

The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 61, No. 1

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 8, 2020



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The Clash of Youth and Age: John Rudley's Story (Part Two)

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

The improvisational ability to lead adaptively relies on responding to the present situation rather than importing the past into the present and laying it on the current situation like an imperfect template.

- Ronald Heifetz



When John Rudley arrived on the campus of the then Toledo University in the mid-1960s, the Black Power, Civil Rights, and Peace/Anti-War movements were beginning to flourish. Along with Rudley, an increasing number of African Americans were also beginning to swell college student enrollment across the nation.

Many of these young, emboldened black students were, like Rudley, athletes who brought cultural perspectives, playing styles, and worldviews that were fresh, contemporary and different from the traditional norms practiced in these "essentially lily-white" institutions. There were bound to be clashes between the young athletes and those university athletic department coaches who attempted to "push forward without adapting to the change occurring around them."

John Rudley discussed with me some of the racial and generational conflicts that he experienced as a student-athlete at Toledo University. This article is part two of our conversation.

Perryman: Were you affected by any of the racial justice issues and discrimination that was consistently in the news when you arrived on campus in the mid-1960s?

Rudley: In school, we had to decide if you were supporting Martin Luther King or Malcolm X, because as kids, we were scratching our heads trying to figure it out. We knew that there had to be a solution to racism.

I was living in those times where it was a clash between modern thought and traditional values. Traditional values were that blacks needed to stay in their place, and society is okay without y'all making all this fuss. Then, at the same time, there was the Vietnam War going on. Malcolm X was assassinated, and then Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were also killed. You also had incidents like the protests, riots, and police beatings at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Perryman: Do you think any of that fueled the conflict between Coach Nichols and Bob Miller and the black players?

Rudley: I believe yes. Put yourself in my position. You're watching Nichols, and you know what you think of him in terms he's the coach, he's the guy that made a scholarship commitment, he should know everything. And then, you see Bob Miller, a young guy who is trying to figure it out too; he's

never been in college before. So, as I watched my team on the floor, I watched the relationship between Nichols and Mix (Steve), for example, and between Nichols and Brisker. They're all a different relationship, and between Nichols and me and Nichols and Calvin Lawshe, you see what I'm saying? I watched Nichols and Billy Backensto and Nichols and Willie Babione and the older guys. I watched all these relationships, and I knew



John Rudley

Nichols wasn't ready to deal with the attitude of players coming from the black community.

I remember back in the day that white people would call men, boys, and we didn't like that. And Brisker would tell Nichols, 'You don't call me, boy,' in practice. So that tells you that Nichols had to get used to changing his ways, but he couldn't do it overnight. So, this conflict between him and Bob occurred because Nichols wasn't ready to deal with the black athletes like (UT athletic director/football coach) Frank Lauterbur was doing.

What Lauterbur did with the athletic program was tremendous. He opened up the doors and recruited all those black athletes, and was good with his players because he allowed them room to grow. I understand that he was angry and almost got into a fistfight with Nichols when Nichols dismissed Bob Miller from the team because of Nichols' treatment of Miller in the newspaper. Neither did Nichols bother to first tell Lauterbur, who was the athletic director, about his plan to kick Bob off the team.

I just believe that Nichols really wasn't ready for the interaction with black athletes. And, he certainly wasn't really ready to coach us to a level that (legendary UCLA coach) Johnny Wooden would've coached us. Nichols would say he wouldn't want you to dribble behind your back on the way to the basket. I was saying to myself, hell, you've only got an instant to make up your mind. To this day, I thought he shackled me. I believe that I would've been a better athlete because he didn't take advantage of my total talents, only wanting me to play defense and assigning me to check the best scorer on the other team. That takes a lot of effort and time, you get tired doing that, and he never really allowed me to use my energy on the offensive side.

Perryman: Is it true that Bob Miller had a white girlfriend at that time? And, if so, did you think that helped to create the tensions between him and Nichols?

Rudley: Well, it's absolutely true that he had a white girlfriend or TWO! And it's absolutely true that they came after him. And, I'm sure it got back to the coach, it got back to a lot of people. One thing that killed me, though, is that they never said anything about Brisker. Brisker dated a whole bunch of girls. White girls mostly, and so it just shows you the different treatment. Nichols really couldn't corral Brisker, so he was hands-off with Brisker, who was wild. But sometimes coaches or parents will take it out on the other kid because they can't deal with the one that's a more forceful personality.

... continued on page 10

The Sojourner's Truth

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Give Grace, Less is More

By Diana Patton
Guest Column

Are you a parent feeling in over your head, literally drowning with the amount of work that your kids are trying to complete, while still transitioning to online or at-home learning, balancing a full-time job, and taking care of your family? Are you in crises, trying to make ends meet because you are out of a job? Do you lack the necessary tools to even transition to online learning?

Whew, that's a lot just writing it, much less living it.

Seriously, I can't imagine what you are feeling right now, but I can certainly relate. My two college student kids are home right now, navigating their online learning. But I remember like it was yesterday - the kids being home for an almost two-week period because of a blizzard, and they were receiving "blizzard packs" to do at home. That was a pretty stressful time for me because I had a full-time job and my husband was gone most of the time. What started out as fun quickly turned into dread, frustration, and cabin fever to the max.

That's as close as I can come to relating to your experience, and yet, that truly pales in comparison because... after all... we are living in a freaking pandemic for God's sake. That's just on a whole other level.

So I am writing this article as a plea to all educators, parents, schools, and students to say give yourself some grace. Be courteous. These are unprecedented times that is striking panic in the hearts and minds of everyone. Our students, parents, educators, our world is in a state of trauma. This pandemic has caused psychological distress. The effects are similar to war times and acts of terrorism, and can have a devastating impact upon people, depending on their "trauma-load" before this pandemic.

Trauma can impact a person's physical wellbeing, their emotions, cause a person to act out in harmful ways, lessen a person's self-worth, and challenge relationships. Trauma can even alter a person's neurological make-up, decreasing a person's ability to learn or process problems, causing difficulty regulating attention and problems with planning and organization, and difficulty understanding cause and effect.

The more you know about the trauma, the more you'd agree that the most important thing we can all do right now is do what a local parent, Kevin Mullen, suggests, and that is to ask: "What do our students REALLY need right now to advance to the next grade?"



Diana Patton

COVID-19 HIERARCHY OF NEEDS FOR SCHOOLS
Based off of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT DURING THIS CRISIS
BUT....
NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES WHO ARE EXPERIENCING ANXIETY AND FEAR AS WE DEVELOP OUR NEW NORMAL

Our kids and families need us more than ever to model social and emotional learning before content.
@jaydostal

I love this graphic that was recently shared on Twitter by principal Jay Dostal that references Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This just puts it all into perspective.

According to the Trauma Sensitive School research, the best thing educators, schools, parents, and students can do right now is to give grace to themselves and others, to help one another feel safe, feel connected, and to share ways to increase one's joy, hope and courage.

Here are a few other suggestions:
Adopt the less is more concept: Educators, instead of transition-

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Rev. Joseph E. Lowery Was a Drum Major for Environmental Justice

By Felicia M. Davis
Special to The Truth

As I say farewell to our beloved leader, spiritual and intellectual

guide and personal mentor, reflections upon the many lessons that Dr. Joseph E. Lowery taught informs my perspective on virtually everything. We know that he would admonish us to listen to the experts about COVID19 but he would also trust God and he definitely was never one for social distancing. He loved people and he was surrounded by an eclectic mix of humanity that loved him back. Dr. Lowery would definitely approve of a homegoing in the month associated with

caring for the earth and on a day that is so tragically associated with the Civil Rights Movement that he dedicated his life to; the assassination of his close associate, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition to his lifelong fight for voting rights, social and economic justice, Dr. Lowery was a Drum Major for Environmental Justice.



Joseph Lowery

When environmental issues appeared low on the black agenda, Dr. Lowery reminded us of his work in North Carolina where he laid down in front of trucks to stop the dumping of poisonous PCB contaminated soil in poor predominantly black Warren County. This action ignited the environmental justice movement as the newest wing of the civil rights movement. Dr. Lowery



Joseph Lowery and President Barack Obama

was the first national civil rights leader to elevate climate change and air pollution on the black agenda. He anchored the trailblazing "Air of Injustice Report" forging a coalition that included the Black Leadership Forum, Southern Organizing Committee for Social and Economic Justice and the Georgia Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda together with mainstream environmental advocates Clear the Air and Clean Air Task Force. Dr. Lowery was a gifted orator and prophetic preacher able to lift even the most vulnerable with messages of love and respect often more consequential than social services. He worked tirelessly to advance human rights, justice and equality. He also spoke passionately about the biblical responsibility to care for God's Creation including delivering an environmental sermon at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Dr. Lowery considered environmental stewardship to be a moral responsibility and he warned that, "We have deserted the good spouse of spirituality. We're shackling up. We're carrying on an illicit affair with the prostitute of materialism and greed. That's an incestuous affair, and it has produced offspring with congenital defects: violence, corruption, exploitation, racism, sexism. All of these are products of materialism and greed." The environmental movement owes a tremendous debt to Dr. Lowery for advancing equity, justice and inclusion not to mention elevating the conversation to the spiritual plane. We honor his legacy by doing the work, always remembering that "love embraces justice."

Felicia M. Davis is the Director of the HBCU Green Fund, Sustainability Director at Clark Atlanta University and worked closely with Dr. Lowery for over two decades.

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Community Foundation Provides COVID-19 Relief for Local Nonprofits

Tricia Hall

The Sojourner's Truth

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a fund to support northwest Ohio and southeastern Michigan nonprofits and last week announced the first round of grantees that received \$51,508 collectively.

Seven nonprofits will either begin or continue to provide immediate relief to residents that are impacted by the novel coronavirus.

Adelante Inc. will provide access to basic need items that include food, personal hygiene items, or cleaning supplies to the community. Children's Hunger Alliance will provide shelf stable food supplies to children at specific Toledo locations that do not overlap with current Toledo Public School distribution locations.

Home Non-profit Housing Corp. will receive funds to cover their increased staff costs related to the 13 developmentally disabled adult residents that they serve. Salvation Army received funds to cover the increase of basic needs for the food pantry, rental assistance and utility assistance.

The Mareda Center will provide basic need items and cleaning supplies to 50 low-income families. Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board will coordinate and supply homeless service providers with basic needs items that include sanitizing supplies, meals, host costs for quarantine stays and additional staff costs. Center of Hope Family Services will provide basic need items like food and cleaning supplies to youth and participants of their programs.

"The COVID-19 pandemic presents many challenges for this community. Parents have been thrust into the challenge of becoming teachers, without the benefits of the training, supports, and resources afforded to educators," said Tracee Perryman, PhD, CEO of Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. "And even with all the resources, training, and supports provided in our educational systems, we still need more. And now parents are expected to fill in the gaps with even less. Center of Hope Family Services has provided educational enrichment, family engagement, and wrap around services for 15 years to support local educational, social welfare, and juvenile justice systems.

"We build bridges between these systems, children, and their families. For example, every family doesn't have access to pick up the education packets provided by the schools or even pick up meals at feeding sites. There are families that may have access to free internet, thanks to Buckeye, but may not have access to a laptop or tablet. Families may move, or change phone numbers, and that information may not be updated with the schools. We fill in those gaps by accessing educational materials, preparing food baskets, and delivering them to the families directly. We work with schoolteachers and principals to access the appropriate materials and assemble the packets if needed. The food baskets we deliver are large-family, shelf-stable meals that are designed to feed a larger family size over the weekend. We are currently serving 50 families, but this

could expand to about 100 families. We have had calls from additional schools who would like us to partner with their families, so that they can access our resources. Our plan was to run this program until May 1, but we are evaluating our timeline as we receive guidance from our governor. The educational resources are fully funded, but we will likely need additional funding for food expenses, as the stay at home order continues to be extended. We prefer monetary contributions as we are already partnering with food service providers to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines."

According to the Community Foundation Public Awareness Initiative, United States based community foundations in 49 states and the District of Columbia have mobilized \$230,000 collectively since March 25 in response to the coronavirus have are able to connect with donors and award funds quickly.

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation plans to announce additional grantees, as the next three rounds of grant recommendations are in the approval process. Nonprofits that are experiencing coronavirus-related financial challenges or are aiding the community are encouraged to visit the Foundation website.

"Please join us by sharing this opportunity with those who may not be in the position to give. Contributions of any amount are appreciated," explained Keith Burwell, Greater Toledo Community Foundation president. "The Community Foundation is pleased that we are able to immediately help fill 'the gap' in funding for basic human needs of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. We are continuing to monitor the greatest unmet needs of residents in our local communities and do what we can to help. The Greater Toledo Community Foundation wants to empower these nonprofits to meet the immediate needs in our community. These were seven nonprofits that received funding, but this is just the beginning. We urge the nonprofits to continue to apply for funds."

Links

- To connect with Center of Hope (SThompson@cohfs.org)
- To submit a COVID-19 grant application (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon>)
- To listen to an interview with Foundation staff about COVID-19 grant application (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEn4pb9EFFs&feature=youtu.be>)
- To review nonprofit related COVID-19 resources (<https://www.c4npr.org/>).
- To donate to COVID-19 Response Fund, (<https://toledocf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list>)

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Black America in a State of Emergency

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent
Guest Column

While many medical doctors maintain that the novel coronavirus is transmitted through droplets from coughs or sneezes, more and more medical experts and officials who work primarily with infectious respiratory illnesses and aerosols are convinced that the disease is airborne.

Last week, as a result of recent medical research and data, The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. has issued a solemn national public warning and alert to nearly 50 million African Americans. "Black America is now in a state of emergency as a result of the disproportionately deadly impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our families and communities across the United States," Chavis stated. "The coronavirus is now airborne. That means that the coronavirus can be in air that we breath."

"Black Americans should stay at home and only leave home for critical life-essential reasons," Chavis emphasized. "In fact, all Americans should stay at home to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. But I must emphasize that because before the spread of the coronavirus, Black Americans were already disproportionately burdened with multiple preexisting health conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, our communities are more vulnerable to the impact of the coronavirus, including higher rates of fatalities."

A Pro Publica report revealed that African Americans made up almost half of Milwaukee County's 945 cases and 81 percent of its 27 deaths in a county whose population is only 26 percent black.

Milwaukee is one of the few places in the United States that is tracking the racial breakdown of people who have been infected by the novel coronavirus, offering a glimpse at the disproportionate destruction it is inflicting on Black communities nationwide.

In Michigan, where the state's population is 14 percent black, African Americans made up 35 percent of cases and 40 percent of deaths as of Friday, April 3.

Detroit, where a majority of residents are black, has emerged as a hot spot with a high death toll. As has New Orleans, according to Pro Publica.

Louisiana has not published case breakdowns by race, but 40 percent of the state's deaths have happened in Orleans Parish, where the majority of residents are Black.

Illinois and North Carolina are two of the few areas publishing statistics on COVID-19 cases by race, and their data shows a disproportionate number of African Americans were infected, according to the report.

"We know in the US that there are great discrepancies in not only the diagnosis but the treatment that African Americans and other minorities are afforded," stated Dr. Ebony Hilton, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the University of Virginia Health Systems.

"So, I want to make sure that in this pandemic, that Black and brown people are treated in the same way and that these tests are made available in the same pattern as for white people," Dr. Hilton said.

Medical experts have also sounded the alarm that the virus could well be transmitted through the air.

"Currently available research supports the possibility that (COVID-19) could be spread via bioaerosols generated directly by patients' exhalation," Harvey Fineberg, who heads a standing committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats, wrote in an April 1, 2020 letter

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Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. Receives Grant from Aetna Supporting Community Needs amid COVID-19 Outbreak

Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. has received a grant from Aetna, a CVS Health business (Aetna), supporting its response the COVID-19 outbreak. The grant is part of more than \$1 million CVS Health and its foundations have given to address food insecurity and other community needs in response to the challenges presented by pandemic.

"This funding will be used to meet the essential needs of older adults in our community during the Coronavirus crisis," said Mrs. Billie Johnson, President/CEO. "We appreciate the support Aetna has provided the Area Office on Aging to help our community respond to COVID-19."

The Area Office on Aging and its provider network have delivered groceries or meals to over 6,000 older northwest Ohioans each week during the Coronavirus crisis. The agency, its staff and volunteers have also been conducting thousands of well check calls of older adults at home to make sure they are okay and to provide them with an opportunity to socialize. The agency and its transportation providers are also making sure older adults who need to get to essential medical appointments such as dialysis and chemotherapy treatments are able to receive transportation to their medical care.

"We know that as a result of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, there are many people in the communities we serve who are faced with urgent needs," said Eileen Howard Boone, SVP of Corporate Social Responsibility & Philanthropy at CVS Health, President of CVS Health Foundation. "As part of our ongoing commitment to building healthier communities, we are pleased to support the Area Office on Aging in response to this pandemic."

"The Area Agencies on Aging in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo are

critical partners for Aetna Better Health of Ohio and we are pleased to provide additional funds to them during this very challenging pandemic," said Tony Solem, CEO of Aetna Better Health of Ohio. "They know their communities and where the greatest needs are, and we are proud to support their efforts to take care of vulnerable Ohioans."

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) helps older adults live long, quality, independent lives in its 10-county service area. The AOoA provides programs and services that help younger and more active older adults remain healthy, engaged, and vibrant for as long as possible. Programs and services also help frail older adults remain as independent as possible as well as services and programs for everyone in between.



Billie Johnson

Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments for Beneficiaries

"I want to provide an update to people who receive benefits from the Social Security Administration.

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) announced on April 1 that Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file an abbreviated tax return to receive an economic impact payment. The IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 to generate \$1,200 economic impact payments to Social Security beneficia-

ries who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019.

Treasury, not Social Security, will make automatic payments to Social Security beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will receive these payments by direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their Social Security benefits.

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TPS Teachers, Students, Parents Adjust to a Different Normalcy

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I think our students have more appreciation for school," says Jim Gault, Toledo Public Schools deputy superintendent for curriculum reflecting upon the first three weeks of the Ohio school closing order. "Every student I talk to says they are ready to go back to school."

During these past three weeks, students have been told to pick up grade-appropriate learning packets from designated drive through locations so that they can work on on-line assignments at home – assignments that will be turned in when school resumes. Their teachers are available on-line or by telephone for consultation.

Not all students have access to computers or Wifi connections, of course, a problem Gault readily acknowledges. This week, the learning packets will have pencil and paper materials to enable more students to work at home. In addition, TPS is partnering with Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority to equip 10 buses with Wifi so that students in those LMHA locations can have access.

This week the learning packets also are being distributed, according to grade level, on different days, at the students' home schools or the schools within their communities.

For Elberta Ann Smith, the principal of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls since the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, the shutdown has demonstrated the ability of all parties to step up to the challenge.

... continued on page 9

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TPS... continued from page 8

"My teachers have been phenomenal during this process," she notes. "They hit the ground running."

The notification by Gov. Mike DeWine that schools were closing left teachers and the district office with little time to prepare learning packets – then called "blizzard bags" for students. The teachers had about 24 hours to assemble the first batch for Friday, March 13. In subsequent weeks, the district has prepared the packets.

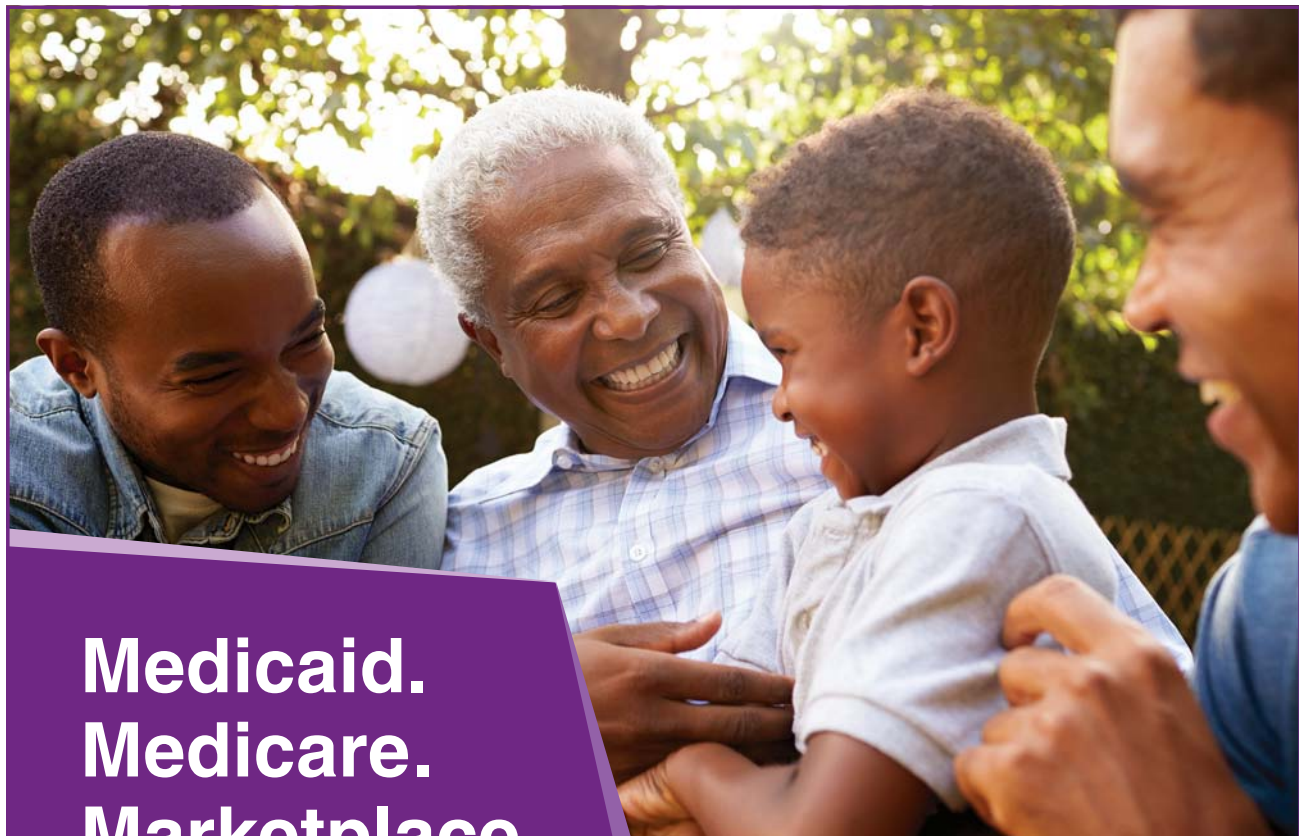
Smith is particularly pleased with the "great teamwork," she has seen exhibited by the teachers and parents who are "doing their best to keep some normalcy," during these difficult times.

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Nevertheless, Smith says, "we still have our struggles." Chief among those struggles is the fact that not all TPS students and their families have the ability to access the internet, which the learning packets, up



Ella P. Stewart Staff and Teachers at school event this past winter



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First Federal Bank Makes \$100,000 Commitment to Help Local Non-profits Address Impacts of COVID-19

First Federal Bank and Home Savings Bank, which recently merged, are making a \$100,000 commitment from the Charitable Foundation to help local non-profit partners address the challenges faced from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The funds will support organizations which are focused on providing medical supplies, food and other critical health-related essentials to the elderly. In addition, First Federal Bank has also donated 2,000 N95 masks to the Defiance County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The masks were from inventory that First Federal Bank had in storage locally in Defiance.

"Since the beginning of this pandemic, reports around the world are showing that the elderly are especially vulnerable during this outbreak. This is true throughout our market areas as well," stated Vince Liuzzi, EVP and Chief Banking Officer, Head of Community Banking for First Federal Bank. "As a community bank, our local leadership easily identified needs and quickly directed our support to vital community partners serving the elderly within the communities we call home."

This support includes the following for their programs focused on assisting the elderly:

- 50 North in Findlay, OH
- Aging and In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana Inc. in Fort Wayne, IN
- Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in Akron, OH 2
- Allen County Council on Aging in Lima, OH
- **American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio in Toledo, OH**
- **Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo in Toledo, OH**
- Columbus Housing Partnership Inc. dba Homeport in Columbus, OH
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana Inc. in Fort Wayne, IN
- Easter Seal Society of Mahoning Trumbull and Columbiana Counties in Youngstown, OH
- Eliza Jennings Home in Olmstead Township, OH
- Hebron Ministries in Defiance, OH
- Henry County Senior Center Inc. in Napoleon, OH
- Lenawee County Department on Aging Mobile Meals Foundation in Adrian, MI

- Paulding County Senior Center Steering Committee Inc. in Paulding, OH
- Seneca Country Commission on Aging Inc. in Tiffin, OH
- The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland in Cleveland, OH
- **United Way of Greater Toledo in Toledo, OH**
- Williams County Senior Center Support Fund Inc. in Bryan, OH

"We are working to do our part to help by mobilizing the resources of our Foundation across all markets to support our customers, employees and communities in this time of crisis," explained Don Hileman, CEO, First Federal Bank of the Midwest. "We are hopeful that these funds will help make an immediate and meaningful impact for those working to save lives, caring for the sick and vulnerable and working to bring an end to this serious challenge."

"First Federal and Home Savings share a deep commitment to serving our clients and communities. As we continue to grow, so does the impact we have on our communities," added Gary Small, president, Home Savings Bank. "Our commitment to providing excellence in service extends beyond banking. It includes giving back to the communities in which we live and work, striving to make a difference each and every day."

Perryman... continued from page 2

Perryman: Did you ever experience anything like that with Nichols?

Rudley: Nichols and I got into it, and I was getting ready to transfer. I'll never forget this. As you live with these guys, you become brothers, and we were playing at Ohio U, and I believe we won the game, but Brisker and Miller were historically late in the locker room, but this time, they were dramatically slow. Everybody was already on the bus except Brisker and Miller and even me. I tried but couldn't push Bob to get dressed any faster, and I couldn't push Brisker. I think Bob was talking to some girl and so here I am sitting there going, 'Come on, let's get on the bus, come on. Let's go, let's go, come on, guys!'

So, finally, I had enough of it and started walking up the hill where the bus was, and Nichols was on the bus with the team. So, he comes out, he's screaming and he grabs me in the collar and goes after me about 'you guys being late.' Remind you; they're still in the locker room; I'm halfway up the hill. So, when he did that and charged me like that, I went back to campus and called my mom, saying, 'I'm transferring.' I told Brisker, Calvin Lawshe, and others that I was going to transfer, and they all talked me out of it. Because my friend L.C. Bowen was playing at Bradley University at the time and I had other friends playing around the league, and I talked to them. Nobody had been treated like that. So, it just showed me that Coach Nichols didn't understand how to deal with us. He viewed us as individuals, sure enough. Still, you don't put me in the same category as Bob Miller and Brisker, who are giving you a hard time when I'm not giving you a hard time.

Perryman: So fast forward, you go to Tennessee, you go to the University of Houston, you get to Texas Southern. Talk about the difference in cultural context at those places.

Rudley: It starts when I first started working for Coopers & Lybrand in Los Angeles, one of the Big Eight Certified Public Accounting firms at the time. My goal is to be the best, and I started understanding corporate culture in a predominantly white corporate environment.

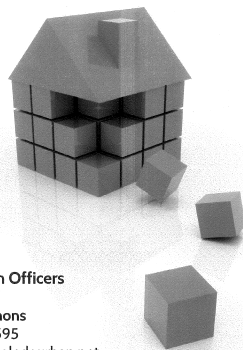
I eventually left Coopers & Lybrand, worked my way into higher education, and worked at the Tennessee Board of Regents, but before that, I worked at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. So, these predominantly white institutions were hiring me because of my prior experiences working with corporate firms, and many schools wanted someone with business savvy. So, my expertise in putting together budgets and financial systems was what they hired me for, and I learned that at Coopers & Lybrand.

(To be continued)

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Kaptur Announces Nearly \$19 Million in Federal Funds to Support the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) During Coronavirus Pandemic

Last week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur announced \$18,870,900 for the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, passed last month by Congress. Included in the legislation was \$25 billion to support transit agencies and their workers. Transit agencies across the U.S. have all seen a dramatic drop in revenues as social distancing has been implemented nationally. This funding will be used to protect the jobs of the employees of the transit agency and fund their paychecks during this public health emergency. Ohio will ultimately receive \$474,118,324 under this program. The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) serves Southeast Michigan, Lucas, and Wood Counties.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has specifically directed agencies that they can use these dollars for emergency protective measures to eliminate or lessen threats to public health and safety, such as performing enhanced cleaning/sanitizing of rolling stock, stations, bus shelters, etc.; placing hand sanitizer dispensers in high traffic areas; and providing personal protective equipment as appropriate.

“At a time when ridership is down but the health risks for workers have increased, these funds offer a critical bridge for TARTA to keep our community connected while prioritizing public health,” said Rep. Kaptur. “We owe a deep debt of gratitude to TARTA employees who are still on the job despite the risks to their own safety. I will continue to fight tooth and nail in Congress to make sure our communities in Northern Ohio receive their fair share as our country faces its greatest public health and economic threat in over a century.”

“TARTA is very grateful for the leadership and hard work of our Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.,” said TARTA General Manager Kim Dunham. “The swift passage of the CARES ACT and its immediate availability to transit systems is unprecedented. These funds will be used to cover COVID related operating expenses including lost revenue, PPE equipment and other supplies to protect our team, administrative leave for staff and cleaning service contractors. Mass transit is defined as a critical

infrastructure sector by the Department of Homeland Security and I commend our brave men and women on the front lines providing service to the most vulnerable residents and essential workers in our community. Many thanks to Representative Kaptur and the entire Ohio delegation for getting this legislation passed swiftly to assist transit systems during this difficult time.”

TPS... continued from page 9

to this week, have been exclusively based on.

“As much as we’re trying this home-schooling, it’s not equitable,” says Smith of the dilemma facing TPS. “We have to find a way, as a district, to make this situation a lot more equitable.”

TPS, of course, is a city district, with a huge proportion of students living in poverty, in single-parent homes or in foster homes, for example. Teachers and staff will be faced with the consequences of such inequities when school resumes and students return with weeks of completed, or uncompleted, assignments.

“We haven’t collected any work yet,” says Smith. “We have asked families to hold on, until the students return on May 1.” Of course, when the students return is anybody’s guess at this point.

On the district level, Gault is also impressed by the work that teachers are putting in during the shutdown. The district’s call center, he notes, is receiving few calls because “the teachers are logging those calls.”

However, the challenges facing the district when school resumes loom large in the administration’s conversations these days, he says. Administrators “are looking at the grading system and the challenges facing students.” When students return, Gault adds, the anticipation is that they will not be harmed by the amount of schoolwork they turn in but completed assignments can add to their grades.

“It can only help,” says Gault.

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Diana Patton... continued from page 3

Stacy M Brown... continued from page 6

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It's Not All Downhill from Here by Terry McMillan

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Getting old ain't for sissies.

Aging is not for the weak, whiners, or wimps, not for 'fraidycats or those with no confidence, and aging is absolutely not for the inflexible. But then again, as in the new novel by **Terry McMillan**, *It's Not All Downhill from Here*, either.

c.2020
Ballantine Books
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada
350 pages

The last thing Loretha Curry wanted was another "surprise" birthday party.

Good heavens, she was going to be 68 on New Year's Eve and she told her husband, Carl, that she didn't want the fuss again this year. He would listen to her wishes, but her girlfriends? They never would.

Yet, they did.

Korynthia, Poochie, Lucky, and Sadie stepped back and let Carl handle a special treat: a weekend at Loretha's favorite hotel in Palm Springs, just the two of them. It was exactly what she needed to take her mind off everything: her mother had been moved into assisted living; her sister, Odessa, was some kind of witch; her daughter, Jalecia, was Heaven-knows-where and probably high on something; her granddaughter, Cinnamon, was a "space cadet"; and Loretha was just plain tired. A weekend away with Carl would be perfect.

But before it had even started, her birthday weekend ended in a way that Loretha could never have imagined, with a loss both unfathomable and unfair. When it was all over and everybody went home, she could barely remember what hour it was. She closed her businesses because she had no energy to run them.

Staying at home, alone and staring at four walls, wasn't an option, though. Jalecia moved in with Loretha's ex-sister-in-law, who was always calling for money. Cinnamon announced that she was pregnant with twins and could she have one of Loretha's rentals? Then Korynthia insisted that Loretha join her dance class, some young man showed up and announced that he was Carl's long-lost son, and Poochie started planning an all-girls cruise week. And life goes on after a bad event: uphill sometimes, and sometimes not...



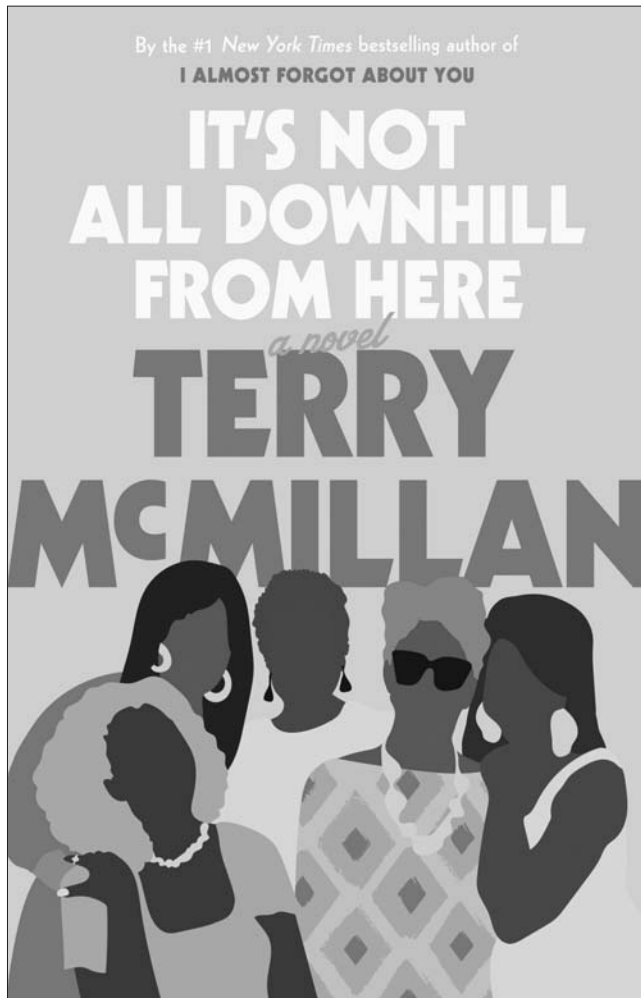
Terry McMillan, photo courtesy Matthew Jordan Smith

FaceTime isn't cuttin' it. Skype's not

enough. You can get by with phone calls and texts but it isn't the same: you need your friends, just as in *It's Not All Downhill from Here*.

And yet, don't think that this is just another "girlfriends" book. Yes, absolutely, it's a story about women's friendships, but author Terry McMillan also explores what it's like to grow older, when a body's *Of A Certain Age* but the mind forgets that's so. Readers who've glued together the pieces of a life shattered know all about this, and what it's like to do it again tomorrow, if the need arises. McMillan's characters possess just the right amount of wisdom for that, which will appeal not so much to her younger readers as, perhaps, to the age group that originally loved *Waiting to Exhale*.

It's Not All Downhill from Here actually comes at the right time: it reminds readers that even in Novel-Land, things can get messy and you'll be okay. Find it for your next book-group virtual-meet. Read it and share with your Sissies.



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CLASSIFIEDS

April 8, 2020

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SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted March 30, 2020 – April 3, 2020 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC), an affiliate of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position: **Assistant Community Development Program Manager**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org/219/Careers>. **Deadline:** 03/16/20. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/EMA DIRECTOR LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services is accepting applications to fill the position of Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director" from the list to read more or apply.

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BUILDING SERVICEPERSON

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for part time Building Servicepersons to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial, and basic maintenance functions at the Tree House Village, Oak Openings Preserve. Up to 35 hours per week. \$11.73/hr. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must have valid driver's license. May include evenings, weekends and holidays. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

SYSTEMS ANALYST LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services 9-1-1 is accepting applications to fill the position of Systems Analyst position until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Systems Analyst" from the list to read more or apply.

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FEEDBACK NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) is seeking Lucas County Residents to participate in a short survey.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback for the development of our 3-year strategic plan that will be focused on the direction, impact, and responsiveness of MHR SB's work in the communities we serve. Your candid feedback and insight will be used to develop the final strategic plan for the next three years. Complete the survey online in English or Spanish by visiting: docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfJN6abJNj_NSqee_sHFZIFMX.../viewform

Printable versions of the survey are available in Arabic, English, and Spanish on our website: www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/ We appreciate your willingness to participate in this process and look forward to the honest feedback.

MANOR HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an outgoing individual to provide excellent customer service for park visitors and program participants through positive and engaging experiences.

The Manor House Programs and Events Assistant position is located at Wildwood Preserve Metroparks. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Must have completed some college course work in history, education, communication, or related program or equivalent work experience. Some experience in customer service, and public speaking. Experience leading public programs preferred. Seasonal position through December. May include some weekends, holidays, and evenings. Up to 35 hours per week. \$9.47/hr. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>> to review complete job description and to apply. EOE

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$24,150.00 for one person or \$27,600.00 for two people.

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Still Open ... For Take Out

Ruby's Kitchen is still in the business of serving the public and pleasing diners with such delicacies as smothered pork chops, rib-eye steaks, chicken wings and Ruby Butler's personal favorites – the catfish filets and the whole catfish dinners. Of course, no dinner would be complete if one didn't sample the peach cobbler.

Helping Butler as always is her chief cook, daughter Sonda Hicks. Mother and daughter have worked together from the very beginning.

These days, diners need to pull into the lot, enter the restaurant and order their catfish to go. Calling ahead is even more convenient – 419-578-5388.

The restaurant is open on Tuesdays from 2 to 7 p.m.; Thursdays from noon to 7 p.m.; Fridays from noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m.

The menu can be seen online on the restaurant's Facebook page or on the website at www.msrbyskitchen.com



Ruby's Kitchen Head Cook Sonda Hicks



Sunday Services Go on ... Empty Pews or Not

The message on Sunday at Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Robert Lyons serves as pastor, was to "seek God's solutions to our problems," said the pastor citing 2 Chronicles 7:10 as the inspiration.

Greater St. Mary's held its first online service this past Sunday on Zoom so that "we are able to accommodate members and keep them safe

in their homes," said Lyons.

A few deacons and deaconesses attended to help Pastor Lyons get the message broadcast-

ed – including Deacon Pratcher, who at 93, will continue to assist the pastor on Sundays.



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