

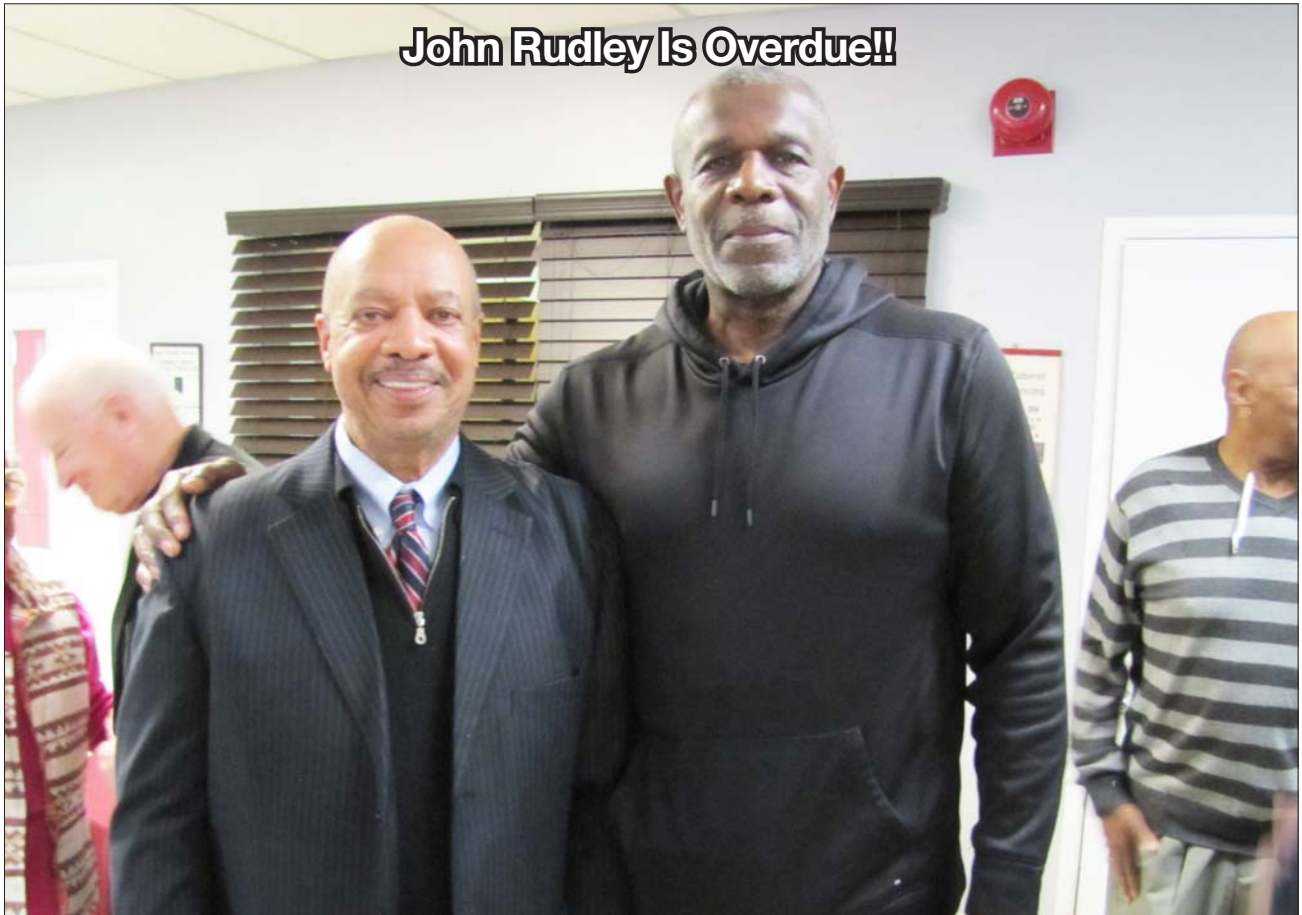
The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 59, No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 29, 2020

John Rudley Is Overdue!!



John Rudley and Bob Miller, Former UT Teammates - 1966-1969

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The Sojourner Truth Newspaper's Presents: A Guide to Local Black History Month Events

Celebrate Black Heritage with family and friends at these February events.

Dance & Fitness

Date: 2/3 | 7PM-9PM

Event: Harlem Globetrotters

Location: BGSU Stroth Center 1535 E. Wooster St. Bowling Green, OH

Cost: Tickets start at \$18

Host/Info.: Harlem Globetrotters and The Stroth Center

Details: The Harlem Globetrotters are coming to the Stroth Center on Monday, February 3 at 7:00 PM! Join us for an evening filled with high-flying dunks and family fun!

Date: 2/4 | 12PM & 6PM

Event: Zumba & Zumbini with Chelley*

Location: Diamond Butterfly Dance Studios 425 Jefferson Ave.

Cost: Contact instructor

Host/Info.: Rochelle Morrishaw

Diamondbutterflyent@gmail.com

(567) 315-8860

Details: It's Zumbini time for parents and children, Let's Bond & Dancer-size!

Date: 2/15 | 8PM

Event: Dance Theatre of Harlem: Passage

Location: Valentine Theatre 410 Adams St.

Cost: \$29-\$59

Host/Info.: Valentinetheatre.com | (419) 242-ARTS (2787)

Details: DTH will be dancing their new ballet Passage, commissioned by the Virginia Arts Festival in partnership with American Evolution for the 50th Anniversary of Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Date: 2/28 | 6PM-8PM

Event: Dancing and Dessert Reception

Location: Monroe St. Community Center 3613 Monroe St.

Cost: \$10

Host/Info.: Toni Quinn

Details: Join us for our Dancing and Desserts reception to benefit community programs. Your \$10 ticket includes your donation, desserts and urban line dancing with TWO fantastic instructors Waverly "Shakey Shakey" Hawkins and Toni Quinn.

Education, Literature & Leadership

Date: 2/4 | 6PM-8PM

Event: Credit Repair Seminar

Location: Mott Branch Library 1085 Dorr St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Jason White: 700 Club Witness Riches

Details: Contact organizer

Date: 2/4 | 5:45PM

Event: Panel Discussion: How gun violence affects Toledo youth

Location: Mott Branch Library 1085 Dorr St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Students Demand Action in Toledo

Details: Students Demand Action focuses on education on gun sense and gun violence protection.

Date: 2/8 | 10AM-11:30AM

Event: VIP Breakfast for CEO's, VPs and Managers

Location: Crusaders for Christ Church

Cost: Contact Organizer

Host/Info.: Crusaders for Christ

Details: Please contact the church or visit Eventbrite to register by 2/2/20

Date: 2/8 | 8:30AM-5PM

Event: Girl Power

Location: Imagination Station 1 Discovery Way

Cost: Contact organizer

Host/Info.: (419) 244-2674 ext. 129

Details: Girls interested in a career in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) can experience a fun-filled day of educational activities.

Date: 2/16 | 2PM

Event: The Movement on the Move

Location: Over the Top Occasions (formerly Garden Lake Hall)

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: (419) 304-2733 or (419) 283-8369

Details: To inspire and energize youth/young adults in the voting process

Date: 2/22 | 2PM-4PM

Event: Dialogue on Boundaries: Racism, Mindfulness & Healing

Location: Washington Branch Library 5560 Harvest Ln.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Black Radical Scholars

Details: We're excited to announce that we will be having monthly conversations on topics related to racism, mindfulness and healing in the Black community.

Date: 2/24 | 6:30PM-8PM

Event: The New Jim Crow Book Discussion

Location: Mott Branch Library 1085 Dorr St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Northwest Ohio Democratic Socialists of America

Details: Join us for a discussion of "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander.

Date: 2/28 | 7:30 AM-9AM

Event: Women Who Lead

Location: The Summit 23 Summit St.

Cost: \$20

Host/Info.: Inspired Sisterhood Ministry at Cornerstone Church

Details: Women's History Month Kick-Off with keynote speaker Michele Reynolds,

Executive Director | State of Ohio Governor's Office | Faith Based and Community Initiatives

Arts & Culture

Date: 2/1 | 3PM-5:30PM

Event: Open auditions for the stage play Issues

Location: Lagrange Library 3422 Lagrange St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: DATS Entertainment

Details: A scripted/ rehearsed audition. Refreshments will be served. See script and details on the Facebook event page.

Date: 2/1 | 8PM-11PM

Event: Teen Talent Battle

Location: Frederick Douglass Community Association 1001 Indiana Ave.

Cost: \$3

Host/Info.: Midwest Talent Hub

Details: Teen Talent Battle for youth artists, dancers, singers, rappers, and poets may sign up now with free registration. We have talent from all schools coming together to showcase their talents.

Date: 2/6 | 7PM and 2/7 | 4PM

Event: Rebirth: Illumination through the forest

Location: Handmade Toledo 1717 Adams St.

Cost: Free

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Yes, It Is THAT bad...!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

The inner moral rot that has grabbed America's gut and bladder has not yet run its full course. What I describe as rot is the lessening of the American will to courageously confront wrong when that wrong duplicitously dons a wig and lipstick and flirts at us with kisses and hugs.

The kisses and hugs are no more than a ruse or a coverup for the real maiming of all things honest and just. Such things are now up for grabs – a situation that is being blatantly exposed in the current impeachment trial of a consummate con, Herr Trump.

Don't kid yourself, naïve citizen. Herr Trump is calculating and he is betting the farm that you will tire of it all, deflate and call it a day. That will allow his entourage of professional liars to rule the day which could allow Herr Trump to see another four years of infesting the White House with his obscene political swagger.

Also, don't kid yourself as to Herr Trump being an outlier of a personality or just a one-off politico.

Unless you are willing to pull up the rug and see the dirt beneath it, you will always be puzzled as to how America came to this perilous crossroad of the truth being re-defined as alternative facts and how national news can be transformed into national opinion sodden with lies and half-truths.

Herr Trump is the singular, most visual, personality that is emoting on the national scene; his moral sheddings have infected the national consciousness.

The sobering reality is that America, and especially white America, championed this political buffoon and did not clip his wings when they first had the chance to do so.

White America by feverish acclamation and by lazy and lax moral default, has allowed this perp to shovel his manure around the willing "news" media outlets and he thus struck a homogenized chord with the underbelly of the estranged voting public.

Herr Trump smelled the putrid air of hatred, discontent and dissatisfaction with the corruption in Washington, D.C. and like a blood hound to the scent of a cornered possum, he stuck his knife into it and greedily gobbled at the open carcass.

Yeah. America allowed, condoned and permitted Herr Trump to live and survive in this toxic political landscape that was littered with racism, capitalism gone amuck, phobia of "others", hatred of women, mind-boggling stupidity and willful ignorance of all things pertaining to the US Constitution and respecting human rights.

Herr Trump was the proverbial Pied Piper who caught riffs of the ugly and nascent tune of bitterness and angst in the American politic and he played his odious song until his lungs gave out and then he blew some more...and it worked!

The so called "deplorables," the disenfranchised fringe groups, right

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Ballet: An Artform That Belongs To Everyone

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dance Theater of Harlem is a dance company synonymous with uplifting black culture. It strongly represents ballet as an artform not exclusive to just one type of community - but an artform belonging to everyone.

Toledo-born, Anna Glass, currently serves as the Executive Director of the Dance Theater of Harlem where she co-launched with Virginia Johnson a collaborative initiative addressing racial inequity in ballet. "We are a ballet company representative of people from all over the world. We have come together under the banner, mission, and vision of a colorful dance movement created by Arthur Mitchell," explains Glass to The Truth.

When talking about ballet in the 20th century few people have had more influence or access to the great stages of New York City than dancer and choreographer Arthur Mitchell. His life in dance charts the history of ballet and its increasing diversity. From the 1950's when he became the first African-American dancer for the NYC Ballet to later becoming founder of his own Dance Theater of Harlem. 1969, one year after the death of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., would give birth to the world's first black classical ballet company.

"At the time, it was believed that people of color couldn't participate in this art form, that we didn't have the skill or ability," says Glass, executive director of DTH since 2016. "Arthur Mitchell was out to prove those naysayers wrong, and he did. He inspired what's possible in the world."

The Dance Theater of Harlem is ensuring a lack of black ballet dancers will not continue into another generation. "If you don't see someone reflective of you, then young dancers may not even consider ballet," says Glass.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has respectfully awarded DTH a \$4 million gift to support the organization's capacity building efforts, which will include improvements to salaries for artists and staff; investments in fundraising infrastructure and leadership, innovative artistic and community building initiatives and more. This gift, the largest in DTH's history, will immensely support the organization in realizing its future vision and attain operational stability, over the next five years. "We are eternally grateful to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for steadfastly believing that the expression DTH brings to the art form is unique and necessary," says Glass.



Glass's passion for art began at an early age and would routinely bring her back and forth to the Toledo area. "The people of Toledo influenced me at a young age. My beloved godmother, Kate Jackson, was both an AKA and a LINK. She was very involved in the community and I remember her taking me to the Ebony Fashion Fair shows," says Glass recalling her early memories of the Glass City.

Around the age of five, Anna moved with her family to Saginaw Michigan where she grew up and studied ballet at the nearby Flint Institute of Music. She later attended high school at Interlochen Arts Academy and Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills.

"I didn't grow up visiting my grandparents; they passed away before I was born. I grew up visiting Aunt Kate and Uncle Jack in Toledo. They really taught me quite a bit about our black heritage and the importance of upholding our culture," states Glass when asked about her Toledo connection.

"I have only worked for predominantly black institutions and I think it was their influence in upholding our culture that shepherded me in that direction."

There are two opposing opinions in the ballet world about the image of dancers on stage: The first being the idea that an ensemble of dancers, or corps de ballet, should look identical onstage. The second opinion is ballet should depict a celebration of human diversity and movement.

Celebrating the latter, The Dance Theater of Harlem's 18 multi-ethnic dancers will perform Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 8 PM - 11 PM at Toledo's own historic Valentine Theatre. DTH will be dancing their NEW ballet *Passage*, commissioned by the Virginia Arts Festival in partnership with American Evolution for their 50th Anniversary and the 2019 Commemoration, recognizing the 400th anniversary of a series of pivotal events in America's history that continue to define our nation's path.

Inspiration—as well as pure passion through movement—is what Glass promises DTH will bring to its Toledo audience Valentine's Day weekend. First audiences will see an exquisite trio called Odelise, an excerpt from LeCor-saire. LeCor-saire is a ballet with an extremely problematic story by nature. As an important ballet in the canon of classical ballet works, it has been re-staged by a young dancer in the company named Dillion Santos. "He has flipped the toxic nature of this ballet, revealing only the beauty true of classical dancing."

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Ballet... continued from page 4

He takes away the story and leaves you with the raw emotion of dance," states Glass excitedly. "It is phenomenal seeing our dancers performing this work. The way Santos staged this ballet truly showcases the strength and power of women of color."

Next the audience will experience ***This Bitter Earth*** choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon. "This is not the typical way one is accustomed to hearing 'This Bitter Earth' as the rich vocals of Diana Washington are layered in as a backdrop to this passionate duet," explains Anna. "The music by Diana Washington is overlaid with an alluring yet haunting score by Composer Max Richter that will have your heart beating with excitement."

The next piece audiences will enjoy was commissioned to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first arrival of the enslaved Africans to this country. It premiered last year at the Kennedy Center and at the Virginia Arts Festival. The ballet is entitled ***Passage*** choreographed by Claudia Schreier with original music by Jessie Montgomery - two talented black women respectively. "It is powerful beyond measure. A story of resilience reflective of how we got to this country. It is about hope. It is really, truly, one of my favorite ballets and is a highlight of this program," shares Glass.

The performance will close with a work by female choreographer, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa entitled ***Balamouk***. "It is a fun and joyful piece about people of different backgrounds coming together and it is perfect for a company that looks like Dance Theater of Harlem," states Anna.

Dance Theater of Harlem will have a ***Dancing in The Streets Event*** taking place at Owens Corning Headquarters Friday February 14 to kick-off Valentine's Day Weekend. Smiling, Anna states, "We will teach you excerpts of a select ballet while dancing to Aretha Franklin and James Brown. We then give folks an opportunity to dance and we will end by all doing one big soul train line together in the streets...it's so fun!"

"We always try to do community engagement wherever we go. It is a really big piece of who we are and what we do at DTH. The best way for you to truly represent that 'the ballet belongs to everyone', is by being in community with others says Glass.

While performing arts on television and cell phones streaming apps are becoming increasingly diverse, progress in the world of ballet is painfully slow. The percentage of classical black ballet dancers around the world is still minimal. When asked how the residents of Toledo can support DTH and diversity in ballet Anna says, "If you know of a young child who is interested in dance, sponsor a student and send them to Dance Theater of Harlem for the summer. It is an investment in your own community. I'd love to see more students from Toledo coming out to New York to study."

"Let's start by selling out the Valentine Theater, Toledo family. You can watch so much on television these days, but I think it is more important than ever for our communities to help our youth develop the habit of experiencing life and art. There is something special about seeing beauty live right in front of you in living color."



Anna Glass



Arthur Mitchell

Black History Month Events... continued from page 3

and military.

Host/Info.: Toledo Museum of Art

Details: This film is an artful and intimate meditation on the life and works of legendary storyteller and Nobel prize-winner Toni Morrison who was born in Lorain, OH.

Date: 2/22 | 1PM

Event: Winter Crafternoon

Location: Braden United Methodist Church 4725 Dorr St.

Cost: \$10

Host/Info.: Braden UMC

Details: Enjoy a relaxing afternoon hand crafting Afro Centric decor for the home. Materials included in class fee.

Date: 2/22 | 4PM

Event: Sounds of Black History

Location: St. Mark Baptist Church 2340 S. Holland-Sylvania Rd.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Dramatically Inspired Works

Details: Celebrate heritage with poetry, games, skits and vocal music performances

Date: 2/23 | 3PM-4PM

Event: Great Performances: Black History Month Celebration

Location: Toledo Museum of Art 2445 Monroe St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Toledo Museum of Art

Details: Organized by soprano, educator, and community organizer Margaret Barron and visual artist and educator Yusuf Lateef, this two-part program features conversation, spoken word and music.

Live Music & Night Life

Date: 2/7 | 6:30PM-7:30PM

Event: It's Friday! Music: Hector Mendoza, guitarist

Location: Toledo Museum of Art 2445 Monroe St.

Cost: Free

Host/Info.: Toledo Museum of Art and Hector Mendoza

Details: Enjoy the Afro-Peruvian sounds of Toledo-based guitarist Hector Mendoza performing Latin, classical, and jazz music in the Cloister Gallery.

Date: 2/8 | 5PM-9PM

Event: Dilla Day Party

Location: The Peacock 2007 Monroe St.

Cost: \$5

Host/Info.: KOOL2DOS DJ Dre Wills

Details: Celebrating the musical legacy of super-producer J. Dilla! Cash Bar, Food, 50/50 Raffle, Dilla Trivia, Beat Cypher & Complimentary Donuts!

...continued on page 9

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The Soulcial Scene

Is Utoledo Finally Ready to Admit John Rudley into Its Athletic Hall of Fame?

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The University of Toledo's grudge against John Rudley, his supporters claim, has gone on far too long. It's a grudge that started in the 1960's and seemingly persists to this day.

It was a trying time for athletes – the second half of the 1960s. When Muhammad Ali spoke up, became a member of the Nation of Islam and denounced racism and the Vietnam War, a standard of behavior was set. A symbol of heroism has been accepted, almost universally.

Within a few years, Ali regained the chance to continue fighting, gained and reclaimed the heavyweight crown and earned plaudits as an American hero.

Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in the air on the Olympic podium when the U.S. National Anthem was being played. As the decades have passed, that symbol of protest against racism has become an iconic portrait of two heroes' decision to sacrifice everything for a cause much larger than their personal ambitions.

Football's Jim Brown and basketball's Bill Russell spoke out against oppression, injustice and racism and spent time with protesters, such as Ali, seconding his calls for change. Years later, Russell and Brown, both in their pro sports' Halls of Fame, are remembered fondly for their athletic exploits as well as their involvement in various causes.

However, for John Rudley and his teammates, who formed the core of a University of Toledo basketball team that would go 23-2 in 1966-67 and win the MAC Championship, no such future athletic plaudits have been forthcoming. Indeed that 1966-67 team, during Rudley's sophomore year, has been called

the best team that has ever taken the court at UT and, for too many at the university, it's as if they never existed.

Rudley, a point guard and team captain, one of his teammates, an sat out a game, in 1969, his senior year to protest the actions of their coach, Bob Nichols, who suspended a teammate, Bob Miller, for missing class. Nichols was white and had been struggling for several years with that team, says Rudley, trying to balance the playing time of his white and black players – a very tricky proposition in the 60's.

Bill Russell, who became player coach for the Boston Celtics in the late 60's was heard to say about a coach's dilemma on playing those black athletes who were superior to their white teammates – "play three [blacks] at home, four on the road and five when you fall behind."

For Nichols the dilemma was particularly poignant because he was the one

... continued on page 8



(Left to right): Ardenia Jones-Terry, Jeff Rollins, Theresa M. Gabriel, Crystal Ellis, Vince Davis, Terry Crosby, Ray Wood, John Rudley, Bob Miller, Carty Finkbeiner, Willie McKether, Pete Culp, Tom Duncan

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter congratulates Zeta Phi Beta, Zeta Xi Zeta chapter on its Centennial Celebration. It was founded 100 years ago on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 16, 1920.

Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities held a "Welcome to Campus" reception in the assembly room in Miner Hall at Howard University, in honor of the new sorority. We are proud to have Zeta Phi Beta in the Toledo/NW Ohio community since May 1965.

Andrea Price
President



Robert Smith and Carty Finkbeiner



Terry Crosby and John Rudley, PhD



Former Teammates John Rudley and Bob Miller



Rick Hogan, Leroy Bates, Ray Wood



Hall of Famer Tom Duncan and Deb Hogan



Crystal Ellis, Bob Miller, Pete Culp, Vince Davis

The Soulcial Scene

Seniors Gather to Celebrate MLK

By Tricia Hall

The Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The J. Frank Troy Senior Center, in partnership with Neighborhood Health Association (NHA), organized an evening activity for seniors on January 23. This event was organized because the center was originally closed on the day that officially recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Twenty attendees enjoyed games, socializing, music and the food that was prepared by Ruby's Kitchen. "I first visited the senior center seven years ago when my sister brought me, and I've been coming ever since. I love it here, it's a wonderful place to socialize with people that are my age. This is a great place for seniors," explained Cynthia Harrison.

The evening concluded with the certificate of appreciation presented by NHA to seven seniors for their service to the center and community. The recipients were: Prentiss Anderson, Delbert Duckins, Victory Perry, Luther Reasonover, Margaret Toodvin, James Williams and Walter Woodson.

"We wanted to offer extended hours and provide a way to celebrates Dr. King's memory. We have so many seniors that contribute to the community and this center," explained Tonda Wiles Koszycki, NHA manager of senior services.

J. Frank Troy Senior Center is located at 545 Indiana Ave in Toledo and operates weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



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Hydeia Broadbent

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for more information.



Sponsored by The Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care in partnership with
The University of Toledo Office of Diversity & Inclusion

UToledo.. continued from page 6

who recruited Rudley and the other black players and then tried over time, as the black players saw it, to minimize their playing time, catering to the sensibilities of the time.

Nichols brought in Rudley, an outstanding point guard from Benton Harbor who had led his team to two undefeated seasons and two Michigan state championships; John Briskier, from Detroit, who would go on to play professionally with the ABA along with a brief stint in the NBA; Calvin Lawshe from Macomber; Bob Miller from upstate New York and Steve Mix, a standout at Toledo's Rogers High School who would eventually play in the NBA for 14 seasons, including on some championship teams. All but Mix were black.

Those Super Sophs, when they won that championship in 66-67, frayed a bit by the time they were seniors. Briskier, a volatile mix at best with Nichols, says Rudley, had left the team. Lawshe had suffered a serious knee injury and his career was over. In early 1969, the coach learned that Bob Miller had been skipping classes, confronted him on that fact, ordered him to start attending and suspended him from the team when he learned that Miller had skipped again.

Rudley joined protesters at mid court before the next game – several dozen black students and teammate Jim Miller – and walked out of the gym, missing one game. The team finished in the doldrums – 13-11 and fifth in the MAC.

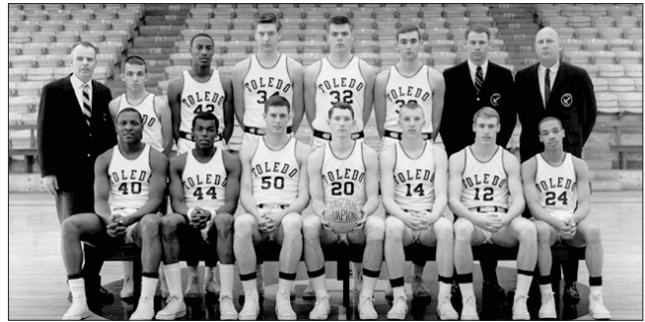
Rudley went on to graduate school, a career as a certified public accountant, a second stellar career in academia as the interim president of the University of Houston and then an eight-and-a-half-year tenure as president of Texas Southern University, retiring three years ago.

Bob Miller did not graduate – deprived as he was of about two dozen credits; Rudley, despite his outstanding years as team leader, point guard, impressive scorer and assist leader, ("one of the best point guards I ever had a chance to play with," said Mix), never made the UT Hall of Fame – a Hall with about 300 members – and the 1966-67 teams does not even have its photograph posted.

Rudley returned to Toledo and attended this year's Unity Day event at UT with two local supporters who are pushing the case for his inclusion into the Hall this year – Vince Davis, State Farm insurance agency owner, and former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. Finkbeiner was a student intern in the UT Athletic Department during Rudley's years there.

The following day, a larger group of supporters gathered at the African American Legacy Project to voice their concerns about a 50-year old slight and to put a plan into action to correct the oversight.

"It is 2020," said Davis, "you'd expect we would have come somewhere – but here we are ... John Rudley exemplifies everything we would want a student-athlete to be. If they can't correct this, there is a problem."



Front row (left to right): John Briskier, Bob Miller, Steve Mix, Bill Backensto, Willie Babione, Don White, John Rudley.

Back row (left to right): Head Coach Bob Nichols, Mark Paluszak, Calvin Lawshe, Len LePla, Dennis Perzynski, Jim Hayes, Joe McPeck, Assistant Coach Bob Conroy

"We've got a lot of work to do," said Finkbeiner. "The athletic director is not being as broadminded as he should be. But the light has not shown any brighter on a former athlete than it has shown on John Rudley."

About 25 supporters attended the event at the Legacy Project and were treated to Rudley's account of the events of that fateful January 1969.

"[Coach] Nichols wasn't used to the type of guys he had," said Rudley of the man who brought him into the university. During the group's three year-tenure on the varsity, the team became very popular within the community, the black community, he noted. Nichols, however, felt the pressure in dealing with a firebrand such as Briskier while also trying to balance the court time of the black and white players so that the white community would not feel alienated.

After Briskier left the team, said Rudley, Nichols "took it out on Bob [Miller]."

As he recalled, "there was a lot of resentment in the community for what happened and from a team standpoint, dysfunction set in – we lost our enthusiasm, we lost Bob Miller and his 12 points and 12 rebounds a game. This wasn't what I had signed up for."

After Rudley left Toledo, diploma in hand, he didn't return for decades and didn't speak with Nichols for over 30 years. Reconciliation did arrive in the early 2,000s, and the pair stayed in touch. The Nichols family have become champions of Rudley's induction into the Hall.

The group gathered last week are also taking up the cause, following the lead provided by Davis and Finkbeiner. They will be speaking with UT staff,

... continued on page 9

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* Savings amounts are averages based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Program customers who became new auto insurance policyholders between 1/1/10 and 12/31/10 and provided data regarding their savings and prior carrier. Your savings may vary.
 ** Based on customer experience measured through online at www.hartford.com/savings as of April 2019.
 *** The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Responders who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in IL, NY, NJ or PA. Not available in HI. The gift is available only as a limited time offer. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Gifts not included.
 ¹ If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refused renewal as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customers drivers of your vehicles must retain valid licenses, remain physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in WA), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through material misrepresentation. Benefit currently not available in HI, MA, MI, NC and TX.
 ² See limitations apply.
 AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. The Hartford pays policy fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Hartford, CT 06155. It is underwritten in CA by Hartford Automobile Insurance Company, in WA by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, in NH, by General Insurance Company, and in MA, MI and PA, by The Hartford Insurance Company. Specific features, coverages, amounts and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state laws and applicable law. Applicants are individually underwritten and rates may vary. The program is currently unavailable in Canada and U.S. Territories or possessions.
 ³ In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company, through Hartford Fire General Agency, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.

Alicia Russell Returns to Toledo Opera for *La Boheme*

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Soprano Alicia Russell is back in town, this time singing the role of Musetta when the Toledo Opera performs *La Boheme* at the Valentine on February 7 and 9. The Asheville, NC native has been singing throughout the United States since 2013 when she made her debut in her hometown with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

Russell spent the 2018-2019 season with the Toledo Opera as the soprano resident artist singing a variety of roles during that year's productions of *Magic Flute*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe* and *Carmen*, including a principal role, Frasquita, in *Carmen*. "The staff and season aligned with my style," she recalls.

Russell's musical roots in Asheville are fairly reflective of any number of talented youth and the opportunities afforded in church and school – church choirs, middle school musicals, high school chorus – up to a point. That point arrived when a teacher suggested that she attend a production of *La Traviata* during one of her summers.

She attended the opening performance, went back on four other nights and each time wept throughout, so overwhelmed was she by the music and the production. Opera, after that, was her passion.

Her recent performances include Daisy Buchanan in John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby* and Charlene in Christopher Weiss's *Service Provider* during her second season as a young artist at Seagle Music Colony. She has



Alicia Russell

also appeared, as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, the title role in *Savitr*, and Elaine in *Later the Same Evening* with Northwestern University Opera Theater; Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* with Boston University Tanglewood Institute; and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with Seagle Music Colony and Furman University.

After *La Boheme*, she will be heading to Chicago and making her company debut in June with Lyric Opera Unlimited in the Chicago premiere of *Blue*.

Black History Month Events... continued from page 5

Date: 2/13 | 8PM

Event: Thursday Night Live Featuring Art Bishop

Location: The Spotlight Lounge 710 S. Reynolds Rd.

Cost: \$5

Host/Info.: Tracy Haynes

Details: Come out and enjoy this week's rendition of "Thursday Night Live" with Karaoke from 8-10 then right after the a performance from legendary Saxophonist "Art Bishop".

Date: 2/14 | 9PM-1AM

Event: Love's Holiday: A Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire

Location: The Distillery 4311 Heatherdowns Blvd.

Cost: Contact Organizer

Host/Info.: The Overton Project & Carmen Miller Music

Details: An evening of Live music honoring the legendary band Earth, Wind & Fire.

Date: 2/16 | 6PM-10PM

Event: Love & Laughter 9

Location: Kip's Retro 3922 Secor Rd.

Cost: \$10

Host/Info.: Wall Music/ M3M Management

Details: Enjoy a night of live music featuring local performers and musicians

Date: 2/20 | 8PM

Event: Thursday Night Live featuring Wall Music

Location: The Spotlight Lounge

Cost: \$5

Host/Info.: Tracy Haynes

Details: Your Thursday nights just got better with a musical event to groove to. Enjoy karaoke, live music and drink specials all night.

Date: 2/23 | 5PM-9PM

Event: Dop Hoodie Day Party

Location: The Peacock 2007 Monroe St.

Cost: \$5

Host/Info.: KOOL2DOS & DJ Syck

Details: Rock a DOPE hoodie & come through for music, food, fun, & prizes! Cash Bar, Food, 50/50 Raffle, & Prize for the DOPEST hoodie!

Date: 2/27 | 8PM

Event: Thursday Night Live featuring The Katch Band

Location: The Spotlight Lounge 710 S. Reynolds Rd.

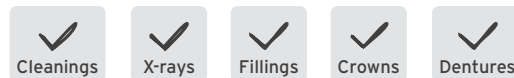
Cost: \$5

Host/Info.: Tracy Haynes

Details: Enjoy "Thursday Night Live" with Karaoke from 8-10 followed by a performance from the extraordinary "Katch Band". \$2 Burgers and drink specials to match.

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UToledo.. continued from page 8

faculty and board members, and most critically, the committee members who vote for the Hall of Fame admission.

The first mission is to get Rudley into the Hall of Fame and gain greater recognition for the greatest UT men's basketball team of all time. The second mission is to get Miller's credits restored so he can finally receive his diploma. More on that later.

By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music by Carole Boston Weatherford, Illustrated by Bryan Collier

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Every Sunday morning, you get to do your favorite thing. You get to sing.

You know the words to all the songs without even looking. Every tune is one you've sang before, one your Mama's known since she was little, one your Grandma sang once upon a time. All you need is to hear the first few notes and your voice is lifted high, and as in the new book *By and By* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Bryan Collier, your praise rises beyond the clouds.

Though you've always liked to sing, Charles Albert Tindley's entire life was a song.

It started as a sad song, when he was born in Maryland nearly 170 years ago: his father was a slave and his mother was a free woman. The law said that Charles was free like his mother and so, when she died and because his father had no rights, the boy suddenly had no parents! His aunt took him in and sent him to work on nearby farms.

The work was hard but singing gave Charles something to think about. He first learned "chants in the field" and then he heard spirituals sung between the crops. This inspired him to want to learn

and so, by the light of an oil lamp and fire in the hearth, he taught himself to read the newspaper and then, a Bible.

Young Charles was inspired! Soon, he started looking for a church to attend and when he found one, he went – and even though he had no shoes, the preacher there welcomed him and let him testify before the congregation. Charles promised himself that nothing would ever come between him and God, ever.

As he grew with God, Charles Albert Tindley became Reverend Tindley, who had a wife and a church and a congregation all his own. His church helped people during the Great Depression. They had an orchestra. And every Sunday, the songs that Reverend Tindley wrote were lifted up to God – just as they are now, this week, perhaps, in your own church...

If your household is like most, music surrounds your child from a variety of sources: oldies, new artists, classics, and hymns. Some come from what may be a surprising source, and *By and By* tells the tale.

And yet, use caution when introducing this story to your kids: for the smallest reader, the story of "The Father of Gospel Music" might need a bit more explaining. Author Carole Boston Weatherford's poem-biography tells a lot but perhaps not enough so that preschoolers will easily understand, particularly in its significance. Parents and grandparents will find notes at the end of the book to be of further help – or, alternately, you can let the lush artwork from Bryan Collier teach your

child everything he needs to know for now about this inspiring tale.

The four-to-eight-year-old child who loves to sing, who loves to dance, and who loves her church will want you to read this book. *By and By* could become her favorite thing.

Ladies of Distinction.. continued from page 12

elite, but it does mean that God has more in store for her. A lady of distinction wears and accepts her crown with honor, and anyone that she comes into contact with is completed simply because she's blessed."

The program concluded with the presentation of four special recognitions and closing remarks. Toledo City Council Members Yvonne Harper and Larry Sykes presented a proclamation to the Top Ladies of Distinction and a proclamation to Bishop McKinstry.

"I want to thank everyone who took the time to join us this afternoon. Thank you, Bishop, for the word. Thank you to our ladies, lords and top teens," shared Lady Mary McKinley Reed, chapter president during closing remarks.

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction are: Lady Ann Battles, organizer; Lady Mary McKinley-Reed, president; Lady Denise Cardwell, first vice president, program chair and Top Teens Advisor; Lady Denise Black Poon, second vice president and project chair; Lady Wanda

Terrell Galloway, recording secretary and director of operations; Lady Clara Petty, corresponding secretary and chaplain; Lady Barbara Tucker, financial secretary; Lady Elizabeth Flournoy, treasurer; Lady Delores Anderson, Sargent at Arms; Lady Delores Bates, historian; Lady Madeline Standard. Top Teens: Teen Taiya Miller, president; Teen Taylor Halsey, first vice president; Teen Esparenza Mallauer, second vice president; Teen Daiya Miller, treasurer; and Teen Amari Wilson, secretary. Lords: Everett Anderson, Larry Cardwell, Rovey Flournoy, Steve Galloway, Darryl Reed, and Willie Tucker.

Top Ladies of Distinction have five National Thrusts: Top Teens of America, status of Women, senior citizens, community beautification, and community partnerships. The five national projects: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Council of Negro Women, United Negro College Fund, literacy, and sickle cell disease awareness.

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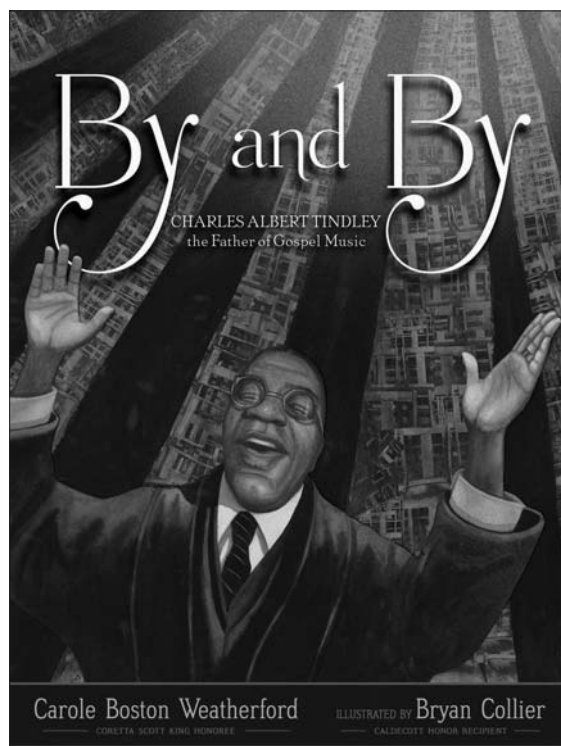
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START 2020 BY READING MORE

A frequent New Year's resolution people make is to read more books. Let the Library help you resolve to read more in 2020 – join the inaugural Winter Read!

Everyone who logs at least one book will receive one-size-fits-most Toledo Library touch screen gloves for adults and kids or red mittens for little ones (while supplies last) and will be eligible for grand prizes such as:

- Two round-trip airline vouchers to Florida from Toledo Express Airport
- One overnight guest room stay at Maumee Bay Lodge
- \$100 Sylvania Playland gift card
- \$50 Cinemark movie gift card (2 winners)

PARK MAINTENANCE

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Park Maintenance at Providence Metropark.

HS Diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license required. Moderate level of specialty maintenance experience required. 40 hrs/wk. \$18.09/hr. Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com for complete job requirements and to apply by January 24th. EOE

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TRAINER

WGTE Public Media seeks an innovative educator who will create, promote, and deliver teacher professional development focused on technology integration in the classroom. Requirements include a Bachelor's degree (Education or similar degree preferred) and one year of experience in the field of education or an Associate's degree and three years of experience in the field of education. Applicants must also have a minimum of two years of teaching and/or professional development experience, experience teaching adult learners, and creativity and proven experience in curriculum development and instructional design. Educational technology skills and/or experience are preferred. Must be self-motivated and have excellent oral and written communication skills. Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resource Manager, PO Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614 or online at employment@wgte.org.

EOE/ADA

MOVE TO AMEND IS SEEKING NATIONAL INTERNS FOR SPRING 2020!

Move to Amend national interns work remotely from around the country with board and staff on a variety of projects including grassroots organizing, volunteer retention, writing, research, lobbying, legislative tracking, donor retention, and other hands on projects to support the functions of a national, grassroots amendment campaign.

Interns can be any age and work from anywhere in the country. Our wonderful interns receive a monthly stipend to help cover costs like phone and internet.

Please see more details and learn about the application process and email me, jessica@movetoamend.org for questions.

MEDIATOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Fair Housing Center (Toledo) seeks an experienced mediator to serve as a neutral in their newly-established Landlord-Tenant Mediation department. The successful candidate will, through education and experience:

- (1) Have a working knowledge of Ohio's landlord-tenant laws, and eviction procedures;
- (2) Be able to explain the mediation process to landlords, tenants, and the general public;
- (3) Have the ability to build relationships with and educate the community through outreach, presentations, and workshops;
- (4) Have the ability to work effectively with people under stressful situations, identify problems and potential solutions, and be well-versed in conflict management skills;
- (5) Ability to utilize Microsoft Office software applications (Word, Excel, etc.) with ability to track activities in our proprietary case management system; and
- (5) Have knowledge about and be able to interpret Federal, State, and Local laws concerning discrimination in housing.

Qualifications:

- 1) Bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies, or equivalent required; Juris Doctor (preferred). Some amount of relevant experience may be substituted for educational requirements;
- 2) Solid conflict resolution skills;
- 3) One to three years experience in community mediation.

This is a full-time (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) exempt position, with some evenings or weekends as needed. Additional training will be provided. The Fair Housing Center offers competitive salary and benefits package.

How to Apply:

Please send resume and cover letter detailing qualifications to HR@toledofhc.org.

POLICE OFFICER

The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the position of full-time Police Officer.

Required Training and Experience:

Minimum two year college degree or equivalent, from an accredited college. Must be a commissioned Peace Officer according to the rules of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council at time of appointment.

Testing must be conducted through the National Testing Network (www.nationaltestingnetwork.com) and completed no later than **March 1, 2020**. Lateral entry applicants may bypass testing and complete an employment application for consideration. For more information, please visit www.ottawahills.org/employment or email police@ottawahills.org.

Pay Range: \$60,370-\$71,760

The Village of Ottawa Hills is an equal opportunity employer.

KAPTUR ENCOURAGES NORTHERN OHIOANS TO APPLY FOR 2020 CENSUS JOBS

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), is encouraging Northern Ohioans to apply for paid opportunities with the 2020 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau seeks to fill up to 500,000 temporary, part-time positions in local communities across the nation to carry out the decennial Census in 2020. Interested applicants can visit 2020census.gov/jobs-https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__2020census.gov_en_jobs.html&d=DwMGaQ&c=L93KkjKsAC98uTvC4KvQDdTDRzAeWDDrmG6S3YXIIH0&r=ixX8cgPnGzUueOgiz_ogjgIQMo_dBaTJJWDz8ing5jY&m=0MaLe9C0kkYbJWHzF_43SQmhwF1U7GltzIREtLtpf1c&s=Eq7Ezh8wthTBjRA5o4qwB7-EQpaeqYcQXks190orT8&e=> for more information about these positions.

The Census is mandated by the United States Constitution every 10 years to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives in addition to regulating the proportion of population based federal assistance to local communities.

"Our government relies on the Census to draw legislative districts and allocate federal investments to local communities for critical programs, including transportation and housing infrastructure and social services," said Rep. Kaptur. "I encourage all Northern Ohioans to participate so that everyone is accounted for and every voice is heard."

Last month, Kaptur, as a Senior Member of the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee with funding jurisdiction for the Census, worked alongside her House colleagues to secure \$7.6 billion for the Census Bureau, which includes a strong increase to enable the Bureau to conduct a thorough and accurate 2020 Decennial Census and to prevent the politization of the Census.

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The Soulcial Scene

Top Ladies of Distinction's Prayer Breakfast

By Tricia Hall

The Sojourner's Truth

Pink, gold and white decorations welcomed dozens of guests to the Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction and Top Teens of America's annual prayer breakfast on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Lady Denise Black Poon served as the mistress of ceremonies and program co-chair. The program opened with a congregational song, praise dance presented by Top Teens, and prayer delivered by Lady Clara Brank. The program also provided information about three programs that the chapter supports. LaShardaw Scott spoke about sickle cell, Paige Reyes spoke about March of Dimes, and Lady Delores Bates spoke about Boots for Bare Feet.

Immediately following breakfast, Lady Wanda Terrell Galloway, program co-chair introduced the featured speaker Bishop Pat McKinstry. The bishop also blessed the prayer cards that were collected from attendees.

Bishop McKinstry has held the position of Worship Center pastor for 30 years, worked in ministry a total of 60 years, married to her husband Luther McKinstry Jr. for 50 years and mother to Prophet Luther Luther McKinstry III. The bishop connected the breakfast theme with the organization's name and focused on why a Lady of Distinction shall wear a crown.

"Serving as a lady of distinction allows people to recognize the calling or blessing on your life. That doesn't mean that a lady of distinction is

... continued on page 10



Lady Denise Black Poon, Lady Mary McKinley Reed, Bishop Pat McKinstry, Lady Wanda Terrell Galloway



Toledo City Council presenting proclamations



Top Ladies, Top Teens, Lords, Toledo City Council, Bishop McKinstry



Top Teens



Bishop McKinstry

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