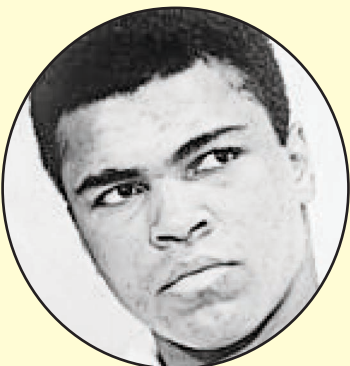


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Minority Youth****SPORTS****Louisville airport
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of Muhammad Ali****Find us on
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THE TOLEDO
JOURNAL**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) Celebrates 85th Anniversary



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

LMHA Anniversary Keynote Speaker was Judge Glenda Hatchett.

PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The 85th Anniversary Sponsors are recognized.*By Toledo Journal Staff*

Since 1933 Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) has been caring for the housing needs of the Toledo community by providing affordable housing to adults, seniors and children.

To commemorate 85 years of providing affordable housing opportunities and strengthening communities, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority hosted their anni-

versary event on Thursday January 24th at Parkway Place in Maumee, Ohio. The theme for the event was 'Onward and Upward, Continuing the Journey From Good to Great'. The keynote speaker was Judge Glenda Hatchett.

Judge Hatchett presides over the nationally syndicated television show, Judge Hatchett. Both in 2008 and 2009 her show was nominated for a daytime Emmy awards for outstanding legal/

courtroom program. In 2004 she authored the national best-seller, 'Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say'. In 2010 she had another #1 best-seller, 'Dare To Take Charge: Hoe to live your Life on Purpose'.

Judge Hatchett has also been active with housing authorities across the country.

During her address, Judge Hatchett praised the LMHA's initiative, Onward and Upward, continuing the Journey from Good to Great.

She said, "I'm in awe of the collaboration and the work that is going on here today. Eighty-five years ago, the Housing Authority was started during in a very deep economic depression. Back in those times, just like these times, the same as before, we must push ourselves

and dig a little deeper. The battle cry is everywhere and there's no place to run and no place to hide. The challenge is we have to keep a circutal promise before dawn, because there is too much darkness."

And, she also emphasized "That, many of the problems we face today did not begin with the current government shut down, but they have spanned from generation to generation. What I know in my heart is that if given a chance to do better, people will do better, if they know better. So that is what we have to do, encourage people and inspire them. We must empower people to want to change and change will come."

She ended by stating, "The

Continued on page 2

PHOTO CREDIT / COMMUNICA

Dr. Larry Jones seen here, center, with Demetria Simpson, LMHA director, left and Judge Glenda Hatchett

PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

LMHA Commissioners and Leadership at LMHA 85th Anniversary are (L-R) are James Peppers, Alisha Gant, Cheryl Phil-lies, John McGuire, Coleena Ali, LMHA President and CEO Demetria Simpson, Qoaquin Cintron Vega, Kattie Bond, and Karen Baird.

LMHA Anniversary

Continued from page 1

Housing Authority is not just about providing a house, it's about nurturing and encouragement and inspiration."

LMHA's role has expanded significantly for over 85 years from providing public housing to focusing on developing wrap around services to its residents. Today, the housing authority-a quasi-government agency-owns and manages 2,633 public housing units and provides subsidized housing to 17,500 individuals. It is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor of Toledo, The Lucas County Commissioners, and the Probate and Common Pleas Courts.

President and CEO Demetria Simpson of LMHA, said, "We have made great strides in helping our residences improve their quality of life and become self-sufficient. This event focused on the empowerment opportunities, provided to our residents, and the development of myriad community partnerships which help us continue the journey onward and upward."

Their mission is to. create and

maintain sustainable, affordable housing opportunities, provide pathways to better quality of life and empower vibrant communities. They serve a much broader mission than housing by providing programs and opportunities to improve the total quality of life for residents with the ultimate goal of helping them achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, other services coordinated through LMHA include: healthcare, education, family self-sufficiency (FSS), resident opportunities and self-sufficiency, Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG), commodities, Children Feeding Program, Work Your Way Home, Youth Program, Senior Program, Financial Literacy, and HCV Home ownership.

They have many current programs focusing on infant mortality, feeding Lucas County children, providing education and training to low-income individuals, just to name a few.

LMHA partners with many other community organizations to bring these and other programs to the community and are the result of successful collaborations with numerous community partners.



Founders of Black-Owned Cheesecake Business Inspired by Trump's Shutdown

Submitted
By Black News

Nikki Howard and Jaqi Wright, two sisters from Maryland were furloughed during the recent government shutdown. So, they started their own business selling cheesecakes to make ends meet. Sarcasically, they named their company, The Furlough Cheesecake, and it turned out to be a great publicity stunt as they have received lots of orders from across the country and overwhelming support from the public!

Nikki works for the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and Jaqi works for the Department of Justice (DOJ), and they were just two of the many federal government employees that were greatly affected by Trump's government shutdown which lasted for more than a month. Some studies even included that African American families were affected the most!

But they couldn't just let days go by without doing anything to pay their bills. They can't rely on their husbands, who they said weren't able to work due to disabilities, as well. So they were forced to step up and start their own business.

"It's either cry or get up and do something, so we decided to get up and do something," Nikki told ABC 7 WJLA.

The idea of putting up a cheesecake business came up after Jaqi and her mother tasted how delicious and succulent the cheesecake Nikki made for New Year is.

"My mother said, 'Girl, you could sell these cheesecakes,'" Jaqi said. "And I was like, why don't we sell the cheesecakes?"

From there, Nikki and Jaqi, now also known as the Furlough Sisters, launched the business through Facebook, Instagram, and their own website. During their very first week in business, they received an overwhelming number of orders from within the state of Maryland... and also from other states!

"I'm not saying that I'm happy that we're not at work and getting a consistent paycheck, but it's a great way to use the time," Jaqi said. "As far as just having something else to put my brain on, my creativity on, it feels amazing."

Their delicious cheesecakes currently come in two flavors: Original and Sweet Potato. They are 9-10" of homemade goodness, all the way down to the graham cracker crust!

For more information about The Furlough Cheesecake or to place an order online, visit www.thefurloughcheesecake.com or follow them on Instagram @thefurloughcake



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Judge Glenda Hatchett signs copies her book at LMHA's 85th Anniversary.

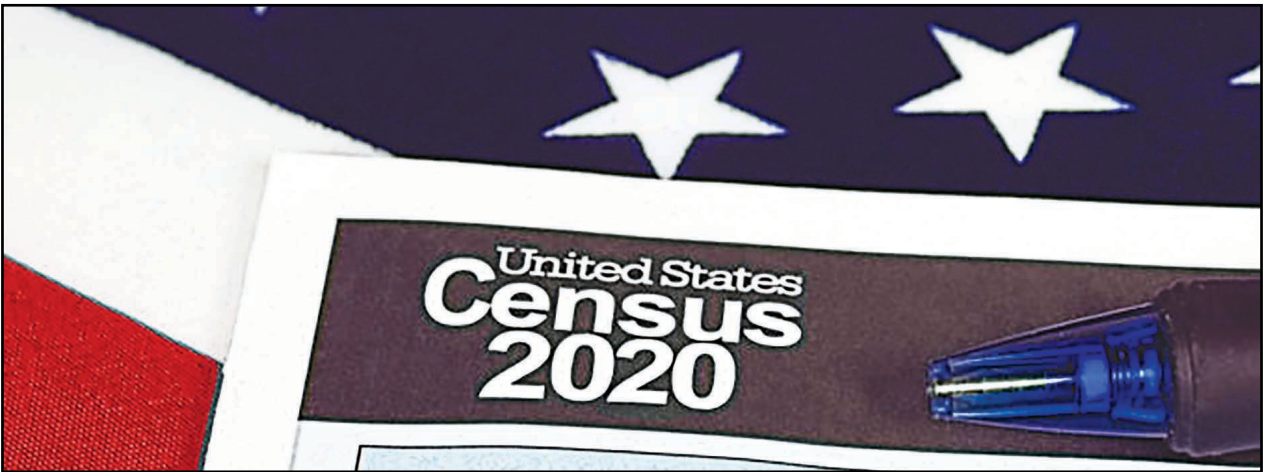
NAACP Challenge to 2020 Census Preparations Moves Forward

Submitted

The complaint alleges that unless the Census Bureau significantly improves its plans for 2020, the upcoming census will drastically undercount African Americans and other people of color across the country. This undercount will contribute to unequal political representation and reduced federal funding for communities of color.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its allies today won a major court ruling that allows them to proceed with a federal lawsuit challenging the government's inadequate preparations for the 2020 Census.

"[T]he census must be conducted in a way that will not thwart the goal of equal representation," wrote U.S. District Judge Paul Grimm, in an opinion granting in part and denying a mo-



tion to dismiss brought by the Census Bureau. The ruling allows the case to proceed to discovery and potentially to trial.

The suit, NAACP v. Bureau of the Census, No. 8:18-Cv-00891-PWG, was filed last March in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland by the NAACP, Prince George's County (MD), the NAACP Prince George's County Branch, and two county residents. The complaint alleges that un-

less the Census Bureau significantly improves its plans for 2020, the upcoming census will drastically undercount African Americans and other people of color across the country. This undercount will contribute to unequal political representation and reduced federal funding for communities of color.

"It is imperative that the Census Bureau take steps immediately to minimize the undercount in communities of color and immigrant communi-

ties, especially given the likely impact of the underfunded census," said NAACP General Counsel Brad Berry.

In his opinion, Judge Grimm emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate funding for census operations, especially given the recent 35-day government shutdown. "This ongoing state of uncertainty" makes it more likely that the Census Bureau "will be unprepared (in terms of funding, workforce, and testing) for the 2020 Census."

The NAACP and its partners brought this lawsuit because the ongoing underfunding and understaffing of the Census Bureau violates its legal obligation to conduct a full and fair census. As the plaintiffs explain in their complaint, the Bureau has severely cut back on door-to-door canvassing, community partnerships, and field infrastructure—all of which are essential to encourage participation from communities of col-

or. The government has also cancelled crucial pre-census field tests, even as it attempts to use new technologies and implement a brand-new digitization initiative.

"With fewer than 15 months to go before the 2020 Census, this decision comes at a critical time," said Rachel Brown, a law student intern with the Yale Law School Rule of Law Clinic, counsel for the NAACP and other plaintiffs. "We look forward to holding the Census Bureau to its constitutional obligation to count everyone equally."

The plaintiffs are represented by the NAACP Office of the General Counsel, Jenner & Block, and the Yale Law School Rule of Law Clinic.

Contact: Rachel Brown: 202-549-4411; rachel.brown@ylsclinics.org to speak with Yale Law School Rule of Law

Ongoing Events

Ohio Department of Aging seeks nominations for state Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Annual recognition highlights important roles older Ohioans play in their communities. Since its inception, more than 450 older Ohioans have been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. If you know someone who belongs among those ranks, the Ohio Department of Aging wants to hear from you. The hall honors current or long-time Ohio residents age 60 and older who have made and continue to make a lasting impact on their professions, their vocations or their communities.

Inductees are selected from public nominations. Past inductees have included business and industry leaders, advocates, community planners, educators, scientists, health care professionals, volunteers, artists, entertainers, athletes and more. Nominees are evaluated on the scope and impact of their contributions begun or continued after age 60. Nominees must be native-born Ohioans or have been residents of the state for at least 10 years. Posthumous nominations are accepted.

Induction is held each May as the state and nation celebrate Older Americans Month. Nominations must be received by Feb. 11, 2019, to be considered for induction this year.

Learn more, access the nomination form and view past inductees at www.aging.ohio.gov/halloffame. You can request a paper nomination form by calling 614-728-0253.

Toledo Library goes Fine Free

To improve access and opportunity in our community, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) eliminated overdue fines went into effect Jan. 1, 2019. Eradicating overdue fines does not mean eliminating accountability. Customers who haven't returned or renewed books won't be able to check out additional ones. Customers will receive reminders to return items on the due date and once they are one week overdue will be delivered by phone, email or text at no extra cost. TLCPL also offers easy online and mobile technology options for renewing items to help customers keep their accounts current. If materials are returned, there will not be an overdue fine. For more information visit <http://www.toledolibrary.org/policies/nofines>

Wild about Art at the Toledo Zoo: Call for Artists

Calling all artists! The Toledo Zoo is seeking all the creative minds and skilled craftsmen in the area to take part in our art fair. Artists may sign up by visiting toledozoo.org/wildaboutart to be directed to our online application through ZAPP®. Applications must be submitted online through ZAPP® by Friday, April 5, 2019. Please note: art does not have to be animal related. Any questions, please contact art-fair@toledozoo.org or call 419-385-5721 ext. 2110. The Zoo hopes everyone, artists and appreciators, will save the date for Wild about Art: where originality meets The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir.

Will begin its 2019 season @ 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 702 Collingwood. Brothers and Sisters you are invited to come out and be a part of this music ministry. For more information, please call 419-241-3330, or 419-241-7332. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays.

2nd Tuesday of the Month The Toledo Base Submarine Veterans

Holds its monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at The Genesis Village Events Center 2429 S. Reynolds Road Toledo Ohio at 18:00 hours (6 PM) our next meeting will be on Feb. 12, 2019 for further information you can contact our Base Commander Michael Meehan at 505-554-8636 or at wingsfaninnm@gmail.com.

Every Third Wednesday Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and Social Justice Institute

Anyone interested in joining meet, at Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., from 9:15 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month

The Redeemed Christian Church Food Pantry

662 Philips Avenue in Toledo from 10 AM - 12PM.

3rd Saturday of Each Month Widows Empowered Strengthened & Inc. (Affectionately known as W.E.S & Inc.)

Are you a Widow? Come share with us. We cordially invite you to join us at our next meeting: 1-3pm. Reynolds Corners Branch Library, 4833 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615. To learn more about WES & I, Inc.: Call 419-359-4001, Email: w.e.s.andlinc@gmail.com, Website: www.widowsempowered.com.

February, 2019 Celebrate Black History Month at the Toledo Library

Join the Toledo Lucas County Public Library during Black History Month, paying tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

Read-In: Feb. 1-28
Celebrate African-American authors! Visit any Library location and read, listen to or watch ANY title from ANY African-American author and add your name to the banner at your favorite branch. All ages and branches.

Share Your Migration Story:
Trace your country of origin, region or another city that led you to Toledo, Ohio and examine the path that others have followed. Available at various Library locations. All ages.

A Day with Lady K - Karen Harris Sings Motown:

A Day with Lady K means the Motown sound is down! Join TLCPL for a musical program featuring Karen Harris, who will sing Motown Hits.

Dances from the Motherland:
Elev8ted Productions presents "Dances from the Motherland," a tribute to African dance. Join us for a performance by Phylicia Hills, who will demonstrate the fine art of African dance and the meaning behind the movement.

The DJOBI Wake Up Ensemble
Enjoy the masterful sound of West African music and the roots of African-American music with Emmanuel Djobi and his ensemble. All ages.
(Sat) Feb. 23 11 p.m. West Toledo Soul Food Sampling from J'Mae's Home Cooking:

One of Toledo's finest soul food Restaurants, J'Mae's, will have the quintessential dish, baked macaroni and cheese, to sample. All ages.

For more information on Black History Month visit <http://www.toledolibrary.org/blackhistory>

February 7th, 14th and 21st All African American Films to Screen at the University of Toledo

The first ever University of Toledo African American Film Festival (UT – AAFF) will be held at the University of Toledo's main campus. Screenings will take place Thursdays, February 7th, 14th, and 21st, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the UT Center for Performing Arts (CPA), 1910 West Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio. The inaugural event is co-sponsored by the UT Black Student Union, the UT Department of Theatre and Film and the UT Office of Multicultural Student Success. Films showcased during February shine positive light on contemporary African American stories as told by some of today's best African American filmmakers. Admission is free and open to the UT community and beyond. Seating is limited in CPA 1039. Doors open at 7:20 p.m. Tickets or RSVP's are not required. Please contact Holly Hey, Head of Film, Department of Theatre and Film at [holly.hey@utoledo.edu](mailto:hey@utoledo.edu) with questions.

February 10th, 17th, 22th, and 27th Braden UMC Black History Month

Theme: Preserving Our Heritage: Embracing Hope for the Future. Located at 4725 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43615. www.BradenUMC.org- 419-386-2700, Rev. Cecil J.F. Thompson, Pastor.
2/20/19, 9:30 AM Round Table: "My Soul Has Got To Move", 10:30 AM community Pioneer Hon-

Coming Events

ors: Celebrating Braden members whose public service has inspired hope for our community. Jr. Church (ages 5-12) during worship, 12:30 PM - Teen Cafe (ages 13-18) Facing discrimination and bullying in school and keeping the faith.

2/17/19, 9:30 AM Round Table "Wake Up Everybody", 10:30 AM Jr. Church (ages 5-12) during morning worship and "Holy Baptism"

2/22/19, 6:00 PM Soul Food Potluck Theme: Preserving Our Heritage" Panel and discussion on institutionalized Discrimination. **FREE.**

2/27/19, 9:30 AM Round Table: "Can You Imagine?" 10:30 AM "Celebrate Our Heritage!" (wear African Attire).

February 17th Third Baptist Church 32nd Annual Black History Musical

Sunday at 4:00 p.m., 9775 Angola Road (Holland). All are welcome to come on out and help us lift the name of Jesus Through song. Madison Gregory III, Pastor. Information: 419-865-7559.

February 17th and February 24th TIAMBC 73rd Church Anniversary

Theme: "Don't Worry About Anything Instead Pray About Everything" Philippians 4:6. @ 640 Indiana, Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43604. Sunday, February 17, 2019 4:00 p.m. Reverend Dr. Jerry Boose Pastor Second Baptist Church. Sunday, February 24, 2019 4:00 p.m. Reverend Dr. Willie Perryman Pastor Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Dr. John E. Roberts, Pastor.

February 21st Zuzu African Acrobats to Perform at Lourdes University

Lourdes University Campus Life presents Zuzu African Acrobats, Thursday, at 5:30pm in the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. Featured on the TV series America's Got Talent, their performances are a blend of circus style acrobatics and popular dance moves. This event is open to the public. \$5 per person. For more information, contact Ashley Jackson, (419) 517-8413. For more information, visit <http://www.capitolint.com/Fairs/mapapa/mapapa.htm>

February 23rd Warren AME Church Gospel Extravaganza

Calling All Youth And Young Adult, Choirs & Praise Teams, Dance & Step Ministries, Soloists & Musicians, Poets & Spoken Word, Gospel Rap Artists, we invite YOU to come and Share your Ministry Gifts. Changing Minds, Changing Lives, Ecclesiastes 11:9. Saturday @ 915 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo, OH 43604 4:00 to 7:00 PM. To participate in the program, contact: Ms. Sawyer at 419-324-4189. Contact Ms. Palmer at 419-450-0165. Hosted by the Christian Education Department Warren AME Church, Rev. Otis Gordon, Jr., Senior Pastor, Debra Jelks, Chairman.

February 23rd Participants for "Changing Minds, Changing Lives" Warren Gospel Extravaganza

Attention: Dance Teams, Choirs, Musicians, Spoken Word and Ministry Gifts. You are invited to participate on Saturday, at Warren AME Church, 915 Collingwood Blvd. Vendor Displays at 4pm; Program at 4:30pm. Contact 419-324-4189 to participate.

February 24th, March 10th March 17th, March 24th, and March 31st Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Floyd Smith Jr. 30th Pastorial Celebration!

February 24th: Pastor Floyd Smith Jr. 30th Pre-Celebration: Bishop Duane C. Tisdale and the Friendship Baptist Church @ 4:00 P.M. March 10th: Pastor Melvin Barnes and the Greater Faith Fellowship Church @ 4:00 P.M. March 17th: Pastor Roger D. Carson and Southern Missionary Baptist Church @ 4:00 P.M. March 24th: Pastor James Willis and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church @ 4:00 P.M. March 31st: Pastor Nathan Madison and Fourth Street Baptist Church of Lima, Ohio @ 4:00 P.M. All services will be held @ 702 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH 43604.

Toddler Trump Needs A Timeout In The Oval Office

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D
Wire Columnist

President Trump announced an end to the government shutdown on January 25. Is it a real deal to re-open the federal government or another tactic of the power-grabbing politician? Is Trump backing down or bamboozling Congress again? Is this a permanent or temporary solution? The elephant and donkey games continue.

Trump is using his demand for a \$5.7 billion border wall to justify his irrational reactions. Our forefathers and former presidents would be appalled at the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. I hope the ghost of Benjamin Franklin visits him next Christmas. Would Trump follow in the footsteps of Ebenezer Scrooge and change his wicked ways?

What Do Americans Think?

"A strong majority of Americans blame President Donald Trump for the record-long government shutdown and reject his primary rationale for a border wall, according to a new poll that shows the turmoil in Washington is dragging his approval rating to its lowest level in more than a year," according to a recent article in The Philadelphia Tribune.

And just who are the people that Trump is holding hostage? You, me, us. We are a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

According to a 2019 article in USA Today, "The president has threatened for weeks to declare a national emergency to redirect money to free up the \$5.7 billion he wants for constructing a border wall. The move would curtail Congress, which under the Constitution directs appropriating funding to federal agencies."

Per a 2019 report from the Pew Research Center, 59 percent of those surveyed disapprove of Trump's job performance. www.pewresearch.org.

Trump the Toddler

President Trump reacts just like a toddler when he doesn't get his way. "I want what I want when I want it and how I want it and where I want it!" He's throwing an adult tem-



per tantrum in the Oval Office. And Americans are paying the price. Will someone put Trump in a timeout chair? Or make him take a nap. He's a pouting president in need of emotional regulation.

Per a 2018 report from the Pew Research Center, 24 percent of Americans say Trump is even-tempered, while 70 percent say that description does not apply to him. www.pewresearch.org/.

What's wrong with the White House picture? "There's something of an industry devoted to the psyche of President Trump. He's an executive-in-chief like no other. He doesn't read, appears to be ignorant of history (American, European, Middle-Eastern, Asian, whatever) and cannot control his Twitter finger," penned Professor Madelon Sprengnether in a 2017 article for Psychology Today.

Immigration Irony

The irony of Donald Trump's

“How is it that an American president can hold the government captive when he doesn't get his way and throw adult temper tantrums? I'm baffled. Are you?”

stance on immigration. Melania Knavs (Melania Trump) was born in Novo Mesto, and grew up in Sevnica, in the Yugoslav republic of Slovenia. The First Lady of the United States was not born in America. She obtained U.S. citizenship in 2006.

The irony of Donald Trump's stance on "chain immigration." Reported in USA Today, First lady Melania Trump's immigrant parents were sworn in as U.S. citizens in

2018. "The Knavses were eligible for green cards and to apply for citizenship because their daughter is a citizen, having taken the oath herself in 2006, shortly after she married Donald Trump in 2005."

More irony. Donald Trump's first wife and mother to his three oldest children, Ivana, is an immigrant from Czechoslovakia.

Both Republicans and Democrats need to read the book, Tantrums!: Managing Meltdowns in Public and Private (1-2-3 Magic Parenting). And apply to Trump.

How is it that an American president can hold the government captive when he doesn't get his way and throw adult temper tantrums? I'm baffled. Are you?

Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. www.melissamartinchildrensauthor.com.

This article originally appeared in the Charleston Chronicle.

The Toledo Journal

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Kamala Harris Announces Her 2020 Campaign

By Harry C. Alford & Kay DeBow
Wire Columnists

Kamala Harris is wasting no time with her political career. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 and has already set her immediate target – the presidency of the United States. On January 26, she formally announced her campaign. The setting was in Oakland, California where she was born in 1964. She is the child of American immigrants. Her mother is of Asian descent, Tamil Indian, while her father is Jamaican with African and Irish blood. Her maternal grandfather was a distinguished Indian diplomat. Her rally had over 20,000 participants which is very impressive and reminds us of the beginning of the Barack Obama successful run in 2008.

She and her younger sister, Maya, started early in Oakland where her father was a Stanford Univer-

sity professor and her mother was a medical researcher. At an early age her parents divorced, and her mother packed up and moved her and her sister to Montreal, Canada. Her mother worked as a medical researcher and enrolled her two daughters into a French speaking Catholic school – Marymount. This is where she matured. In looking at some pages of her yearbook we find that the school was quite multi-racial. Many of the Black kids had roots in the Caribbean and Africa. The two Harris sisters matured into attractive "red bones".

Kamala chose Howard University, the HCBU located in the heart of Washington, DC. She apparently wanted to be immersed in the African American soul culture. She joined the AKA sorority and is using those connections in establishing her political base. Upon graduating from Howard, she returned to Cali-

fornia and matriculated through the Hastings College of Law.

Her professional career started out as a deputy district attorney in Oakland. She soon met the prolific career politician Willie Brown. He became her mentor and assisted in her rising career. It became strongly rumored that Willie became more than a mentor. He was her "Boo" despite his marriage and family. In 2012, she came on the national circuit at the Democratic National Convention. A great speech raised her national profile in the same manner of Barack Obama a decade earlier. Two years later she married Douglas Emhoff, a successful white attorney.

Creating a great reputation as a District Attorney she set her sights on the Attorney General slot for the state of California. She narrowly won -by 1 percent. There she grew even more prominent and became

continued on page 5

Don't Let Predatory Tax Loans Take Your Refunds

By Charlene Crowell
Wire Columnist

TriceEdneyWire.com) - For many consumers, the New Year brings an annual effort to file taxes early enough to help pay off big bills, replace major appliances or tuck away a few bucks for the proverbial 'rainy day'.

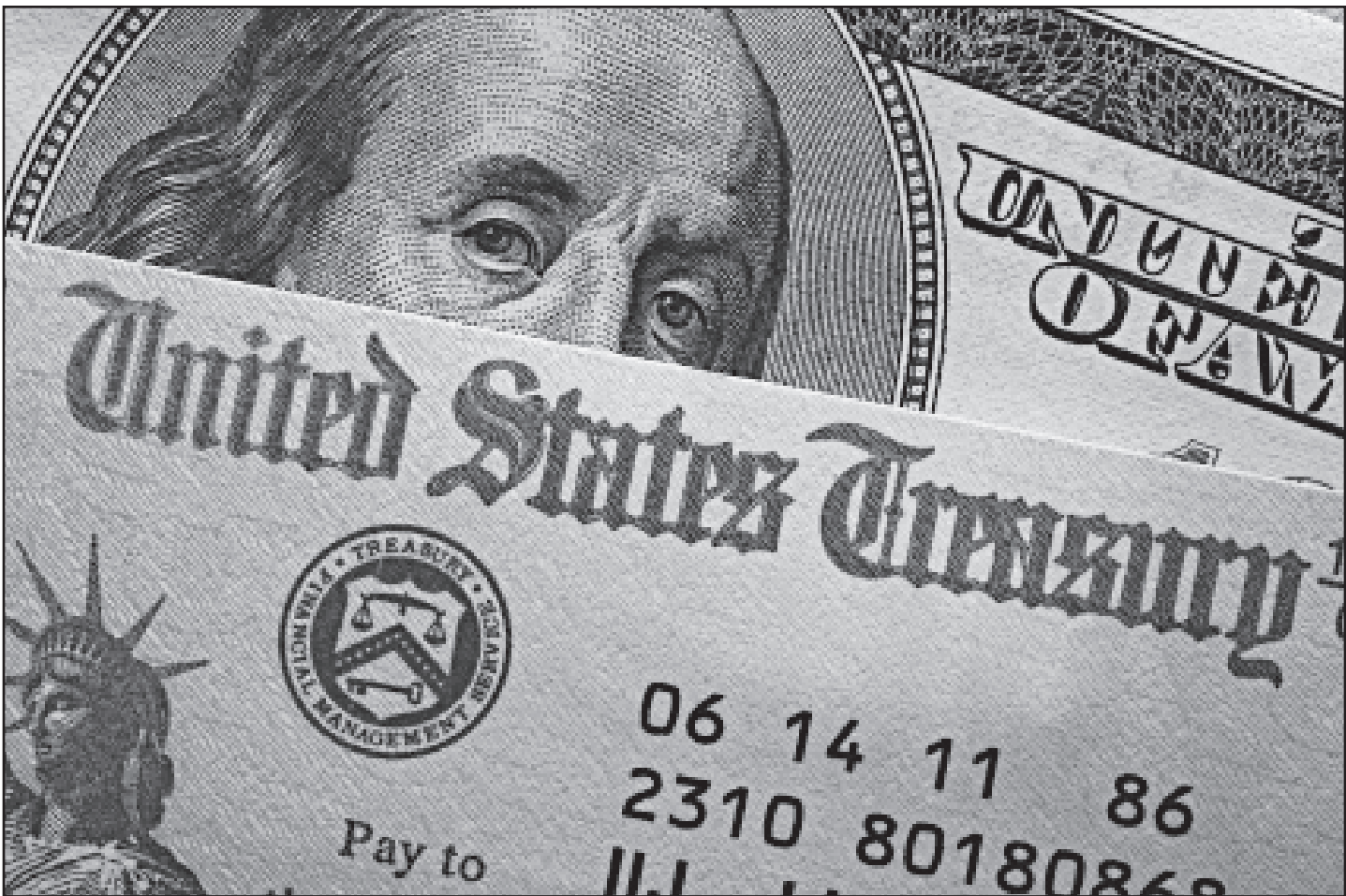
With a continuing federal shut-down, this year there are also an estimated 800,000 federal workers who have not had a payday since December. For these consumers, an early tax refund could cover basic living needs like housing, food, child care and utilities.

And across the country, advertising – particularly on urban radio – tempts listeners with easy ways to get a loan against anticipated tax refunds. But just like other predatory lending products, what is advertised is not quite what consumers receive. Convenient tax-related loans almost always come with a price that takes a big bite out of consumers' money.

The bigger the refund, the more attentive and helpful "tax preparers" will be in helping with e-filing, the electronic processing that typically results in refunds in two to three business days. Once the size of the refund is known, these preparers encourage unsuspecting consumers to take out a short-term loan like a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL). Depository institutions like banks sell a 'service' known as a Refund Anticipating Check (RAC) that is most appealing to consumers who lack a bank account.

Neither product is as helpful as they appear.

RALs are usually marketed as an 'advance' instead of a loan. Instead of interest, many of these loans come with "fees" or a "finance charge". Conversely, a Refund Anticipation Check or RAC is sold as a temporary bank account that exists exclusively to receive the IRS refund. Once the refund reaches the consumer's bank account, either a prepaid card or a check is issued by the depository institution. And once again, fees taken out of the refund reduce the amount



of monies that consumers actually receive.

The biggest target for both of these products are consumers with the largest refunds, especially those who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), one of the few tax break programs available to low-to-moderate income consumers, and/or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

To be eligible for EITC, earned income and adjusted gross income can be as low as \$15,270 for a single filer or head of household to as high as \$54,884 for a married couple with three dependent children. This year, eligible EITC consumers could receive as much as \$6,431 for families with three or more qualifying children to \$519 for single filers.

Similarly, the Child Tax Credit is available to eligible filers with children under the age of 17. For each dependent child meeting the age requirement, filers receive a \$2,000 credit that like EITC reduces the amount of taxes owed.

“ So how much financial sense does it make to purchase an ‘advance’ or open a temporary bank account when the Internal Revenue Service can deposit the full refund into a checking account within two to three business days? ”

In 2017, 1.7 million RALs were sold, and another 20.5 million RACs valued at a half billion dollars were also sold, according to the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC).

“Tax-time is hard enough for most Americans, but they also face consumer protection challenges,” noted Chi Chi Wu, staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center. “They

need to avoid incompetent and abusive preparers and decide whether to choose financial products of varying costs.”

So how much financial sense does it make to purchase an 'advance' or open a temporary bank account when the Internal Revenue Service can deposit the full refund into a checking account within two to three business days?

Just because a refund-advance product isn't called a loan, or doesn't have an interest rate, doesn't mean it's free, said Scott Astrada, the Center for Responsible Lending's Director of Federal Advocacy. “Carefully read the terms and conditions and ask plenty of questions”.

Everyone who works for a living should be entitled not only to a paycheck but 100 percent of their tax refunds.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Kamala Harris Announces Her 2020 Campaign

continued from page 4

a powerful figure in the California political arena. In 2016, she became a U.S. Senator replacing a retiring Barbara Boxer. She has risen to undeniable prominence.

She sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as the Intelligence Committee. She participates on the Congressional Black Caucus as well as the Congressional Asian Caucus. She has arrived and is a force to be respected and not underestimated. She has recently published her memoir, "The Truths We Hold: An American Journey". We look forward to reading it. She seems to be following Barack's "footprint". Why not? It was certainly successful.

Kamala's politics is typically California style progressive. She wants to tax the hell out of the wealthy. She has a laundry list of "freebies for the people". Free Medicare for everyone. While we are at it: Free education from pre-K to college. Somehow, she and the rest of the liberal side must come up with a convincing Cost Analysis to sell this to the masses. We are quite skeptical and believe in

good old fashion capitalism. That is what brought our nation to greatness and that is what is going to take us to a brighter future. The democratic candidates, Kamala is no exception, are in "la, la land" when it comes to setting a platform that is going to win over the masses. She has a big task ahead of her. But you know what, we think she has the backbone and drive to compete with the rest of the ever-growing list of candidates on the Democratic side. Howard Schultz, creator of Starbucks, is planning to run on a Third-Party ticket and this is inflaming the Democratic mainstream. They must stay united in order to compete with a Trump re-election.

It is not an understatement to say that the 2020 election is going to be the most pivotal and dramatic election in US history. The world is in turmoil. War, insurgency, financial uncertainty is growing and growing. We pray that God sends us a true leader who will take us to a better world. That is difficult to predict, and we are far from deciding on any favorites. These times are not for the faint of heart. Kamala is facing a field of more than 20



democratic rivals. Who will win out and face President Donald Trump? May the Lord help us in making the right decision. What do you think about Kamala? Please let us know your thoughts.

Mr. Alford is the Co-Founder, Presi-

dent/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Ms. DeBow is the Co-Founder, Executive Vice President of the Chamber. Contact info: www.nationalbcc.org Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdebowl@nationalbcc.org

Tennessee Tribune’s Rosetta Perry Receives NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

With one of pop music’s most profound voices performing during a ceremony that included a video tribute featuring tributes from a mayor, a congressman, a school superintendent and a university president, Tennessee Tribune Publisher Rosetta Miller Perry clearly was the star of the night.

On Friday, Jan. 25, Perry received the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award before a festive and appreciative gathering at the Hilton Orlando Hotel during the NNPA MidWinter Training Conference in Florida.

“Two years ago, it was Bob Bogle being

honored from the Philadelphia Tribune and last year we saw Rod Doss of the New Pittsburgh Courier receive the Lifetime Achievement Award,” Perry said.

“Tonight, it’s Rosetta Perry. Maybe there’s something to it... three great publishers all from Pennsylvania,” she said, noting her tie to the Keystone State is in the fact she was raised there.

Perry thanked her fellow publishers for the distinguished recognition, one that she said she’s glad it happened now.

“I’m 85,” Perry quipped. “I’m sure glad you didn’t wait until I was 90.”

While the comment brought laughter and applause, Perry said the NNPA – the trade organization that consists of about 215 Af-

rican American owned newspapers and media companies around the country – needs to work harder toward a younger leadership.

“I have a clear vision and I’d like to see NNPA move toward the young ones because they know how to handle situations and they should not have to wait until they’re my age to hold positions,” she said.

“The young ones are talking about building relationships and that’s what’s needed,” said Perry, who toned down the festive atmosphere a bit to ask all to keep Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton in their thoughts.

Hampton abruptly left the conference after receiving devastating news that her mother passed away.

Perry and R&B Legend, Howard Hewitt



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Rosetta Miller Perry (third from left), Publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, receives the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured with Ms. Perry are (from left to right): Thurmon Jones, Publisher of the North Dallas Gazette, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA President and CEO, Dorothy R. Leavell, Publisher of the Chicago Crusader and NNPA Chairman

who performed several of his hit songs to toast Perry.

Crooner Howard Hewitt belted out several of his hit songs to toast Perry while NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and NNPA Chairman Dorothy R. Leavell, also feted Perry with congratulatory words.

Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry and African Union Permanent Representative to the U.S., Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao also praised Perry.

“You were the first person in the United States to welcome me into your home,” Ambassador Chihombori-Quao said. “I’m forever grateful for our friendship.”

After jokingly speaking about Perry’s abilities as a nurse in which she’s able to “embalm people,” Henry praised his fellow publisher.

“Rosetta Miller Perry is ever acclaimed for all she did during Civil Rights with Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks [and others],” Henry said, prior to a video tribute that included congratulatory

remarks from Nashville Mayor David Briley, Democratic U.S. Rep. James Cooper, Metro Nashville Public Schools Director Dr. Shawn Josephs, and Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover.

A retired U.S. Navy officer and lawyer by trade, Perry has enjoyed much success over the past three decades as publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, a newspaper that reaches more than 150,000 people each week.

A graduate of Memphis State University, Perry recently was named among the Top 10 Most Powerful African Americans of 2018 by the Nashville Voice, a popular Music City publication.

Raised in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania – a melting pot of Russians, Polish, Italians, Greeks, African-Americans and others – during an era when steel was an important part of American Manufacturing, Perry not only grew up near the Allegheny River, but spent her first four years on her aunt’s houseboat.

She’d become an

avid reader of newspapers and magazines, particularly the Black Press where, since childhood, the Pittsburgh Courier was a personal favorite.

Perry has often said she noticed a trend in mainstream publishing towards sensationalism and a focus on crime and negative events, particularly as it related to Black people.

“I knew as a young Black woman it was something that could be corrected through ownership and control of our image, reporting and news coverage,” Perry said.

She and her husband, who counted as Tennessee’s first Black gastroenterologist, founded Perry and Perry Associates in 1990.

After founding the Tribune to focus primarily on health, education and voter registration, Perry and her husband made a conscious decision not to spotlight crime, and to report positive events and focus on success stories and personalities in the Black community.

They did so without ignoring either the problems or the tough issues that minority communities face each day.

On the night she’s honored, Perry said she also was preparing for “a major announcement” involving the future of the Tennessee Tribune.

While she didn’t reveal specifics – only that the announcement will be made in Nashville on Feb. 1 – Perry left with a promise.

“I will always support my folks,” she said. “It’s not about me.”



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

2019 NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Rosetta Miller Perry (center), Publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, with members of her family who helped her to celebrate the evening’s events and national recognition of her many accomplishments.

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Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age

February is American Heart Month

Submitted

Heart disease doesn't happen just to older adults. It is happening to younger adults more and more often. This is partly because the conditions that lead to heart disease are happening at younger ages. February is Heart Month, the perfect time to learn about your risk for heart disease and the steps you need to take now to help your heart.

Heart disease—and the conditions that lead to it—can happen at any age. High rates of obesity and high blood pressure among younger people (ages 35-64) are putting them at risk for heart disease earlier in life. Half of all Americans have at least one of the top three risk factors for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking).

You Could Be at Risk

Many of the condi-

blood pressure is one of the biggest risks for heart disease and other harmful conditions, such as stroke.

- High blood cholesterol. High cholesterol can increase the risk for heart disease. Having diabetes and obesity, smoking, eating unhealthy foods, and not getting enough physical activity can all contribute to unhealthy cholesterol levels.
- Smoking. More than 37 million U.S. adults are current smokers, and thousands of young people start smoking each day. Smoking damages the blood vessels and can cause heart disease.

On average, U.S. adults have hearts that are 7 years older than they should be. Watch this video, and figure out your own "heart age" by taking this quiz.

Other conditions and behaviors that affect your risk for heart disease include:

- Physical inactivity. Staying physically active helps keep the heart and blood vessels healthy. Only 1 in 5 adults meets the physical activity guidelines of getting 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity.
- Unhealthy eating patterns. Most Americans, including children, eat too much sodium (salt), which increases blood pressure. Replacing foods high in sodium with fresh fruits and vegetables can help lower blood pressure. But only 1 in 10 adults is getting enough fruits and vegetables each day. Diet high in trans-fat, saturated fat, and added sugar increases the risk factor for heart disease.

4 Ways to Take Control of Your Heart Health

You're in the driver's seat when it comes to your heart. Learn how to be heart healthy at any age.

Don't smoke. Smoking is the leading cause

of preventable death in the United States. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, learn how to quit.

Manage conditions. Work with your health care team to manage conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. This includes taking any medicines you have

been prescribed. Learn more about preventing and managing high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Make heart-healthy eating changes. Eat food low in trans-fat, saturated fat, added sugar and sodium. Try to fill at least half your plate with vegetables and fruits, and aim for

low sodium options. Learn more about how to reduce sodium.

Stay active. Get moving for at least 150 minutes per week. You can even break up the 30 minutes into 10-minute blocks. Learn more about how to get enough physical activity.



tions and behaviors that put people at risk for heart disease are appearing at younger ages:

- High blood pressure. Millions of Americans of all ages have high blood pressure, including millions of people in their 40s and 50s. About half of people with high blood pressure don't have it under control. Having uncontrolled high
- Obesity. Carrying extra weight puts stress on the heart. More than 1 in 3 Americans—and nearly 1 in 6 children ages 2 to 19—has obesity.
- Diabetes. Diabetes causes sugar to build up in the blood. This can damage blood vessels and nerves that help control the heart muscle. Nearly 1 in 10 people in the United States has diabetes.



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Submitted

Carter Godwin Woodson was born on December 19, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia, to Anna Eliza Riddle Woodson and James Woodson. The fourth of seven children, young Woodson worked as a sharecropper and a miner to help his family. He began high school in his late teens and proved to be an excellent student, completing a four-year course of study in less than two years. After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson worked for the U.S. government as an education superintendent in the Philippines and undertook more travels before returning to the U.S.

“His legacy continues on, with Black History Month being a national cultural force recognized by a variety of media formats, organizations and educational institutions.”

Carter G. Woodson
“Father of Black History”



initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth months of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln.) To help teachers with African-American studies, Woodson later created the Negro History Bulletin in 1937 and also penned literature for elementary and secondary school students. Woodson died on April 3, 1950, a respected and honored figure who received accolades for his vision. His legacy continues on, with Black History Month being a national cultural force recognized by a variety of media formats, organizations and educational institutions.

Woodson then earned his bachelor's and master's from the University of Chicago and went on to receive a doctorate from Harvard University in 1912—becoming the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from the prestigious institution, after W.E.B. Du Bois. After finishing his education, Woodson dedicated himself to the field of African-American history, working to make sure that the subject was taught in schools and studied by scholars. For his efforts, Woodson is often called the "Father of Black History." Writing 'Mis-Education of the Negro' In 1915, Carter G. Woodson helped found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (which later became the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History), which had the goal of placing African-American historical contributions front and center. The next year he established the Journal of Negro History,

a scholarly publication. Woodson also formed the African-American-owned Associated Publishers Press in 1921 and would go on to write more than a dozen books over the years, including A Century of Negro Migration (1918), The History of the Negro Church (1921), The Negro in Our History (1922) and Mis-Education of the Negro (1933). Mis-Education—with its focus on the Western indoctrination system and African-American self-empowerment—is a particularly noted work and has become regularly course adopted by college institutions. In addition to his writing pursuits, Woodson also worked in a number of educational positions, serving as a principal for Washington, D.C.'s Armstrong Manual Training School before working as a college dean at Howard University and the West Virginia Collegiate Institute. Creating Black History Month Woodson lobbied schools and organizations to partici-

pate in a special program to encourage the study of African-American history, which began in February 1926 with Negro History Week. The program was later expanded and renamed Black History Month. (Woodson had chosen February for the



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—OPAL TOMETI

OPAL TOMETI
SOCIAL ACTIVIST & CO-CREATOR OF #BLACKLIVESMATTER
Beyond The Dream keynote speaker
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 | 7 – 9 p.m.
Bowen-Thompson Student Union
Lenhart Grand Ballroom
Opal Tometi is a Nigerian-American strategist, writer and community organizer committed to advancing social justice and human rights. As a co-founder of Black Lives Matter and the Executive Director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Opal works to amplify Black voices to defeat structural racism and discrimination.

SHAUNKING
JOURNALIST, HUMANITARIAN & ACTIVIST
Black issues Conference keynote speaker
Friday, February 22, 2019 | 12:30 p.m.
Bowen-Thompson Student Union
Lenhart Grand Ballroom

Shaun King is a columnist for The Intercept and the Writer-In-Residence at Harvard Law School's Fair Punishment Project, and is amongst the most compelling voices: a humane and passionate advocate for justice and families, and an extremely visible fundraiser for victims of brutality and discrimination.



“WE ARE IN A PAINFUL AND PECULIAR POINT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. SO MUCH IS WRONG THAT IT'S HARD TO KEEP UP, BUT WE MUST.”
—SHAUN KING

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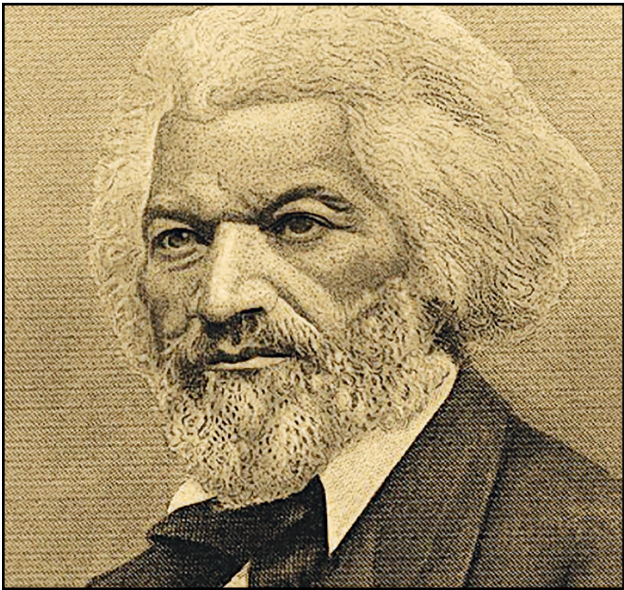
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The critical role of education in the history of African Americans, Part I

By Jennifer Gamble-Theard, M. Ed., ASALH Historian

Dr. Carter G. Woodson once wrote: "If you teach a Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race." Having experienced a lack of education while he was a young child, Woodson understood very well the implications that were



associated with the denial of access to education. After a keen observation of how slavery and its aftermath affected the multitude of Black people in America, he called attention to the critical situation that had resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to education.

The "crisis" in Black education first began in the days of slavery when it was against the law for slaves to learn how to read and write. From the 1600s to the late 1800s, educating Black people—both enslaved and free—was often discouraged, and eventually made illegal in many of the southern states.

With the exception of Maryland and Kentucky, all slave states prohibited educating the enslaved. The rationale was that literacy was a threat to the institution of slavery or a threat to jobs in northern states.

In spite of Anti-Literacy Laws that had been established by state governments, there were slaves that learned to read and write. They were passionate about learning as much as they could from those who were willing to teach them, and some were even self-taught with knowledge obtained from reading the Bible.

Slaves had to hide away so as not to get caught learning to read and write, and they had little resources on hand. At times, those who taught the slaves risked their own safety with threats of harsh beatings and imprisonment.

Even in parts of the antebellum north, education was discouraged for Blacks. The schools that were relegated to Black communities in the north were mostly inadequate and lacked many basic resources.

Whether due to laws, politics or practices, racially segregated schools remained the norm in America during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)

hood public schools, there is a lack of resources, endured overcrowding, a significant racial achievement gap and policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities. Tragically, many poorly performing schools serve as a "pipeline to prison" for some of today's youth.

Even here in St Petersburg, some of our neighborhood schools have been labeled "failure factories." A lack of money and resources from the Pinellas County School Board over a period of about eight years had a negative effect on students' academic performance and social behavior.

Yet, African-American history can remind us that we have been resilient to pitfalls that have plagued our pursuit of knowledge. It's important to know our history so we can become more aware of what we must do to overcome the current barriers of neglect and lack of resources in our schools.

After the Civil War, there was the rise of educational institutions for Black youths. Black colleges and universities were established throughout the south as well as a few northern and mid-western Border States. It was in those halls of higher learning that educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated Black

leaders in every field.

For more than a century, African Americans sought to ensure access to equal educational opportunity. With knowledge of the judicial system, young, educated Blacks fought unrelenting legal challenges of segregated public schools.

Those school cases gave the impetus that was needed in the ongoing struggle for civil rights, social equality and racial justice in the United States.

There are so many elements that depict a more complete picture of the critical role of education in the history of African Americans. This article will be continued in order to present a detailed development of how far Black education has come, and how much further we must go.

Education is a means to empowerment and therefore addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present and future.

Jennifer Gamble-Theard, M.Ed. is a retired Pinellas County educator in the study of history and language. She is also the historian for the St. Petersburg Branch of ASALH.

This article was originally published in The Weekly Challenger.



Richest Person in History is a Black Man

Submitted

History's wealthiest person is a Black man named Mansa Musa, who was an emperor of the West African kingdom of Mali from the year 1312 and 1337. He was worth more than \$400 billion, making him the number one richest person in history... period! **How he obtained his wealth**

Well, Musa's empire extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Niger River - a distance of more than 2,500 miles. According to 100 Amazing Facts About the Negro by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., his territory was contained the world's largest depositories of both salt and gold.

He inherited the land when his predecessor, Abubakari II, never returned from a risky expedition across the Atlantic ocean. But his wealth was more than just an inheritance. He was also a clever business man who helped open key trading routes to North Africa.

A visionary

Musa is also known for introducing West Africa to an architect and poet named Abu Ishaq al-Sahili, who was the first to start building domed palaces to Mali's skyline. This made the city look futuristic, and attracted tourists and investors from all over the world.

He also launched diplomatic relations with the nearby African country of Morocco, which brought even more wealth to his empire.

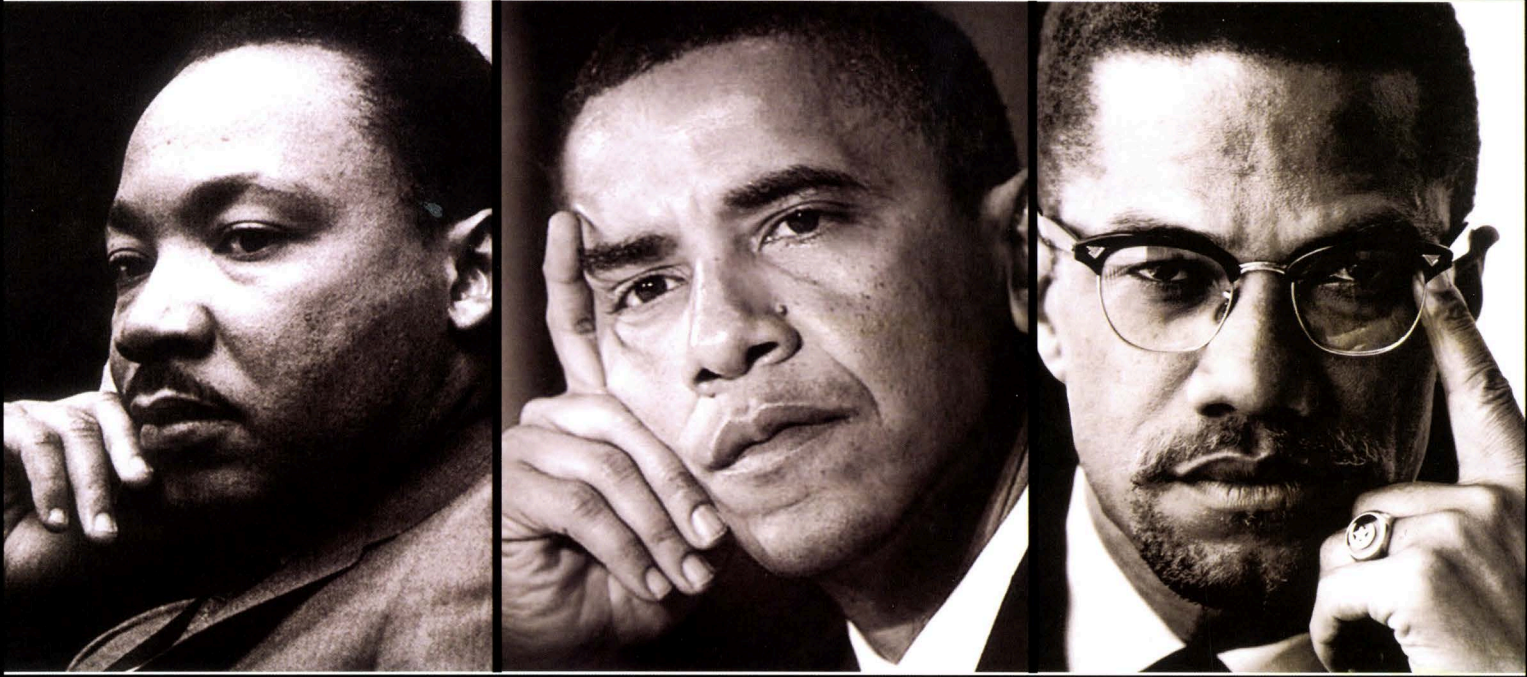
But his biggest win, according to one historian, was that of being able to succeed despite living in a world of racism and prejudice - which often held other leaders back from attaining their financial goals.

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UT Excel sponsors 35th Annual Conference For Aspiring Minority Youth

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Reporter

On January 26, The University of Toledo's office of Toledo Excel and the UT Joint Committee presented the 35th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth. This year's theme was, 'Onward and Upward, Persisting Through Barriers and Obstacles'.

Indeed, a fitting topic for the ambitious minority

youth of today. Like most of us, when we dream our dreams, we only dream the good things. We never imagine something bad might happen, or something or someone may try to stand in our way. For many this is knowledge that only comes with age and experience.

This year's conference sought to give the young folks a heads up, as well as, solutions to the problems they might

face as they venture into the world to pursue their goals in life. Understanding that those situations which seem impossible to solve at the time and try to block your way can be overcome with persistence and sheer determination is valuable knowledge. Knowing these facts and other methods of survival is definitely an advantage in life and that was the message of the day.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Terrell Strayhorn drove this messages home even more during his address, telling the students, "You must learn how to persist. Persisting requires us as aspiring minority youths to be willing to change and adjust to our environment. You must persist through barriers."

Adding, "Someday you will encounter something or someone, who tries to keep from reaching your goals. You must understand that you must not let anything or anyone come in between you and that, which you are designed to do. Persist through the barrier and discover your why. Why you are here and what you are designed for and find your inner light. As we pursue our greatness in the face obstacles and barriers never forget that deep inside if us there is a light that will always be there, and even in our darkest hour we must turn inside and connect with that light and let that light shine," he said.

Dr. Strayhorn is the Founding Chief Executive Officer of, 'Do Good Works Educational Con-

sulting LLS'. He has written over 10 books and is internationally recognized as a student success scholar and the foremost authority on issues of equity and diversity.

Following Dr. Strayhorn, in the second session of the program, was speaker and UT graduate Christopher Scott who showcased his new book, "7 Secrets to Surviving College." Mr. Scott who has a Masters of Education Degree said, 'I'm here today to uplift and teach our high school and college bound students the 7 secrets that it takes to navigate college and be successful in this world. I say take no losses in life. Mr. Scott is the founder of Reach to Teach National, an organization that provides motivational service to youth across the country.

An estimated crowd of over 350, seventh through 12th grade students, parents and members of the community attended this annual free event.

Knowing that his students would benefit from the Excel program, Dr. Romulus Durant, Toledo Public Schools (TPS)

superintendent, brought students from his TPS program called, 'Young Men and Young Women of Excellence,' a peer to peer mentorship group.

Dr. Durant said, "I try to get our students involved in community activities so they can become a part of the community, and one day contribute even more to the community as an adult. We want our youths as well as all youths to continue to aspire. We are TPS proud and very excited to be here today."

Toledo Excel was established in 1988 and is a community project bringing various groups together for a common purpose. That purpose is to help underrepresented students including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans go to college, be successful there and graduate.

The first Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth was held in 1985 and continues to grow in popularity ever since.

The current Director of Toledo Excel is David Young.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

(Left to right) David Young Director Toledo Excel, Keynote Speaker Terrell Strayhorn Ph. D, Marie L. Bush, Ph. D., Mistress of Ceremonies Alexis Means, Lydia Myrick Group XXVIII Toledo Excel and Toledo Council Woman Yvonne Harper.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Keynote Speaker Terrell Strayhorn Ph. D. conferring with David Young Director of Toledo Excel after 35th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth..



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

TPS Superintendent/CEO Dr. Romules Durant (3rd from right) brought his group of TPS students, The Young Men of Excellence to the Aspiring Minority Youth Conference.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The Bowsher High School Chapter of Young Women of Excellence attend Aspiring Minority Youth Conference.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Second Session Speaker UT grad, Christopher Scott with his book, 7 Secrets to Surviving College

Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman to Have Statues in Maryland State House

Submitted
By Micha Green

Some of the most nationally recognized Marylanders happen to be Black, were slaves and made a huge impact on American history; yet they're just now getting statues in the Maryland State House. Abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, who famously helped over 300 slaves escape the South into freedom, will be memorialized in the Old House of Delegates Chamber, and while people are pleased about the decision, some lawmakers are critical of how the statues are coming to be.

The Maryland Board of Public Works, which includes Gov. Larry Hogan (R), Comptroller Peter Franchot (D) and Treasurer Nancy Kopp (D), voted 3-0 to erect statues in honor of Douglass and Tubman.

Maryland House of Delegates speaker Michael Busch (D- District 30A, Anne Arundel County) remarked on the importance of including Douglass and Tubman in the State House.

"The Maryland State House tells the story of our state and our country," Busch said in a statement ac-

cording to The Baltimore Sun. "But there has been a critical component missing inside the walls of the State House: the important contributions of African-Americans to that story. These statues will fill that missing gap and I'm pleased to see this project moving forward," said Busch, who has been advocating for the statues since 2016.

The Department of General Services recommended that \$575,000 be awarded to The Christman Co. of Sterling, Va., which would be contractually responsible for completing the statues in 390 days. A sculptor from StudioEIS, a firm from Brooklyn, NY will be tasked with the creation of the statues.

Despite the excitement surrounding the decision to erect the bronze memorials, certain lawmakers were concerned with the businesses the state is choosing for the project as well as the time the pieces will take to construct.

Del. R. Julian Ivey (D-47A, Prince George's County) raised concerns about not using a minority business when considering who to collaborate with for statue construction.

"If the state of Maryland is going to honor Ms. Tubman

and Mr. Douglass, we need to do it the right way," Ivey wrote in a letter to the board according to a Baltimore Sun report.

Board member Franchot agreed with Ivey and felt that a Maryland artist would have been a stronger option as well.

"Couldn't we find a very talented sculptor right here in Maryland?" Franchot said.

Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller (D-27, Calvert County) expressed his concern in the length of time it will take the company to construct the statue.

"I've been asking for them for two years," Miller said, who had been advocating for the statues with Busch. "They were supposed to be ready and installed in March. They tell me it's going to be another year. What kind of nonsense is that?"

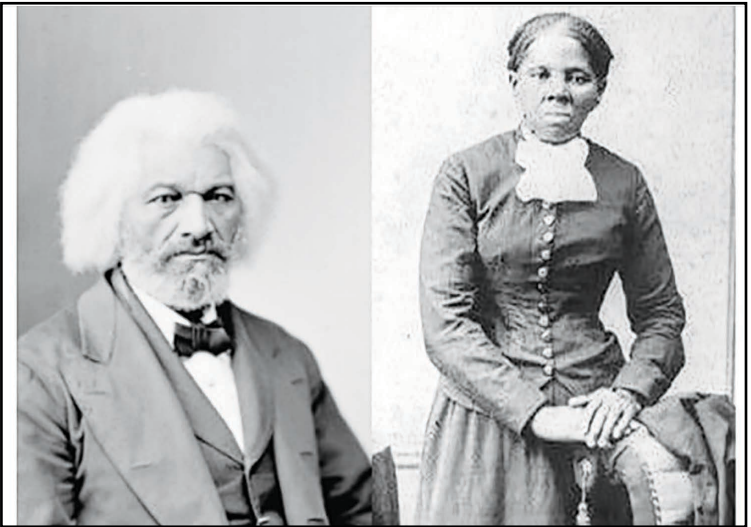
Ivan Schwartz, director and founder of StudioEIS, who plans to present designs of the statue next month when he meets with General Services Department and the Maryland State Archives, said the work takes time and precision.

"You have to do it well," he said. "There's a very high level of skill and craft. In terms

of representation, we try to go back to source material," he said.

StudioEIS also did a George Washington statue that stands in the Maryland State House, which is part of the reason their services were recommended again. "I've measured George Washington's clothing. I've

"We want a place where students walk from the Senate chamber, have the picture taken with George Washington, walk over to the House chamber and have their picture taken with Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, which is important because — guess what — Maryland rejected the 13th,



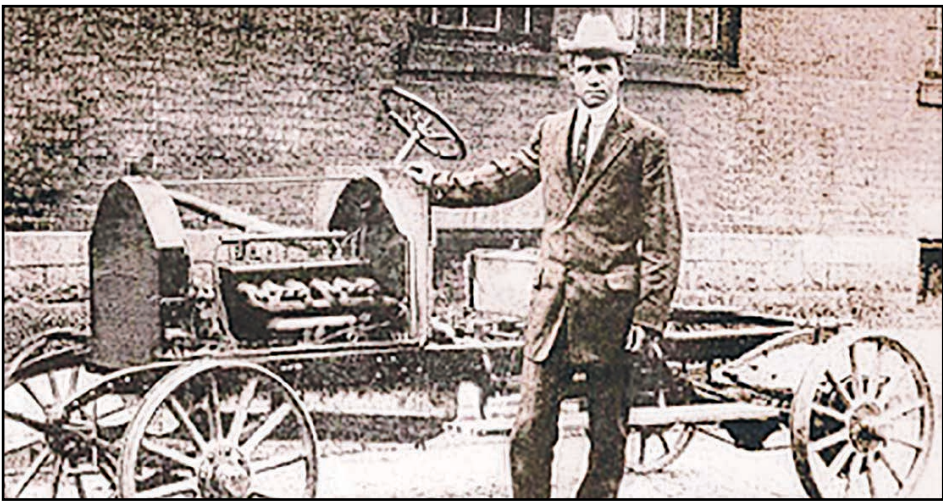
photographed some of Frederick Douglass' clothing," Schwartz said, about his process in ensuring the historical accuracy of the statues.

Miller is anxious about the construction of the statues to ensure all of Maryland's history is shared with those who visit the historic State House.

14th and 15th Amendment," Miller said according to The Baltimore Sun. "They denied those rights, but we want to make sure people understand where we were then and where we are today."

This article originally appeared in The Afro.

This Former Slave Was Making Cars Long Before Henry Ford



Submitted

Although Henry Ford is often considered the father of the American automobile industry, many people don't realize that one of the first manufacturers of automobiles in America was a former slave named Charles Richard Patterson from Ohio.

Getting started

Patterson was a slave in West Virginia before he escaped to freedom in Ohio prior to the Civil War. Once in the north, he bought into a blacksmith business before ultimately taking over control of the company.

Their line of horse-drawn carriage began production in the 1860's, and Patterson continued his work on carriages until his passing. After his

death, his son, Frederick Douglass Patterson, took the reins.

From Horse Carriages to Automobiles

In the early 20th century, they shifted their focus to automobiles. Their first car rolled off the production line in 1915.

Although the small size of the company prevented growth to the mass-production levels which saw Henry Ford grow into a household name, the company did expand out to the manufacturing of trucks and buses as well.

Due to the limited production of Patterson-Greenfield automobiles and their unique history, they are now highly sought after additions to any classic car collection.



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African rhythms, ideas of sin and the Hammond organ: A brief history of gospel music's evolution

By Robert Stephens
Professor of World Music,
University of Connecticut

THE CONVERSATION

The enslaved Africans who first arrived in the British colony of Virginia in 1619 after being forcefully removed from their natural environments left much behind, but their rhythms associated with music-making journeyed with them across the Atlantic.

Many of those Africans came from cultures where the mother tongue was a tonal language. That is, ideas were conveyed as much by the inflection of a word as by the word itself. Melody,



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There are many reasons to view the deceased. It is part of many cultural and ethnic traditions, and many grief specialists believe that viewing aids the grief process, by helping the bereaved recognize the reality of death. Viewing is even encouraged for children, as long as it is their desire to do so, and the process is explained well.

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It is helpful to friends and the community to have an obituary notice published announcing the death and type of service to be held. A notice can be placed in a local newspaper, or on the Internet.

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as we typically think of it, took a secondary role and rhythm assumed major importance.

For the enslaved Africans, music – rhythm in particular – helped forge a common musical consciousness. In the understanding that organized sound could be an effective tool for communication, they created a world of sound and rhythm to chant, sing and shout about their conditions. Music was not a singular act, but permeated every aspect of daily life.

In time, versions of these rhythms were attached to work songs, field hollers and street cries, many of which were accompanied by dance. The creators of these forms drew from an African cultural inventory that favored communal participation and call and response singing wherein a leader presented a musical call that was answered by a group response.

A cornfield holler.

As my research confirms, eventually, the melding of African rhythmic ideas with Western musical ideas laid the foundation for a genre of African-American music, in particular spirituals and, later, gospel songs.

Spirituals: A journey

John Gibb St. Clair Drake, the noted black anthropologist, points out that during the years of slavery, Christianity in the U.S. introduced many contradictions that were contrary to the religious beliefs of Africans. For most Africans the concepts of sin, guilt and the afterlife, were new.

In Africa, when one sinned, it was a mere annoyance. Often, an animal sacrifice would allow for the sin to be forgiven. In the New Testament, however, Jesus dismissed sacrifice for the absolution of sin. The Christian tenet of sin guided personal behavior. This was primarily the case in northern white churches in the U.S. where the belief was that all people should be treated equally. In the South many believed that slavery was justified in the Bible.

This doctrine of sin, which called for equality, became central to the preaching of the Baptist and Methodist churches.

In 1787, reacting to racial slights at St. George Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, two clergymen, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, followed by a number of blacks left and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The new church provided an important home for the spiritual, a body of songs created over two

centuries by enslaved Africans. Richard Allen published a hymnal in 1801 entitled “A Collection of Spirituals, Songs and Hymns,” some of which he wrote himself.

His spirituals were infused with an African approach to music-making, including communal participation and a rhythmic approach to music-making with Christian hymns and doctrines. Stories found in the Old Testament were a source for their lyrics. They focused on heaven as the ultimate escape.

Spread of spirituals

After emancipation in 1863, as African-Americans moved throughout the United States, they carried – and modified – their cultural habits and ideas of religion and songs with them to northern regions.

Later chroniclers of spirituals, like George White, a professor of music at Fisk University, began to codify and share them with audiences who, until then, knew very little about them. On Oct. 6, 1871, White and the Fisk Jubilee Singers launched a fundraising tour for the university that marked the formal emergence of the African-American spiritual into the broader American culture and not restricted to African-American churches.

Their songs became a form of cultural preservation that reflected the changes in the religious and performance practices that would appear in gospel songs in the 1930s. For example, White modified the way the music was performed, using harmonies he constructed, for

example, to make sure it would be accepted by those from whom he expected to raise money, primarily from whites who attended their performances.

As with spirituals, the gospel singers’ intimate relationship with God’s living presence remained at the core as reflected in titles like “I Had a Talk with Jesus,” “He’s Holding My Hand” and “He Has Never Left Me Alone.”

He Never Has Left Me Alone.

The rise of gospel

Gospel songs – while maintaining certain aspects of the spirituals such as hope and affirmation – also reflected and affirmed a personal relationship with Jesus, as the titles “The Lord Jesus Is My All and All,” “I’m Going to Bury Myself in Jesus’ Arms” and “It Will Be Alright” suggest.

The rise of gospel song was also tied to the second major African-American migration that occurred at turn of the 20th century, when many moved to northern urban areas. By the 1930s, the African-American community was experiencing changes in religious consciousness. New geographies, new realities and new expectations became the standard of both those with long-standing residence in the North and the recently arrived.

For the former, there was little desire to retain what some called “corn-shucking” songs, songs associated with plantation life. New arrivals, however still welcomed the jubilant fervor

continued on page 14

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HELP WANTED

CITY OF MAUMEE, OHIO
EXAMINATION FOR POLICE OFFICER

The Maumee Civil Service Commission announces an open non-competitive examination for the position of entry-level police officer for the City of Maumee, Ohio. Purpose of this examination is to establish an eligibility list for police officer.

REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants shall be at least 21 years of age and less than 36 years of age on April 30, 2019, must be a citizen of the United States, OPOTA certified, and have an associate degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university. The minimum equivalent is 96 quarter hours or 61 semester hours.

EXAM:

Full testing services for the position of police officer is through National Testing Network, Inc., at a cost of \$49.00 to each candidate. To fill out an application and schedule a test, go to www.nationaltestingnetwork.com, select Law Enforcement and sign up for the City of Maumee Police Division.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

A **notarized** City of Maumee employment application and copies of: OPOTA Certification, College Transcripts, Birth Certificate and Driver's License must be sent to: City of Maumee, Civil Service Commission, 400 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537. Application and documentation must be received by: April 26, 2019. Exam must be taken by April 30, 2019.

For a complete notice and/or to obtain a City of Maumee employment application, go to: www.maumee.org.

The City of Maumee is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

HELP WANTED

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has a great opportunity for you to join our team! We currently have openings for seasonal maintenance staff. If you are going to work, why not do it in the beautiful outdoors. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. Graduating high school seniors may apply if 18 years of age or older. \$9.00/hr. Duties include cleaning and facility and grounds maintenance. Employment varies through December based on need. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to learn to use power tools and equipment. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

FAMOUS BLACK FACTS & QUOTES

- February 11, 1644:

First Black legal protest in America.
- February 12, 1809:

Abraham Lincoln born in Hardin County, Ky.
- February 9, 1906:

Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African-American to gain national eminence as a poet, dies.
- February 12, 1909:

NAACP founded
- February 7, 1926:

Negro History week originated by Carter G. Woodson is observed for the first time.
- Now to March 10, 1959:

Dr. and Mrs. King spend a month in India studying Gandhi's techniques of non-violence as guests of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr. King resigns as pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to focus full-time on the civil rights movement.
- February 8, 1968:

Three South Carolina State students are killed during segregation protest in

HELP WANTED

NATURAL
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Metroparks Toledo has openings for seasonal Natural Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$11.00/hr. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management preferred. Some outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture preferred. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position description and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

LEAD NATURAL
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Metroparks Toledo has openings for Lead Natural Resources Conservation Assistant. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$12.25/hr. Up to 40 hours per week. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management required. Some outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture required. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position descriptions and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

Orangeburg.

- February 12, 1983:

Pianist Eubie Blake dies.
- February 10, 1992:

Alex Haley, renowned
- February 6, 1993:

Tennis player Arthur Ashe dies. Ashe was the first African American to win at Wimbledon
- February 7, 2006:

Coretta Scott King first interred at King Center.
- February 11, 1644:

First Black legal protest in America.
- February 12, 1809:

Abraham Lincoln born in Hardin County, Ky.

PROPOSALS/BIDS

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Superior Street Parking Structure Restoration 2019 project located at 334 N. Superior Street, Toledo, Ohio 43605, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$339,300.00 and alternate bid 1 is approximately \$177,975.00.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins at Projects@toledoport.org by Friday, February 8, 2019 at 10 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

- February 9, 1906:

Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African-American to gain national eminence as a poet, dies.
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NAACP founded
- February 7, 1926:

Negro History week originated by Carter G. Woodson is observed for the first time.
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- "Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better..."

Carter G. Woodson
- "It would be against all nature for all the Negroes to be either at the bottom, top, or in between...We will go where the internal drive carries us like everybody else. It is up to the individual."

Zora Neale Hurston, 1942
- "Our elevation must be the result of self-efforts and work of our own hands. No other human power can accomplish it. If we but determine it shall be so, it will be so."

Martin R. Delany, 1852
- "It ain't nothing to find no starting place in the world. You just start from where you find yourself."

August Wilson
- "Why pose and posture a self that is other than you, when I know your true name."

Leon Forrest

Ask Alma

Hey Alma, I met a great guy on-line. We talked for a long time before we met and really got a chance to know each other. He is funny and kind and I totally enjoy being with him. He's tall and handsome and has a great job working for the government. He has a condo and a nice car. I mean, he has it going on. We have the same mutual interest and I really want to see us work it out, but there's one thing. He has terrible gaps in his teeth and some are crooked. When he smiles, he looks homeless. I know he has insurance because he has a professional job. I don't want to stop seeing him, but I can't stand it when he opens his mouth. What do you think I should do?

Mizz LaRose
Hey Mizz LaRose,
You ain't said nothing but a word. I cannot tolerate a man with a jacked up grill. I know dental costs are expensive, but if your car and your home are plaaya, how in the world can you walk around with tic-tac-toe teeth? What a super turn off.

Now, let me back step a minute and say, I do admire your persistence and ability to focus on all the positives, he has to offer and not dwell on a negative that can be corrected.

I also agree with you, he should have insurance, but maybe he's afraid. You know many people are, surveys show 75 percent of Americans admit to being afraid of the dentist. Let's help him get past that.

You gotta tell him, cause you really like him. In a nice way, there's no need to be brutal or hurtful. Have him over for dinner, or go out, whichever you prefer. At the end of the evening, after the kiss, right before the goodbye, hand him a card to your dental office. Mention you just recently had your teeth cleaned and your dentist is looking for new patients. Use the word "we" not "you" as you continue with, "We all need to keep up with our dental hygiene." Boom, there you go. If he goes, then he's interested in getting the work done. If not, he doesn't mind the way his teeth look or again, he may be afraid. Give him a few weeks and check on his progress. If the relationship is still on the right track, tell him you're going to make his appointment and go with him, providing the encouragement and support he needs. Remind him, girl, how handsome he is and how professional he'll look when this situation is corrected. Oh, and after his teeth are repaired, don't forget to kiss him every time he flashes that great big beautiful smile.

Dear Alma,
I was married for 12 years. I raised our son and his twin daughters from his first marriage. When we separated and divorced I was heartbroken. But all the children remained with me. They are adults now, all finished college, married with children and living wonderful lives of their own. I've never remarried. Recently after all these years my ex-husband married a very young woman. It works well for the local political life that he lives. He has a high-ranking position with the city and is constantly busy and on the go. Because of his career, I've always remained close to his mother, who is in her late 80's, a



widow, who raised her only son and everyone else on the block. She's the nicest woman you could ever meet and has helped single mothers in our area with childcare for years. I lost my mother when I was young, so I've really enjoyed the bond that we share. She recently told me that, "I'll always be her daughter-in-law (DIL) no matter what." I've always shopped, cooked her meals and taken her to her doctor appointments, but I understand this has to stop. My ex and his new wife should take care of her now, although I don't see that happening. My problem is, now that my ex is remarried, I want to step out of the way when it comes to my mother-in-law (MIL). How do I get them to recognize their responsibility to step up and start taking care of his mother?

— Robin
Dear Robin,
I hear you Robin, but I don't believe you. You don't wanna let go, nor should you. You love your MIL like you would your birth mother, and that's fantastic. What a blessing you two are for one another. Sadly, your marriage didn't last but your obligation to family remains unmovable. Maintaining your role as a stepmother and DIL was not an easy task, I'm sure. There's a reason you did and it's bigger than you and your ex-husband.

Listen, the truth of the matter is the new DIL is not interested in caring for her MIL or she would have stepped up or paid someone to do it by now. In the same breathe, your ex couldn't find his mother in the forest for the trees and that ain't gonna change any time soon. When and if your ex and his new misses want to make a change, they'll let you know. I'm sure both don't find it broken, so there's no need to fix it, at least not for now. Not to mention, your MIL probably wouldn't welcome the change anyways. That's why she told you your role, in her heart, will remain the same.

I say, continue to be her caregiver. I know this isn't ideal, but it's doable. Do it out of love for family, not as a favor to your ex. Your MIL is in her 80's, commit to loving her delightfully for the rest of her days. I promise you, your heart will be glad you did.
To: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com

Ask Dr. Sam

Love is powerful

Commentary:
Most people want to experience true love, but what does that mean? Love is powerful. Love will make you do things you wouldn't do under normal circumstances. Love is more than being in a relationship, it's a 24-hour commitment to your love.

Love is powerful, love is a choice, it will make you commit to your partners well- being, their health, dreams, happiness, mistakes, victories and making their life better. Love is powerful because it doesn't judge you on past mistakes, bad decisions or unauthorized entry. It loves you in the here and now.

Love will always look at you from the end back to the beginning. Understand the greatest love always starts from God and ends up in you. If you ever come across your one true love you will understand love is powerful.

Question 1)
Dear Dr. Sam, I have never been in love before, but I am waiting on the day it will come into my life. My question is what should I expect when it comes? (Lori, 36)

Answer)
Lori, when loves comes it will show up in so many ways. For example, you will feel empowered, free, and divine. Everything looks



Dr. Samuel L. Mallette, III
www.sammallette.com 419.972.1SAM

good, things that mattered before don't matter that much. The euphoria that love brings is unbelievable you will feel it. Lori when love comes your way, write me and let me know what happens. Love is powerful.

For answers to "Ask Sam," speaking engagements, or questions and responses go to drsam-mallette@gmail.com check out our site for everything from new updates, consulting, relationships, business, sex, manhood, empowering women, education, and health/wellness just to name a few. www.thedrsamshow.us

African rhythms

continued from page 12

and emotionalism of camp meetings and revivals that included, among other things, the ring shout, a form of singing that in its original form included singing while moving in a counter-clockwise circle often to a stick-beating rhythm.

The 1930's were also the era of Thomas A. Dorsey, the father of gospel music. Dorsey began his campaign to make gospel acceptable in church after the tragic death of his wife and child. A former bluesman who performed under the name of Georgia Tom, Dorsey, after his tragic loss, rededicated his life to the church. His first gospel song published was "If You See My Savior." He went on to publish 400 gospel songs, with the best known being "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

Thomas A. Dorsey discusses his gospel song "Precious Lord."

Dorsey was also one of the founders of the first gospel chorus in Chicago, and, with associates, chartered the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, the precursor to gospel groups in today's black churches.

Gospel song and the Hammond organ

In the '30s black gospel churches in the North originally, began using the Hammond organ, which had been newly invented, in services. This trend quickly spread to St. Louis, Detroit, Philadelphia and beyond. The Hammond was introduced in 1935 as a cheaper version of the pipe organ. A musician could now play melodies

and harmonies but had the added feature of using his feet to play the bass as well. This enhanced the players' ability to control melody, harmony and rhythm through one source.

The Hammond became an indispensable companion to the sermon

“
The Hammond became an indispensable companion to the sermon and the musical foundation of the shout and praise breaks. Solo pieces within the service imitated the rhythms of traditional hymns in blues-infused styles that created a musical sermon, a practice still common in gospel performances.

”
and the musical foundation of the shout and praise breaks. Solo pieces within the service imitated the rhythms of traditional hymns in blues-infused styles that created a musical sermon, a practice still common in gospel performances.

Gospel's journey continues today producing musicians of extraordinary dedication who continue to carry the word.

Louisville airport renamed in honor of Muhammad Ali

City officials expect the name change will attract tourists to the city

By Frederick H. Lowe
BlackmansStreet.Today

Louisville, Kentucky's International Airport has been renamed the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport in honor of Muhammad Ali, a Louisville native, three-time heavyweight boxing champ and a world-renown figure who caused people to stop in their tracks, reach out to touch him, or just stand happily in his glow.

The list of his fans included young black men who wanted to emulate his boxing style, older black men who took pride in his unabashed confidence, boasting "I am the Greatest," and anti-Vietnam War activists who respected his courageous refusal to be inducted into military and fight in a war he abhorred and deemed racist.

Ali could even call Leonid Brezhnev, president of the Soviet Union, a fan. A smiling Brezhnev met with Ali for 35 minutes in 1978 at the Kremlin in Moscow.

I never saw my dad, Mitchell Lowe, smile so much as when Brezhnev met Ali. It was as though he and other black men had met one of the most-powerful men in the world.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer on Thursday announced Louisville Regional Airport Authority voted on Wednesday to rename the airport in honor of Muhammad Ali who born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville on January 17, 1942. Today would have been his 76th birthday.

A formal renaming is scheduled for the week of June 3rd at the "I am Ali" festival, which will be held at the Muhammad Ali Center, Jean Porter, communications director for Mayor Fischer, told BlackmansStreet.Today. That's when signs should be installed throughout the airport and on roads leading to the airport.

More than 3.2 million passengers and 4.7 million pounds of cargo passed through the airport in 2014. The airport has three runways and sits on 1,500 acres. The airport is home to World-

port, the worldwide hub of United Parcel Service or UPS..

The Kentucky Air National Guard's 123 Airlift Wing operates C-130 transport aircraft from the co-located Louisville Air National Guard Base.

During the Kentucky Derby's derby week, which begins April 27, the airport fills up with private jets flying in the wealthy to Louisville to watch and bet on horses at Churchill Downs. The actual race is scheduled for May 4 this year.

"Muhammad Ali belonged to the world, but he only had one hometown, and fortunately, that is our great city of Louisville. Muhammad became one of the most well-known people to ever walk the Earth and has left a legacy of humanitarianism that has inspired billions of people," Mayor Fischer said. "It is important we, as a city, further champion The Champ's legacy and the airport renaming is a wonderful next step."

The Airport Authority Board signed an agreement with Muhammad Ali Enterprises LLC for use of his name.

Lonnie Ali, his widow, said, "I am proud the Louisville Regional Airport Authority and the City of Louisville are supportive of changing the name of the Louisville International Airport to reflect Muhammad's impact on the city and his love for his hometown."

By renaming the airport, Louisville expects to boost the city's tourism.

"Adding Muhammad Ali's name to the Louisville International Airport reminds travelers from around the world that our city is a place to have a touchpoint with one of the most-recognized icons of all time," said Karen Williams, president and CEO of the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

When Muhammad Ali died June 3, 2016, at the age of 74, city officials learned how much he meant to the world. "Visitors flocked to Louisville from nearly every re-

gion of the globe to pay their respects to their champion," said Donald Lassere, president and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center.

He meant a lot to almost everyone.

My brother, Karl, called me in Chicago to ask if I had attended his funeral since I had met "The Champ" twice and introduced my brother to him.

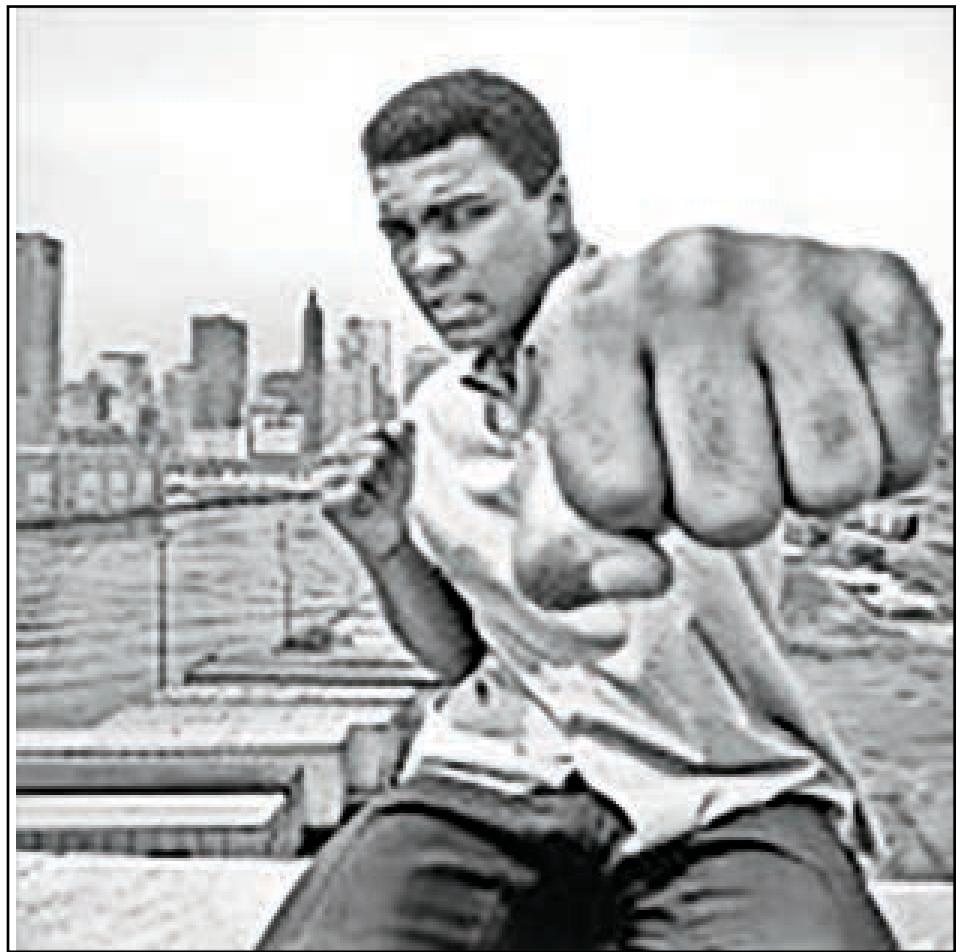
The acceptance of Muhammad Ali's name and Muhammad Ali as person is significant.

In 1960 at the Olympics in Rome, he took home the Gold Medal after winning the heavyweight championship.

With pride, he wore the medal around his neck. A Louisville restaurant, however, refused to serve him because he was black. Ali, then known as Cassius Clay, angrily threw his gold medal into the Ohio River.

However, it was a white Louisville businessman who invested in Ali as he moved to the top of profession.

Clay joined the Nation of Islam in 1964 after he defeated the heavy favorite Sonny Liston for the



world heavyweight title.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad of the Nation of Islam renamed Clay Muhammad Ali. He told me that Clay was a slave owner and blacks were given the last names of their property owners.

The Chicago Tribune, The New York Times and other sports writers

from other publications refused to call him Muhammad Ali. And even some blacks dismissed his newly adopted name.

Boxer Ernie Terrell refused to call him Muhammad Ali. During a heavyweight championship boxing match in 1967 at the Astrodome in Houston, Ali verbally taunted the overmatched Terrell during

the 15-round fight, asking, "What's my name?"

Toward the end of his life, sportswriters still didn't respect him.

He begin to slur his words, a sign of Parkinson's Disease, which would eventually kill him. Some sportswriters maligned him, saying he was addicted to heroin.

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Students call for a National Voting Day



The Jones Leadership Academy of Business Chess Club makes a move to support a call for a National Voting Day. Voting is one of the greatest expression of a Democracy and since America is one of the greatest examples of Democracy, a National Holiday should be our next smart move. Left: Sophia Parish, Russell Chapman, Tyrin Pryor and Tavares Gill.

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City of St. Pete to honor Ray Charles and his song

Submitted
By The Weekly Challenger

ST. PETERSBURG — The City of St. Petersburg plans to declare Feb. 15 “Ray Charles Day,” with a proclamation and a musical evening at The Studio@620. A group of presenters and local musicians will showcase the legacy of Ray Charles, whose first recorded song in 1950 was “The St. Pete Florida Blues.”

While that song, also called “I Met My Baby There,” is no secret—you can find at least three versions on YouTube—it has been under-appreciated as a musical icon of the city until now.

“It may be the happiest slow blues song ever recorded,” said Roy Peter Clark, a writing teacher at the Poynter Institute, who has spent two years leading this effort. “He meets the girl of his dreams, right here in St. Pete, Florida.”

Actually, he met the girl while he was still a teenager, living and working in Tampa. But when it came time to write the song, it sounded better with the name “St. Pete.”

“Back then,” said Clark, “Tampa may have gotten the airport, the university and the football stadium, but we got the song.”

Although Ray Charles Robinson was born in Georgia and is associated with that state because of his classic rendition of “Georgia on My Mind,” he was raised in the little north Florida town of Greenville. His formative years were difficult. The family was poor. His older brother drowned. Ray lost his vision.

He attended the St. Augustine School for the Blind, where he developed his musical skills. In his teenage years, he lived and worked across the state with gigs in Jacksonville, Orlando and then Tampa. There he was known as R.C. Robinson.

Into the 1950s and 60s, Ray Charles became one of America’s most versatile performers, a singer, musician, composer, bandleader and arranger. Over time he became master of countless musical genres: gospel, jazz, rock, country, rhythm and blues, rockabilly, soul. His version of “America the Beautiful” has been applauded as our second National Anthem.

Over a half century, Ray Charles often returned to Florida with many visits to St. Pete, including performances at the Manhattan Casino, a venue for black performers in the days of

segregation, but also at the Bayfront Center and at an outdoor concert at Campbell Park.

“For all these reasons,” reads the proclamation, “we declare Ray Charles as an Adopted Son of St. Petersburg Florida, and his song an official song of the city.”

Clark sees this, not as an end, but as a launch point of creativity for the city. “We are urging the celebration of Ray’s life and work in images, texts and music, on murals and statues, in museums, and in musical performances and festivals in his name and ours.”

Speakers and performers will include author John Capouya, Alex Harris and His Band, The Scheiber Family, J.J. Pattishall, Eric Deggans, Lillian Dunlap, Paul Wilborn, with a special guest appearance by soul artist Latimore.

Mark your calendars for St. Pete Celebrates the Florida Legacy of “The Genius” Ray Charles Friday, Feb. 15 @ 7 p.m. at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S. Tickets start at \$10. For more information, please call 727-895-6620.

This article originally appeared in The Weekly Challenger.



BGSU registration deadline for Black Issues Conference featuring Shaun King , Feb. 8

Submitted
By Amber Stark

BOWLING GREEN, O – A powerful line-up of speakers and events is scheduled for Bowling Green State University’s annual “Beyond the Dream” series, which includes the 19th annual Black Issues Conference.

Shaun King, journalist, activist and writer-in-residence for Harvard Law School’s Fair Punishment Project, will speak on “Civil Rights Today: The News Civil Rights Movement” at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Tickets are \$35 for the general public and \$20 for non-BGSU college students and high school students. Attendees must register by Feb. 8 at bgsu.edu/shaunking.

In addition to the keynote luncheon, the conference includes a diverse set of workshops and panel discussions led by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, administrators and member of local, regional and national communities.

“The Black Issues Conference is an opportunity for BGSU to share with northwest Ohio current research and knowledge impacting the African-American community on the local, state, regional and national levels,” said Ana Brown, interim director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. “The presenters come from a broad base of experience, from nationally recognized speakers and activists to undergraduate students for whom this is the first opportunity to share information with an audience this size.”