide transparency in how we train our officers and to develop lasting relationships within the community in which we serve. Classes will run from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM for ten consecutive weeks, beginning on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Eight classes will take place at the Springfield Township Hall, two will be held in downtown Toledo.

There is no fee associated with attending the academy, but class size will be limited. Anyone interested in attending can download an application via the Lucas County Sheriff's Office webpage, www.lucascountysheriff.org, under the Employment Opportunities tab. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, February 17, 2023. Questions regarding the Citizen Police Academy can be forwarded to Community Service Deputy. Aalea Robertson at 419-461-7877 or via email at arobertson@co.lucas.oh.us.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ABATEMENT SERVICES RFP#23-R002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Abatement Services in accordance with RFP#23-R002**. Received in accordance with law until **February 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (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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History of Slavery... continued from page 19

in the North, but they were also moving to help fugitive slaves escape from the South through a collection of safe houses.

Figures such as Harriet Tubman, and the Underground Railroad, became a defining characteristic of Pre-Civil War America, estimating that anywhere between fifty thousand and a hundred thousand slaves successfully escaped to freedom. But with Western Expansion continuing the fragile balance of pro-slave and anti-slave states, much of the many tensions between the North and the South accelerated. The Missouri Compromise, which allowed Maine admittance as a free state, Missouri as a slave state, and all western lands south of Missouri's Southern line to be free, the balance was maintained.

But in 1854, after the Mexican war and more land was added to the American territories, the Kansas-Nebraska Act reopened the question of

slavery in the new lands, and the new state of Kansas, which was admitted into the union and allowed to choose its slave status, created a bloodbath of civil unrest known as Bleeding Kansas. Just six years later, when Abraham Lincoln was elected president, seven states seceded from the United States of America, with four more to come, and named themselves the Confederate States of America.

While Lincoln's abolitionist personal views were well known, it was with the idea of reuniting the American Union that caused him to move to war. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln read an initial emancipation proclamation that named "slaves within any State, or designated part of a State...in rebellion...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." With that, and around three million newly freed Black slaves in the southern rebellion states, the Emancipation Proclamation took the economic advantage out from under the Southern economy and the war ended in 1865, with a new country emerging from the bloodiest battle in America's history.

W.E.B. Du Bois... continued from page 4

World War," the two pioneering scholars always respected each other.

Reckoning with history and reclaiming the past

Du Bois' connection to and appreciation of Negro History Week grew during the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s. During this time, whether in public speeches or published articles, he never missed an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of Negro History Week.

In the Feb. 11, 1951, article, Du Bois reflected that his own contributions to Negro History Week "lay in my long effort as a historian and sociologist to make America and Negroes themselves aware of the significant facts of Negro history."

Summarizing his work from his first book, "The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade," published in 1896, through his magnum opus "Black Reconstruction in America," published in 1935, Du Bois told readers of the Daily Compass piece that much of his career was spent trying "to correct the distortion of history in regard to Negro enfranchisement."

By doing so, the nation would hopefully become, Du Bois wrote further, "conscious that this part of our citizenry were normal human beings who had served the nation credibly and were still being deprived of their credit by ignorant and prejudiced historians."

In addition to championing Negro History Week, Du Bois applauded other Black scholars, like E. Franklin Frazier, Charles Johnson and Shirley Graham, who were "steadily attacking" the omissions and distortions of Black people in school textbooks.

Du Bois went on to chronicle the achievements of African Americans in science, religion, art, literature and the military, making clear that Black people had a history to be proud of.

Du Bois, however, questioned what deeper meaning these achievements held to the issues facing Black people in the present.

"What now does Negro History Week stand for?" he asked in the 1951 article. "Shall American Negroes continue to learn to be 'proud' of themselves, or is there a higher broader aim for their research and study?"

"In other words," he asserted, "as it becomes more universally known what Negroes contributed to America in the past, more must logically be said and taught concerning the future."

The time had come, Du Bois believed, for African Americans to stop striving to be merely "the equal of white Americans."

Black people needed to cease emulating the worst traits of America – flamboyance, individualism, greed and financial success at any cost – and support labor unions, Pan-Africanism and anti-colonial struggle.

He especially encouraged the systematic study of the imperial and economic roots of racism: "Here is a field for Negro History Week."

Black history and Black struggle

Looking ahead, Du Bois declared that if Negro History Week remained "true to the ideals of Carter Woodson" and followed "the logical development of the Negro Race in America," it would not confine itself to the study of the past nor "boasting and vainglory over what we have accomplished."

"It will not mistake wealth as the measure of America, nor big-business and noise as World Domination," Du Bois wrote in his article.

Instead, Du Bois believed Negro History Week would "concentrate on study of the present," "not be afraid of radical literature" and, above all else, advocate for peace and voice "eternal opposition against war between the white and colored peoples of the earth."

Were he alive today, Du Bois would certainly have much to say about current debates around the teaching of African American history and the larger significance of African American studies. Du Bois died on Aug. 27, 1963, in Accra, Ghana.

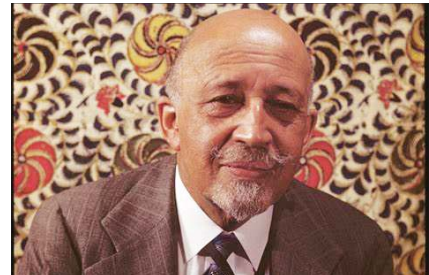
But he left behind his clairvoyant words that remind us of the connec-

tions between African American studies and movements for Black liberation, along with how the teaching of African American history has always challenged racist and exclusionary narratives of the nation's past.

Du Bois also reminds us that Black History Month is rooted in a legacy of activism and resistance, one that continues in the present.

Chad Williams, Samuel J. and Augusta Spector Professor of History and African and African American Studies, Brandeis University.

This article originally appeared on NewsOne.



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Black History Primer... continued from page 24

curred, from Pennsylvania in 1780 to Sierra Leone in 1936.

In fact, there were 20 separate emancipations in the United States alone from 1780 to 1865.

3. An image of a lynching found in a family photo album

As director of the Lynching in Texas project, historian Jeffrey L. Littlejohn provided the very kind of analysis that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott



A Black woman raises her fist in the air during a Juneteenth reenactment celebration in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 2021. Mark Felix /AFP/Getty Images

and Republican legislators in Texas want to ban from public schools.

Among the many documents and relics Littlejohn has received, one package stood out. Inside was a family album of photographs filled with the usual images of memories – a vacation, a wedding anniversary dinner – but also, one of the lynching of a Black man.

During the Jim Crow era, lynchings occurred regularly in Texas – with 16 in 1922 alone.

But in 2021, the GOP-controlled state Legislature in Texas enacted a law prohibiting K-12 educators from teaching that “slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from ... the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.”

In other words, as Littlejohn wrote, “this interpretation holds that slavery, racism and racism’s deadly manifestation, lynching, did not serve as sys-



Scene of the burnings of Johnny Cornish, Mose Jones and Snap Curry in Kirvin, Texas, on May 6, 1922. Jeff Littlejohn

temic forces that shaped Texas history but were instead aberrations.”

The photo album serves as a direct challenge to that interpretation.

4. Black soldiers fight racism and Nazis during World War II

In his book “Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad,” historian Matthew Delmont explored the idea of Black patriotism and how many Black soldiers saw their service as a way to demonstrate the capabilities of their race.

Prompted by the Pittsburgh Courier, an influential Black newspaper during the 1940s, Delmont wrote that Black Americans rallied behind the Double V campaign during the war – victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home.

During the war, the Red Ball Express, the Allied forces’ transportation unit that delivered supplies to the front lines, was one example of such exceptional performance.

From August through November 1944, the mostly Black force moved more than 400,000 tons of ammunition, gasoline, medical supplies and rations to battlefronts in France, Belgium and Germany.

5. An NBA champion’s cerebral fight for equal rights

In his biography of Bill Russell, “King of the Court,” Aram Goudsouzian wrote that the NBA champion sought to find worth in basketball amid the racial tumult of the civil rights movement.

He emerged from that crucible by crafting a persona that one teammate called “a kingly arrogance.”

Russell, who died July, 31, 2022, was the NBA’s first Black superstar, its first Black champion and its first Black coach.

As a civil rights activist, Russell questioned the nonviolence philosophy of Martin Luther King Jr. and defended the militant ideas of Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam. He refused to accept segregated accommodations in the Deep South and recalled instances of police brutality during his childhood in Oakland, California.

“It’s a thing you want to scream,” Russell wrote. “I MUST HAVE MY MANHOOD.”

Editor’s note: This story is a roundup of articles from The Conversation’s archives.

Howard Manly, Race + Equity Editor, The Conversation

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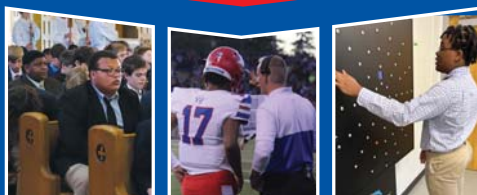
In this October 1944 photograph, Black soldiers are filling up gasoline tanks for the Red Ball Express. AFP via Getty Images



President Barack Obama presents NBA champion and human rights advocate Bill Russell the Medal of Freedom on Feb. 15, 2011. Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

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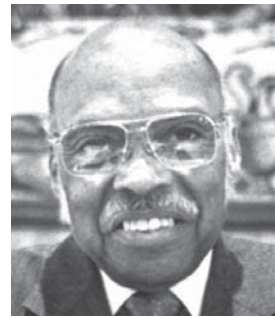
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A Black History Primer on African Americans' Fight for Equality – Five Essential Reads

By Howard Manly, *The Conversation*
Special to *The Truth*

As the father of Black history, Carter G. Woodson had a simple goal – to legitimize the study of African American history and culture.

To that end, in 1912, shortly after becoming the second African American after W.E.B. Du Bois to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915.

More than 100 years later, Woodson's goal and his work detailing the struggle of Black Americans to obtain full citizenship after centuries of systemic racism is still relevant today.

As dozens of GOP-controlled state legislatures across the U.S. have either considered or enacted laws restricting how race is taught in public schools, *The Conversation* U.S. has published numerous stories over the years exploring the rich terrain of Black history – and the never-ending quest to form what the Founding Fathers called a more perfect union.

1. From the Underground Railroad to Civil War battlefields

Armed with a deep faith, Harriet Tubman is most famous for her successes along the Underground Railroad, the interracial network of abolitionists who enabled Black people to escape from slavery along secret routes in the South to freedom in the North and Canada.

But Tubman's activities as a Civil War spy are less well known.

As historian and Tubman biographer Kate Clifford Larson wrote, Tubman's devotion to America's promise of freedom endured, despite suffering decades of enslavement and second-class citizenship.

"I had reasoned this out in my mind," Tubman once said. "There was one of

two things I had a right to, liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive."

2. Juneteenth and the myths of emancipation

As a scholar of race and colonialism, Kris Manjapra wrote that Emancipation Days – Juneteenth in Texas – are not what many people think.

"Emancipations did not remove all the shackles that prevented Black people from obtaining full citizenship rights," Manjapra noted. "Nor did emancipations prevent states from enacting their own laws that prohibited Black people from voting or living in white neighborhoods."

Between the 1780s and 1930s, over 80 emancipations from slavery oc-



Harriet Tubman, far left, poses with her family, friends and neighbors near her barn in Auburn, N.Y., in the mid-to-late 1880s. Bettmann/Getty Images

... continued on page 22



Michael D. Ashford
Lucas County Recorder

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