



The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 24, No. 13

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 24, 2013



African American Festival

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Should Christians Act Like Crips?

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

"There are many people who are looking for a way — any possible way — to believe in America and its core value of justice for all. They keep getting disappointed, let down tremendously over and over. It takes a toll."

— Rev. Dr. D. L. Perryman



It is good to see fresh African-American voices from the faith community stepping up to share the leadership load and carrying some of the activism burden "to the streets." The community benefits from not having to always see or hear from the same person on every issue. Without new strategies and the infusion of the enthusiasm and diverse talent of additional faith leaders such as Chris McBrayer, organizer of Toledo's Trayvon Martin prayer vigil, and Manifested Word Church's Randall Parker, it may be impossible to rekindle the dying embers of the Black Church's local relevance.

I have been speaking about the challenge of responding to black pain with social justice advocate Romal Tune, who has released his debut book, *God's Graft: Inspiring Stories for Teens*. Part three of our four part conversation deals with practical ways the faith community can restore its validity, while bringing about reconciliation and healing from the pain and brokenness among today's black youth.

Perryman: What are your thoughts on the not guilty verdict of a white neighborhood volunteer accused of the killing of black unarmed teen Trayvon Martin?

Tune: Disappointed, but not surprised. The verdict sends yet another message to young black males in urban communities that people don't care. The anger we see stems from sadness and fear. Fear that their child may be next, sad that society missed yet another opportunity to act justly on behalf of our black children. At the end of the day, we just want to be equal. The verdict sends the message that "perhaps one day but not yet." People are tired of hoping and tired of dreaming, they want a right now God in their right now situation.

Perryman: Speaking of "right now" solutions and situations, there have been calls for conversations on race or fixes emanating from outside the community. Locally, I have been promoting solutions from within the community to deal with the plight of young black men such as the development of a comprehensive advocacy effort and developing lead-

ership capacity. You have insightfully spoken about how the Church can learn strategically from the gang paradigm to heal and reconnect black youth.

Tune: Yes. I have been providing a workshop series across the country called "Should Christians Act Like Crips" by taking this whole paradigm of how gangs recruit and why they're so successful at it. Gangs are larger than most youth ministries. So the question is what are they doing so well that gets the attention of our children and moves them into these unhealthy environments? What can we, as faith leaders, be doing with recruitment strategies so that we're competing more effectively for the lives of young people?

We are only visible and recruit on Sundays inside a building. If the gangs only recruited one day a week inside the house they would die. And so, we have to then go out Monday through Sunday to compete for the lives of our young people.

Perryman: That makes a lot of sense. Tell us more about what the Crips or other gangs are doing that

perhaps the Church should be doing.

Tune: Gangs have consistently grown every year and when you understand gang culture and how gangs recruit you see that as a very intentional effort. Gangs know their community. FBI reports show that the number one location they recruit is public schools. The targets are children of single parents, kids who are in environments where there's high need. Gangs know where the schools are and what the kids need. They build relationships. They're highly visible seven days a week. Gangs are present after school when kids are walking home and hanging out at night seeing the needs

and building the relationships. Young people join them for a sense of family, community, and not being rejected. Kids want to stop being bullied and gangs will almost replace that absent parent by showing love and affection. They will attempt to develop a common bond because just about everybody that's in the gang can understand the sense of brokenness and rejection.

So the church can, like the gangs, step in and show youth love and offer them companionship. We can also protect kids who are being bullied. We can hang out at or near the schools to give kids a viable option to gang membership. So it really comes down to how

can we effectively compete in the public spaces of our neighborhoods. Are we as visible as the gang members? Are we the same types of things that kids join gangs for - community, protection, food, shelter? Then the task is to develop strategies and build the infrastructure for ministry and programming that allows us to be present and people wanting to join us rather than the gang. It's really about perpetuating true community and ensuring that the practical, spiritual, emotional and social needs of an individual are met. A gang attempts to do the same thing.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

July 25-27

Historic Third Baptist Youth Summit:

"Discovering and Developing my God-given Purpose;"

Education and Recreation workshops;

Wed: 5-8 p.m. – Swag Nite – speaker Rev. Calvin Sweeney;

Thur: 5-9 p.m. – speakers Leslie Karen Garner and Min John Hicklin;

Fri: 9-3 p.m. – panel discussion

July 27

St. Stephen's COGIC Community Day:

11 am to 5 pm; Food, fun, activities

July 27-28

Calvary MBC Women's Day Celebration:

Saturday – Prewomen's Day Luncheon – 11:30 am, Speaker Trishia Ethridge of Greater the Dream Church;

Sunday – Women's Day Service at 10:45 am, Speaker Elder Cythian Johnson of Agape Love Ministries

Aaron's House 5 K Walk and Run: 9 am to midnight: 567-277-5352

August 10

Evangelical Church of God: Discipleship Training/Workshop for Christians; 9 am; Furthering the knowledge of the ministry: 419-297-3530

August 23-24

5th Annual sacred Strings Showcase Concert: Mays Chapel Unity Holy Church;

Fri – 5 to 9 pm; Sat – 3 to 8 pm; Celebrating African American steel guitar tradition

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Anger Follows the Trayvon Martin Verdict: There Is Context and Then There Is Context

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
The Truth Contributor

President Obama has added his voice to a cacophony of voices seeking to contextualize the anger and grief in the black and other progressive communities over the Zimmerman acquittal to the rest of the nation, who "Just don't get it!"

Black victims of inter-"racially" profiled murders, such as the fate of Trayvon Martin at the hands of George Zimmerman, engender outrage and frustration just as in the cases of intra-"racial" murders within the black community. The two categories of ratta-tat murdering of black citizens stem from the same poisonous well of racialization servicing the "wealth-protection industrial complex" that I describe below.

President Obama eloquently provided a somewhat pedestrian contextualization of the progressive anger felt in the black community, and even that has been met with howls from the right. The contextual narrative Obama provided for the raw anger and frustration blacks are beset with included a focus on common social conditions and experiences that blacks disproportionately suffer: high unemployment; dysfunctional schools; concentrated poverty; racial profiling; a criminal justice system suffused with racism; war on drugs; night-after-night of "bleeding and leading" evening news stories that sensationalize black perpetrators; the common American movie motif where "the black guy almost always dies first," thereby subliminally emphasizing that blacks are expendable and, of course, historical legacies of slavery and Jim Crow precepts operating in institutions and in intergroup dynamics; these among other social ills of racialization.

However, beyond that important context there is another context for explaining what just happened and for suggesting future courses of action.

From Florida to Kansas, Republicans control the legislatures in some "Stand Your Ground" or "Shoot



Patterson

First" states by two-thirds to over three-quarters. Obviously, some conservative Democratic state legislators and those representing rural districts also advocate Shoot First laws, but a legislator at the state or federal level can hardly be allowed to put on a Republican uniform without fetishizing guns, oil and gas, global financial market deregulation and the control of women's bodies.

It is worth emphasizing that blacks alone cannot successfully make the heavy lift of changing the Shoot First laws and the wealth-protection industrial complex laws and policies. Although some 55 percent of all blacks live in the South, David Bositis of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has noted that less than five per-



cent of southern black state legislators serve in the majority. Fortunately, demographic changes underway everywhere in the United States will not allow business as usual for Shoot First laws and the acceleration of inequality to continue.

For example, persons of color already constitute the majority of the under-five population in the country, and the Latino population in the South is growing some three times faster than at the national level.

The outrage and sense of

"we aren't going to take this anymore" in response to the murder of Emmett Till and the Jim Crow public transportation as precipitated by the arrest of Rosa Parks were strategically linked by Civil Rights and other progressive organizations with broader demands for fundamental social change. A sense of such effort is being repeated following the murder of Trayvon Martin with impunity.

Shoot First laws and acceleration of inequality policies go hand-in-hand. Yes,

gun manufacturers simply want to make more profits from more gun sales, and they have their trade association (i.e., National Shooting Sports Foundation) and the NRA working to make that happen, but this is all minor in comparison to, if not a means to an end, the "wealth-protection industrial complex."

In other words, much of the elite indirectly influencing the direction of the country today, ensuring federal and state statutes, court rulings and policies

that protect their wealth against taxes, redistribution and regulation is their primary concern. Right-wing constituencies of gun rights expansion and anti-abortion crusaders reliably have their issues framed in a manner to energize their voters to the polls to, at the end of the day, protect elite wealth.

In other words, the wealth-protection indus-

— Continued on Page 5

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EOPA Hires New Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that the Board of the Economic Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc. (EOPA) has approved Mr. Stanley Lowe of Pittsburgh, PA as EOPA's next Chief Executive Officer.

EOPA is undergoing significant change. On July 1, for the first time in decades, we found ourselves no longer providing Head Start services to the community.

Many people thought that the loss of Head Start would mean the end of EOPA. The people close to EOPA know that is not true.

We remain focused on serving and empowering the most vulnerable of this community, as part of a broader goal of creating a more prosperous community with opportunity for all.

If anyone doubted the seriousness of our intent, the person we have hired as our next CEO should put an end to the doubts.

Stanley Lowe is the right person at the right time for EOPA. He has the experience, the skills, and the focus we need to create a new EOPA. Even more importantly, he understands how to build partnerships and community support—two things we must have for EOPA to thrive in the future.

In short, he offers an exact fit for what



EOPA currently needs.

Some of the things that jumped out at us when we reviewed his resume were:

Managing 450 employees with the City of Pittsburgh's Housing Authority. Build a comprehensive \$160 million housing strategy in the City of Galveston, involving a wide variety of agencies, including the Federal government.

Removed Pittsburgh from HUD's "Troubled Housing List." Organized a city-wide conference on vacant buildings and lands in Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Raised public and private funds for Hope VI in Pittsburgh—total development costs exceeded \$100 million. Has raised funds from some of the country's largest private foundations.

This is only a sample of his skill set, but I am sure you can see what made Mr. Lowe attractive to EOPA.

Beyond that, he is a man of determination and purpose. He is focused, he is an achiever, and above all, he relishes the challenge facing us here at EOPA.

EOPA extends a special thanks to the entire community for your patience, understanding and trust while we were completing this phase of our organizational transformation process. We also thank Mayor Mike Bell and his Department of Neighborhoods staff, the Lucas County Commissioners, the Toledo Community Foundation, Ohio Development Services Agency, and the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies for your valued assistance. Finally, thanks and a special appreciation to the board, staff and employees of the Economic Planning Association, Inc. for cohesiveness and focus in bringing about the change necessary for our organization to not only survive, but to also thrive both now and in the days to come.

Reverend Dr. Donald Perryman,

Chair

EOPA Board of Directors

African Art Has Arrived!!

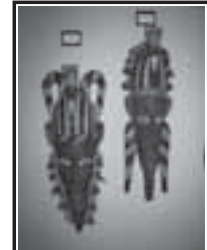
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— Continued from Page 3

trial complex consists of legions of lawyers, lobbyists, accountants, financial analysts, industry trade associations, conservative think tanks, political parties and media outlets and commentators, and political machines such as ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) to protect the wealth of elites and shrink the welfare state.

Currently, although the ingredients of a countervailing force exist, the progressive community writ large is no match for the wealth-protection industrial complex. Among the quick and much-needed actions to be taken is to prevent the 2014 midterm elections from being the way midterm elections have historically been: whiter, older and more con-

servative.

Blacks outvoted whites in 2012 and, rather than that being an anomaly, that should be routine every two years, notwithstanding changes to voting laws. We also have to support Latino organizations, where such support is desired, to become active members of the electorate in much bigger numbers.

To match the power of the wealth-protection industrial complex, members of the progressive community also need to take a page from the corporate community by having "interlocking boards." Corporate interlocking occurs when executives, directors and board members serve on various corporate boards. This didn't happen accidentally or spontaneously in the corporate community but instead was coordinated

by institutions such as the Business Roundtable and the Chamber of Commerce and their predecessors. Progressive organizations by comparison are much more siloed.

In memory of Trayvon and others whose lives have been snuffed out due to gun violence, be more politically active than the corporate community. Join and support progressive networks and campaigns and remain vigilant.

Rubin Patterson, PhD

Chairman, Sociology & Anthropology

Director, Africana Studies

Director, Institute for the Study and Economic Engagement of Southern Africa



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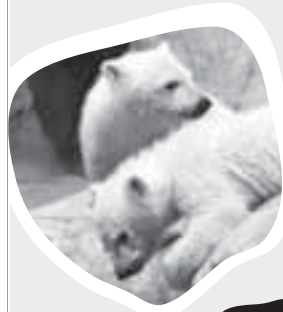


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Shanda Gore, Ed.D, Named Chief of Diversity for The University of Toledo

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Shanda Gore, Ed.D., has been at The University of Toledo for approximately 10 years, consistently adding more duties to her portfolio during that time. This summer, the associate vice president will be adding the title of chief diversity officer for the university.

As far as Gore can determine, it's the first time the university has had a chief diversity officer – someone who directs such activities for all the UT campuses and “ensures the campus is inclusive and welcoming,” she said recently.

As such, her number one concern will be to make sure that “diversity is a strength of ours, so that students feel welcome and recognize that their self-identification is important,” she added.

To accomplish this task, Gore leads a team of seven to train all faculty and staff in diversity and, in addition, works closely with the human resources department to cover all bases.

As momentous a task as monitoring the culture of such a large institution may be, it is not the

only university position for Gore. Her workdays are full with a variety of duties.

Gore has been executive director of the UT Minority Business Development Center (formerly the “incubator”) for almost four years and the executive director of the UT Eberly Center for Women for the past two years.

She also serves as chairman of the President's Council on Diversity and facilitates the Committee on African American Recruitment, Retention and Scholarship Support for the Health Science Campus.

Gore is a very busy person especially since most of these chores come at a time of expansion, implementation and/or change.

At the Eberly Center, for example, Gore has revamped the program offerings in order to more fully engage the community. Over the past few years, the Women's Success Series, a nine-week program designed to assist women with job seeking skills has brought in about 30 to 40 women per ses-



sion from the community.

As a result of those numbers, Gore and her staff realized that they could teach such skills but the women may still have not been prepared to go out into the world and impress interviewers as completely as they might have hoped. What was missing?

“I don't have anything to wear,” was a complaint too often heard after all other concerns had been

addressed.

The solution was to build Kate's Closet and solicit from the community gently-used shoes, suits, blouses, purses, scarves – the whole ensemble. Over the past few months, the staff has assembled over 800 such items from size 0 to 22, said Gore. Moreover, the wardrobe issue has been folded into the services provided at the Eberly Center so that job seekers will have access to information on make-up, selecting the appropriate wardrobe, hair styling, and so forth.

Kate's Closet will open for business in August.

And over at the Minority Business Development Center, as the fourth year draws to a close, nine minority business owners are currently housed in the Scott Park Campus facility, another 13 are affiliated with the Center.

One purpose of the Development Center is to provide an opportunity for minority business enterprises to bid on jobs – to receive the financing and bonding

and become viable competitors in the bidding process, said Gore when the program was unveiled several years ago.

But, that's not the end of Gore's activities. She keeps busy after she leaves her day-time job.

She was, for example, just elected president of the Toledo Public Schools' Foundation. The Foundation supports students in their quest for higher education and provides hundreds of scholarships annually to some of the best and brightest of the group.

Gore will be working closely with Interim Superintendent Romulus Durant to ensure consistency and to support the goals of TPS.

Gore herself knows full well the value of scholarships. The Bay Village, OH native who attended high school in Maumee was a 50 Men & Women Scholarship recipient who earned all three degrees – bachelor's, masters and doctorate – from Bowling Green State University thanks to the availability of scholarships.

She's paying it forward.

Prison Awareness Day

Saturday, August 17, 2013

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Baptist New Life Center

1430 West Bancroft, Toledo

Remember those in prison...

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9th Annual African American Festival

Ninth Annual African American Festival celebrates history, health, and education

By Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner's Truth reporter

History, health and education were the focus for the ninth annual African American Festival, held the weekend of July 18-20, 2013.

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union continued the annual festivities with a Friday prayer breakfast, Saturday parade, and Saturday to Sunday festival.

This year's prayer breakfast was held at Bethlehem Baptist Church New Life Center on Bancroft Street. The breakfast honored: Jewyana Anderson, James Boatman, Sr., Pastor Jerry Boose, C. Brown, Eddie Byrd, Andre Cowell, Willie Jackson, Jr., Doris Roberts, Nabil Shaheen, Myron and Sandra Stewart.

On a bright sunning Saturday morning, the annual parade began at 10 a.m. at the corner of Dorr and Smead, and finished at Smith Park. Elected officials, politi-

cal candidates, community groups, faith-based groups, government agencies, and businesses greeted parade crowds along the route.

The festival opened at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Dozens of vendors filled the open festival space at Scott Park. Vendors offered food, clothing, insurance, games, health and wellness information, career opportunities, and also arts and crafts for children. There were also a number of charter and public school information tables offering enrollment.

Saturday's entertainment began with the drill and drum corps of Imagine School on Clay Avenue followed by Imagine School on Clay Avenue karate class, The Five Deep Band, The JAMM Band, Jay Rush Deep Jennings, Joseph Vincelli, Ramona Collins, and Zapp.

On Sunday, the entertainment featured: The Dramatics, Rance Allen Group, Debra Brock, Darius Coleman & the DC Singers, the JAMM Band, Katrina Barnhill, and the Toledo Youth Choir.

The African American Festival, is organized by the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, under the guidance of CEO Suzette Cowell, and is sponsored by a host of companies and institutions:

13abc, Buckeye Cable-System, BP, The Blade, City of Toledo, Fifth Third Bank, Hollywood Casino, Hot 97.3 fm, Juc 107.3 fm, Key Bank, Mix 95.7 fm, The Sojourner's Truth, State Farm, Toledo CW 5, Toledo Refining Company, The Toledo Journal, The University of Toledo, WoodForest National Bank, and Yark Automotive.



Above, State Rep Michael Ashford and supporters.



Right, Zapp Band performer.



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9th Annual African American Festival



Above, Suzette Cowell, CEO TUFUCU, and parade participants

Left and right, Zapp Band members.



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9th Annual African American Festival



Domestic Violence group marching in the parade.



Supporters of Vallie Bowman-English.



Above, saxophonist Joseph Vincelli.

Right, Ramona Collins walks through the crowd as she entertains.

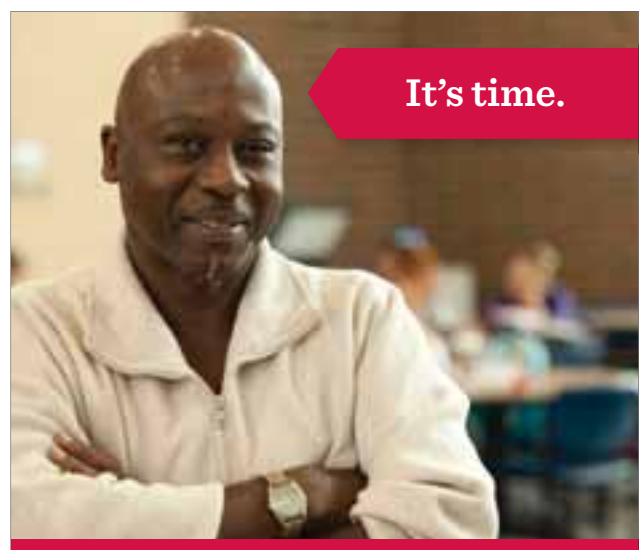


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African American Male Wellness releases schedule of activities

Walk Initiative

1st Annual African American Male Wellness Walk/Run-Toledo, Saturday, August 3, 2013 @

African American Legacy Project @ 1326 Collingwood St., Toledo, OH

Since 2004, the Central Ohio community has come together in August to Walk and raise awareness about health and wellness. The National Center for Urban Solutions, founded the Walk in response to a health crisis in the black community: Black men dying earlier and at higher rates, from preventable illnesses, than any other ethnic group.

The five mile Walk and Run is a dramatic illustration of the importance of taking control of our health and wellness. The Walk goes a step beyond raising awareness by providing access to free health screenings. The screenings are an integral part of the Walk event. Physicians are on hand to go over results with participants. Vendors provide prevention and health related information on the Walk Community Plaza. Today, the Walk is the largest health initiative of its kind in Central Ohio, providing the largest numbers of free screenings of any single site event in Central Ohio.

Groups from throughout Ohio are participating.

Community Outreach and Engagement

Grassroots outreach has helped the initiative grow. More than 50 health care and prevention organizations participate in the Walk. That number includes the agencies providing screenings, vendors distributing health wellness information and Walk sponsors. The Walk Planning Committee works throughout the year and includes 100 community members and agency representatives.

Golf Tournament

In 2011, the African American Male Wellness Walk kicked off the AAMWW Golf Tournament. The event gives supporters and sponsors another avenue to reach the African American community. "It's about increasing awareness and reaching people where they are," said Golf Tournament director Perry Gregory. "The tournament is also social. We promote exercise and movement as part of the health and wellness mix. No matter the activity you choose, you have to enjoy it and have fun otherwise you won't

continue to do it," Gregory added.

Wellness Conversations

In February 2012, the African American Male Wellness Walk Initiative began the Wellness Conversations Series. Bi-monthly community conversations are presented on a variety of health and wellness topics. Juvenile Obesity, Financial Wellness, Mental Health and, Understanding the Affordable Health Care Act are among the topics covered.

The Corporate Walk

"A lot of our sponsors and partners vendors have walked in past years. We are excited to be able to formalize corporate participation this year," said Vanessa Jester, Sponsor and Vendor chairman. AAMWW developed tool kits for corporate teams to assist with registration and internal communications. Additionally, fitness and nutrition experts are available to help teams get prepared for the August Walk.

Faith Walks

The 8th Annual Walk marked the beginning of the Faith Walks Initiative. "Pastors and congregations have always supported the Walk. Faith Walks is a targeted campaign to increase those numbers and include churches and congregations in the health and wellness conversation," said Walk Founder John Gregory. Tool Kits have been created for churches and faith organiza-

tions. Fitness and nutrition experts are available to help teams prepare for the August Walk.

The Impact

Since the inception of the Walk, more black men are equipped to take control of their health and wellness. In past years, 83 percent of those screened at the Walk had an "at-risk" family history: 88% were overweight; 99 percent had diabetic indicators; and, 96 percent had an elevated blood sugar level. That alone has had a positive, ripple effect throughout the community. As a result of the free screenings, more Black men know their numbers and are visiting physicians. Uninsured people, who otherwise would not get screened, have access to important information about their health status.


Raising Awareness Is Only the Beginning!

Raising awareness is not enough if individual men - our husbands, fathers, brothers and sons - don't know their health status and are not equipped to be active participants in their health and wellness.

Safe a Life!

1st Annual African American Male Wellness Walk/Run-Toledo

Saturday, August 3, 2013 @ African American Legacy Project @ 1326 Collingwood St.



Queen of Apostles & Rosary Cathedral Schools

Enrolling Now!

NEW

- EdChoice Scholarship Opportunities
- Kindergarten Student Scholarship Opportunities (based on income)

Central City Ministry of Toledo

July 1 to July 31

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday



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BOOK REVIEW

Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justiceby *Sylvia Bell White & Jody LePage*

c.2013, University of Wisconsin Press \$27.95 / 289 pages

By *Terri Schlichenmeyer*
The Truth Contributor

Turn left.

That's what your GPS said, so you turned - though that didn't seem correct and you knew that blind obedience to electronics isn't always a good idea. Would you be late? End up lost? Or would you end up in exactly the right place?

Like a GPS, life also has a way of taking you down unknown roads. In the new book *Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justice* by Sylvia Bell White & Jody LePage, for example, you'll read about one woman's journey from Louisiana to Wisconsin and into history.

Like most eight-year-old children, Sylvia Bell loved to play.

She remembered swinging from ropes with her brothers, batting baseballs, and getting "all dust and dirty." As the seventh child of 13, and the only girl, Sylvia had simple fun while growing up in Louisiana in those pre-Depression years.

But when she was eight years old, her mother disappeared (something she did often), so Sylvia became a mother to "them boys." She took over the cooking

and housework but left disciplinary matters to her father, who was both "a mother and a father, to tell you the truth."

Eventually, Sylvia's mother returned (staying away, Jody LePage hints, might have been a method of birth control) and the family thrived. Sylvia's father, a respected man in the community, kept two jobs and was able to buy a small farm in order to feed his brood. He raised his children with a velvet fist - though it's speculated that as the father of a dozen boys, lynching and violence probably never left his mind.

At age 17, Sylvia became part of the Great Migration and moved to Milwaukee. When her mother died, she wanted to move back home but her father wouldn't allow it so, with some of "them boys," she returned to Wisconsin and her life.

Then, nearly 10 years later, in February 1958, something went horribly wrong: Sylvia's brother, 21-year-old Dan, was stopped by two Milwaukee police officers at the edge of the highway one night and, after a brief pursuit, one of them shot Dan

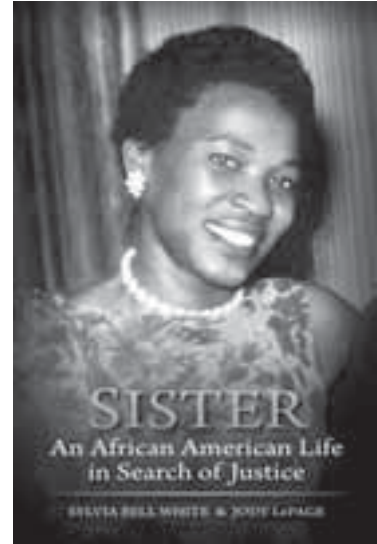
in the back of the neck.

They almost got away with it...

I don't think I give away too much by emphasizing the word "almost" there. Just by browsing its dust jacket, you know what happens in *Sister*... but you don't. No, you've really got to read this half history, half oral history book.

Early-on, author Jody LePage explains why she spent many hours recording Sylvia Bell White's memories of life, family, and her steadfast demand for justice for her brother - memories that are fascinating, often charming, and occasionally horrifying. I enjoyed how the authors used history to set the stage for each chapter here, and I loved that this book's authenticity (including speech peculiarities) and irresistible personality pull readers back through decades and geography.

If you're looking for something that's different, powerful, and sometimes delightful, then you're going to love this book. For you and your cravings for history, *Sister* is a book to turn to.

**The Words Are in You:**

Students Unlock Their 'Inner Author' Using Creativity through Words and Illustration, a gallery exhibit presented by Women's Initiative of United Way

Special to The Truth

Imagination, hopes, thoughts and dreams inspired the children who participated in WordShop. This Women's Initiative of United Way program encourages creative writing in young students. The children's writings were recently brought to life in, "The Words Are In You", a gallery display open now through August 24.

Located on the second floor of Main Library, 325 Michigan St., this colorful and inspirational gallery exhibit includes creative stories written by students from Rosary Cathedral School.

From first grade, to eighth grade, WordShop students work with a trained author and illus-

trator while developing their ideas during a series of field trips. Through these events, students are able to express themselves creatively, uniquely, and confidently while unlocking their "inner author."

After writing stories as a class, the creative fun begins as each student writes their own ending to their story, as well as designing an illustration. This demonstrates the ultimate mission of WordShop - to encourage and inspire creative writing and help students discover their inner author through an interactive creative writing process. These two-hour workshops allow students to develop their personal

writing styles with confidence.

WordShop officials plan on expanding this program due to its success. After beginning at Rosary Cathedral School September 2012, the program will continue September 2013 at Queen of Apostles School and Wildwood Environmental Academy.

In addition to visiting the gallery, stop by Children's Library also located on the second floor. Draw a picture of 'The Words In You' as a celebration of the beginning of this successful WordShop program!

For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5200.

Opal Covey: Primed to Mine and Refine Toledo's Wealth of Resources

By Sherese Davis
The Truth Contributor

As a resident of Toledo for the past 37 years, Opal Covey is unique among the mayoral candidates. She is an evangelical minister who believes that Toledo has not yet fulfilled its destiny since its incorporation in 1837.

Like her counterparts Covey's priorities include jobs and business. "We are sitting on a goldmine ever since the beginning of time," says the candidate. This is a continuing metaphor that she uses to suggest that the wealth of resources in Toledo lies within its people. She feels that those resources should be mined and refined locally. Her immediate vision for Toledo can be summarized under: "If you build it, they will come."

Toledo, according to Covey, lacks a central drawing card. Calling it a part of the "Devine Revelation", she envisions that drawing card in the form of an amusement park that will attract tourists and families, and become an economic hub supporting other businesses throughout the city. "Developing local resources" is the thrust of her economic plan. One way to do that, she insists, is to reduce many of the regulations that prevent business owners from being successful. Although this is Covey's fourth try in the mayoral race, she is at heart, an optimist. The issues that she believes confront the city are ones that she believes can, in part, easily be overcome through the elimination of corruption, incompetence, inefficiency and personal greed.

"It's all about bilking."

She equates many local officials to a tide that comes in and rushes out again carrying with it as much as it can. An audit of the Auditor's office will be one of her first activities during her first 100 days. When asked about her qualifications for office, Covey provided a resume of administrative activities and experiences going back to elementary school. Most notably her work in accounting gives her the foundation to manage large sums of money, she contends. Covey has been in the private sector as an office manager and has owned several of her own businesses for much of her work experience prior to being called to the ministry. In addressing the issues of domestic violence, gangs, and sex trafficking Covey's solutions are more on a small scale level than macro scale. Her solutions to many of these problems appear to be borne more out of her ministry and seem like proposals that of a social worker rather than politician.

She lays the blame for many of these ills at the feet of parents, churches and social service agencies that she feels have not done enough to step up to the problems of their children and the poor. She wants more personal accountability and involvement by every citizen of our city!

Opal Covey was born at home on July 24, 1940. She grew up with 11 siblings, and was raised by both parents, who are now both deceased. Her mother's family lineage has even been traced to reflect 11th generation to Pocahontas.

Her father, a man of Irish, English and Dutch descent, may come from a line of a family named Donahue who fled the law in England.

As a rule, Covey's father believed in: "spare the rod; spoil the child." This often resulted in a large part of the household chores being placed in her care. In addition, she faced constant discipline but was very conscious of becoming and staying a lawful, productive citizen.

At 16, Covey started her first job, working at her local supermarket Woody's, where she earned \$1.05 an hour. After graduating from West Carrollton High School, in West Carrollton Ohio, in 1958, proudly completing her high schooling in three and a half years, Covey married and started an accounting and secretarial career with the L. M. Berry Co.

Her employment history also includes jobs working with Space Technology Laboratories as a roving secretary supporting the teams working on the Minuteman Missile. Covey has helped her brother grow his business and became efficient at running a one-woman office. With her experience and knowledge she mastered every job opportunity. However, by age 28 there was something missing Covey explains. God had a plan and she submitted in June of 1968.

In 1975 Covey started her own traveling ministry. From Lima, OH, she went to Florida and Kentucky spreading God's word. Shortly, thereafter, she made her way to Toledo. With a thriving fruits



Sherese Davis and Opal Covey.

and vegetables stand at the farmers market, Covey was able to expand her ministry, growing it into a grocery store, a thrift shop, and later on, a pet shop. As a result of some legal entanglements imposed by the city, Covey was forced to give

up her business.

Covey believed the city's highest officials were corrupt and realized she would never be able to operate a business in Toledo unless there was a change in the city government's power

structure.

Now in this latest run for office, Covey says she won't let evil tactics stop her. She says she will eliminate corruption and believes God has sent her to Toledo to be the mayor the people need.

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ALBUM REVIEW

Magna Carta ... Holy Grail by Jay Z

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Jay Z's debut album came out 17 years ago. Just wrap your mind around that for a second.

Reasonable Doubt, a hip-hop classic that still gets some airplay today, came out when the current high school senior wasn't even born yet. And that's his lowest selling album. This isn't going to be another article about the perennial greatness of Shawn Carter. This won't be a regurgitated resume of his iconic accomplishments or a defense of his legacy. This won't even be a run down of the way he just literally, single-handedly changed the music industry in the past month.

You see, this review isn't even about Jigga.

This is about you.

Yea, that's right... YOU.

At this point, you already have your mind made up about him.

You've already decided if you love or hate him and no argument for or against could persuade you, so I won't bother.

When someone has been on top for nearly 20 years, they have given us plenty of time to entrench ourselves in our opinion of them.

I will tell you this though, intellect continues to be Hov's most consistent gift and curse.

He said he wanted to create a "fireside chat" moment by "leaking" the album on a holiday but if you don't know about President Roosevelt radio broadcasts in the 1930s and how significant they were, then you can't even appreciate what he's talking about.

There's a learning curve when it comes to this kind of music. You have to walk



in with a certain knowledge base already in place or you'll miss a lot.

Kanye tried to get y'all hip to The Louvre and Jeremy Scott years ago but if you haven't caught on by now, you will have no clue what Jay is talking about when he mentions The Art Basel and Riccardo Tisci Givenchy.

The name of the album itself is like a refresher for an intro level college history course so you can be reminded of what the Magna Carta was and the connotations involved with the Holy Grail as euphemism.

You know...Magna Carta, your constitution or governance... your tenets for how you operate. Holy Grail...something you chase or pursue to the ends of the earth.

This entire album is about

duality.

The fragility of a person's will and struggle within to remain who they are coupled with fame and all the trappings of success beyond previous measure... something that defines you, next to the very thing every one else is chasing: Magna Carta... Holy Grail.

The curse is simple.

This is destined to go over people's heads.

To remedy that, the promotional videos accompanying the app (legendary) included videos where he breaks down the science behind a few of the songs.

Slavery, for example, is the topic being addressed on the song "Oceans."

In the video, Jay Z offers a brilliant perspective of how so many blacks have attained the success to sit out on the water on their

yachts and pop champagne but the undertow of that water is the very same current that brought us here in bondage.

His explanation in the video is easy to understand. His actual verses on the song however, require a few listens before you truly get it.

And that's how Magna Carta... Holy Grail impacts you.

Powerful concepts that blow your mind once you unravel their coding right alongside typical rap cliché about designer this and expensive that. Lyrically, it's not as potent as some of the songs on Blueprint 3 and Watch The Throne.



But production wise, this album is damn near classic in its ability to meld sub genres and achieve a very East Coast hip-hop feel despite its obvious leanings to the southern trap style.

From track two to track 10 you will realize that this album itself is indeed a work of art for the ages. If each song during that span were a victory in a sports game, then more than half the album is a continuous winning streak.

After track 10 however, things get a little iffy. "Part Too" would've been much better left as just a Beyonce song, "La Familia" and "Beach Is Better" are filler and Jay's experimentation at this point feels half hearted and forced where the first half of the album is him in a zone.

All in all, the fact there was no lead single says a lot about what this project was intended to be. There aren't even a lot of catchy hooks.

This is an artsy album with a grassroots approach, by the same people who brought you Big Pimpin. Ironic, I know. But it really is a non-commercial album.

Plenty of 90s references as a throwback to simpler, more enjoyable times in the rap industry. Yet modern references, futuristic soundscapes and even some personal soul searching. On "Jay Z Blue" Jay openly ad-

mits he is terrified of failing as a parent.

On "Nickels & Dimes" Jay deals with feeling conflicted about giving money to those in need because the money is just money and he would rather create wealth with them.

Once again, the listening session footage on www.magnacartholygrail.com helps you understand these songs more than Jay's actual verses...but they are still introspective and interesting.

But, what will YOU think when YOU listen to it?

If you're not really a Jay Z fan but you're interested due to the hype and promo, you will likely try to skim through it...which will result in you hating most of it.

If you're a casual Jay Z fan who likes some of his stuff and you just buy whatever everyone is talking about, you will like some of this album but not all of it.

Most likely "Tom Ford" will be your favorite.

If you are a fan and you get it... you're probably STILL listening to Watch The Throne here and there and Magna Carta... Holy Grail will be one of your favorite Jay Z albums ever. Not quite up there with Reasonable Doubt, Blueprint and The Black Album but damn close.

The true grade for Magna Carta... Holy Grail is B.

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No bids will be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on August 14, 2013; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on July 10, 2013. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from July 10, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. to July 24, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email, at LUCAS_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us by July 24, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on July 31, 2013. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of July 10, 2013, at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

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