

The *Sojourner's* Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 23, 2020



The Power of the Black Vote



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Judges Matter

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor

(Democrats) must groom their base to understand the importance of the courts. Dems can get the best laws passed but what difference will it make if it doesn't survive judicial scrutiny?

- Midwin Charles



The recent death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg exposed the jeopardous political vulnerability of those not aware of the judiciary's critical role.

Justices have the responsibility to protect rights and provide justice to all people, regardless of race, social status, wealth, or power. They are also required to interpret and apply laws with honesty, fairness and impartiality. Therefore, it is critical to place knowledgeable, fair and diverse judges on the bench in this election season.

I recently spoke with Common Pleas Court Judge Myron Duhart who is a Democratic Party candidate for the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. He seeks to move up the judicial ladder to the Appeals Court, a highly responsible and valuable part of the judicial process.

Here is our conversation.

Perryman: Please introduce yourself to The Truth's readers.

Judge Duhart: I was born and raised in Toledo's central city, right across the street from the Fredrick Douglass Community Center. My mother passed away when I was 10, and my father passed away not long after. I was essentially raised by a single grandmother who sold Avon to put food on our table and she taught me the value of hard work. I went to St. Francis de Sales High School and didn't really have any way to pay for college, so I did a of couple years of active duty in the United States Army, and chose to go to Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. While in college, I interned for Ohio State Rep Casey Jones, and he encouraged me to consider law.

Perryman: Please describe your law school experience.

Judge Duhart: I had the pleasure of being the law clerk for Judge Robert Penn, obviously a pillar in the community and a well-known judge. Again, I didn't have any money to pay for law school so I would work at Toledo Municipal Court from 9-5, go to school from six to nine at night, go home to eat and rest, and then get up for the graveyard shift at the United Parcel Service, where I would sling boxes till three or four o'clock in the morning, and go home. Then I'd get back up at four to five in the morning and do it all over again. I worked hard, paid my way through law school, and graduated in 1996. With respect to the formative years before I started practicing law, those are the highlights.

Perryman: You are presently on the Court of Common Pleas and a candidate for the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. Many people under-

stand what trial judges do, but they're not familiar with what State Appellate Judges do. Can you talk about how the Appellate Court differs from your trial court experience?

Judge Duhart: I was appointed by Governor Ted Strickland in 2011 to the Common Pleas Court, trial division, replacing Judge Charles Doneghy, another pillar in the community. Previously, I had a very large general practice for 20 years, doing a lot of work in personal injury, criminal defense and business litigation all over northwestern Ohio, and many other jurisdictions. Many of those jurisdictions are the same counties that make up the Sixth District Court of Appeals, but while an attorney I was certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio to litigate death penalty cases, some of the most challenging cases I ever had.

In 2012 I had to run to be elected and was successful. I handled multi-million-dollar civil cases ranging across the gamut to death penalty, homicide cases. I was reelected in 2018 to the Common Pleas Court bench, and it has been a fruitful and rewarding experience, and I believe I've made an impact on the community. At least that's what I try to do, to do what's right.

Perryman: And the Appellate Court?

Judge Duhart: The Sixth District Court of Appeals, however, is made up of eight counties, as Lucas, Wood, Erie, Sandusky, Ottawa, Fulton, Williams and Huron County. So, to use a football analogy, if there's a call by the referee made on the field in real-time, that's the trial court judge, that's what I do now. You make that call to the best of your ability with what you have in front of you.

Now, the Court of Appeals is when that call is made, and one of the coaches challenges the call. It's the persons in the booth and in the camera who then, in consultation with the other referees, look at the film, pontificate as to what the right call is based on the rules, what the tape and the record would suggest, and then come back and either affirm the call or reverse the call on the field. That's essentially what the Court of Appeals does. It is a crucial position to have, and I take it with a great deal of seriousness and consideration.

Perryman: So, an appellate judge is tasked with overseeing the lower courts' rulings to ensure that decisions are sound?

Judge Duhart: Correct. Often, people don't understand that the Supreme Court of Ohio is the highest in the state; however, the cases they take are discretionary. Therefore, if you wish to dispute the decisions made in a trial or the municipal court, most cases don't often reach the Supreme Court. That's why it's vitally important to know the judges on the Sixth District Court of Appeals, and have researched their record, experience and education because they're generally the last court of resort.

Perryman: So, an appellate judge must clarify often confusing or misunderstood points of law, and have extra insight and knowledge about the law and how it should be applied.

Judge Duhart: Yes, 100 percent! Hence, I feel that it is extremely helpful to have a judge who has served on the trial court, understands what happens at the trial level, and moves on and ascend to the Sixth District Court of Appeals for that very reason.

In addition to that, and speaking of me in particular, I think not only my experience as a trial judge is a value add to the Court of Appeals but my



Judge Myron Duhart

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TPS Announces Its Back-to-School Plan

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Public Schools' administration announced its back-to-school plan last Thursday and informed students and parents that the "March to Yellow" transition will happen in staggered steps during the month of October.

Starting the week of October 12, preschool to second grade students will report to their classrooms while third to 12th graders will start reporting during the week of October 26.

TPS has been in an all-virtual phase so far during this school year – the "Red" phase of the three-part color system. The Yellow phase brings students back for partial classroom study. Students in the "A" group will be in the classroom on Mondays and Thursday; those in the "B" group on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be reserved for students who need additional assistance and for deep cleaning of the school buildings, said Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, during the press conference announcement.

The third step of the color system is "Green" for the eventual return of full-time classroom attendance. No timetable has been set for the "Green" phase.

Durant spoke of improving conditions generally in Lucas County as he announced the TPS decision. "Lucas County has made a turn for the better, out of the red and into orange," he said, referencing the State of Ohio grading system for various areas around the state.

TPS will continue to provide food for the students who need it for the entire week.

Ann Cipriani, the coordinator of Health Services and School Nurses, said that a goal of the move into the "Yellow" phase will be "promoting a culture of compliance – we are all in this together."

There are three layers of safety that the district will try to ensure that students and parents are following – face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene, said Cipriani.

Durant also announced that the City League will have a fall football season leading to a city championship and into the state playoffs. Athletes are already practicing. In addition, extracurricular activities will resume and TPS partners, such as those providing wraparound services – tutoring, mental health, etc – will all be back in action.



Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD

Distance-Learning: What You Need to Succeed at Home

Special to The Truth

Is your family distance-learning? Having the resources you need at home can be the key to success. Here are a few tools to consider as you navigate an unusual school year:

- **A Library Card:** If students lack access to the school's physical library, your public library can be an invaluable fount of information to turn to this school year. While it's true that some library systems have limited their print materials available for checkout, keep in mind that many offer a rich collection of electronic resources, which can be checked out instantaneously from the safety of home.
- **Math Tools:** Math class can be an especially challenging subject for students to tackle in the remote learning context. Luckily, online tools exist which can help. Check out ClassPad.net, a free web-based platform featuring tools for calculation, graphing, geometry, statistics and more. Its interactive menu enables students and educators to draw geometry figures freehand and input calculations as they would on scratch paper. Users can also plot data points, as well as add text labels, expressions and

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Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Virtual Conference

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The second virtual conference on voter information and concerns entitled, "Power of the Black Vote," was held on September 17. The conference featured: Rev. Al Sharpton, National Action Network; Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State; Marc Morial, CEO of the National Urban League; Barbara Sykes, president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, and Alicia Reece, former member of the Ohio House of Representatives and current candidate for Hamilton County Commissioner, served as moderator.



State Rep. Alicia Reece

"We're only a few weeks away from voting and voting is so essential. We must exercise our right to vote because we hold the power within the black vote," explained Reece.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) Foundation organized the conference which was also aired live on social media and invited comments from attendees that were addressed live throughout the conference. OLBC Foundation strives to be the pre-eminent hub for non-partisan analysis examining the impact of public policy on African American communities.

OLBC Foundation works to advance Ohio's African Americans through educational research, facilitation of public policy development, and analyzing issues of social and economic importance including, but not limited to the promotion, inclusion and diversification in the public and private sector.

"We are excited to gather virtually, to view and discuss polling results that address issues related to Black voter turnout in November," said Barbara Sykes, OLBC Foundation president.

Secretary LaRose confirmed that voting is safe for the November 2020 election. "Citizens must know the facts. There are three great choices and all are good options. Ohioans can vote using absentee ballot, early voting or vote on the election day. Ohio needs 37,000 poll workers and our goal is to recruit 150 percent collectively. Even on voting day the machines will be set apart and sanitized. The election will happen. I disagree with President Trump on plenty of things, including voting. Your vote will be secure in Ohio," explained LaRose.



Barbara Sykes

According to OLBC, in 2012, 66 percent

of African-American voters turned out to vote in the November election, which was the number one voting ethnic group, compared to 65 percent of white voters. However, in 2016, only 59 percent of African-American voters voted.

Reverend Sharpton spoke briefly about how vital Ohio's election results are when selecting the next president. "This is a critical election. We need to turnout like never before so they can't play this fear game. Any close results and the other side will win. It's not just about Trump and Biden but the people in Ohio. We all know that Ohio is the key, where Ohio goes, also goes the White House," said Sharpton.



Sec. State Frank LaRose

Morial, the CEO of National Urban League and a former Louisiana legislator, voiced support for the Post Office and echoed LaRose's confidence in ensuring a secure election. The National Urban League and other civic organizations have joined in a lawsuit against the Census and Post Office.



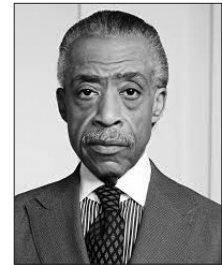
Marc Morial

"The post office has changed services, pulled out sorting machines for no reason, and restricted overtime," said Morial. "Forty-five has launched an assault campaign on our ability to vote by mail and claims it's not reliable. The Post Office delivers checks,

debit cards and credit cards with very few problems. It's an insult to suggest they can't ensure ballots won't find its way in an appropriate amount of time to be accounted. It's an attack on an American institution."

OBLC Board of Directors: Barbara Sykes, president and CEO; Alicia Reece, vice chair; Tom Roberts, treasurer; Michael Ashford, secretary; Sylvester Patton, immediate past chair; Christie Kuhns, Larry Price and Petee Talley; board members.

The sponsors of the conference were: American Electric Power, AT&T Corporation, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Ohio Association of Community Action Networks and The University of Akron.



Rev. Al Sharpton

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60 Local Ohio Faith Leaders Call on Congress for Immediate Action on COVID Relief

Last week, Black Women Rising and 60 local Ohio faith leaders released a joint letter spotlighting the challenges people across the state are experiencing during the unprecedented pandemic. COVID-19 continues to disproportionately infect and impact Black Americans, including Black Ohioans, who make up nearly 20 percent of the state's COVID-19 casualties even though Black people make up only 14 percent of Ohio's population.

With more than 140,000 COVID-19 cases in the Buckeye state and key provisions of the last relief package expiring, Congressional action is urgently needed to address the continued impact of the pandemic on women, families, and business. There has been no action on COVID relief since May 15, when the U.S. House of Representatives passed the \$3 trillion HEROES Act that provides more support for people who lost jobs, income, health care and facing hardship because of the pandemic. Unfortunately, Senate Leader McConnell refused to take up the package, opting instead to shut down negotiations.

Since then, over 111,000 Americans have died from COVID. Ohio is facing a \$2.3 billion state budget shortfall that will force more cuts in jobs and services unless federal lawmakers pass a new relief package. The joint letter calls on elected officials to negotiate a package that increases health care access through Medicaid, prioritizes workers support and protections from COVID and provides funding for strapped state and local governments struggling with COVID response.

"The COVID pandemic is impacting everyone, but it's not impacting us all equally. All the data shows that women are struggling with the aftermath of the epidemic more than men and that Black women, who already faced the greatest barrier even before COVID, are the most impacted by the pandemic," said Reverend Marcia Dinkins, Black Women Rising Executive Director.

"Today, clergy in Ohio are sending a letter to remind lawmakers that it's wrong to put their own political interests ahead of providing the basic support that their constituents need--health care, food assistance, child care, rent assistance and unemployment income--to make it through this crisis and take care of their families. This relief debate is about values: billionaires are making profit from the pandemic, while women and their families are going without because of political gridlock in Congress."

"State and local governments are bearing the direct brunt of increased needs and shrinking revenues during this time. The longer the U.S. Senate refuses to negotiate on a significant package that provides for basic needs, the more likely it is that Ohioans will see deeper cuts to city services and jobs which will exacerbate the already stretched economy, increase the number of unemployed Ohioans, and put people at risk for hunger and homelessness. It's up to all of us to speak up and insist on federal action," said Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson of District 44.

"Faith and clergy leaders have a critical role to play in COVID relief and recovery efforts both in helping lawmakers understand the continued devastating impact of the disease as well as ministering to impacted people. As faith leaders, we must insist that our elected representatives take up the moral imperative to ensure that people are in 'good health,' and we must hold accountable those who have the power to provide relief and recovery for Ohioans but choose inaction over doing the right thing," said Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The 60 signatories are calling for an end to Congressional gridlock that has exacerbated the harm caused by the pandemic and immediate action to help the millions of people bearing the brunt of the pandemic's economic and health crises. The full letter follows

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for all you and your colleagues have done in recent weeks to respond to the new COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across our nation. Thanks to early action from Ohio's state leaders as well as federal action on important relief legislation many people have gotten much needed help during this early stage of the crisis, even as struggles and challenges continue to mount on many fronts.

It's already clear that this pandemic is far from over and that it will have far-reaching consequences on American life. Much more action is needed to address the pandemic's many adverse impacts on Ohio, particularly low income people, people of color, seniors, people with disabilities and others who face the greatest risks and are least equipped

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Perryman... continued from page 2

education as well. I've also gone to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a highly selective program. In 2015 I was also selected amongst judges from all over the world, literally, to the Duke University School of Law for a Master of Law and Judicial Studies degree. My class consisted of State Supreme Court judges, federal judges at the district court level and the circuit level. There were Supreme Court judges in other countries, and classmates from Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Denmark, Belgium, and just worldwide.

I believe as you mature, there's always an opportunity to get better, be better, do better, and understand more. So, I'm always seeking education and experience to better assist me in the decision-making process that you engage in when you become a judge, especially at the Appellate Court level where it's more of an exercise in researching the law, understanding nuances in the law and an academic exercise. I think I'm uniquely qualified.

Perryman: Let's talk about the "gavel gap." Presently, on the Sixth District Court of Appeals, all of the judges are white. I don't know of a previous African American to serve. Why is it essential to have a bench that reflects society?

Judge Duhart: If elected, I would be the first African American there, but I also believe my experience and education qualify me to be on the Sixth District Court of Appeals, and thus, diverse perspectives are critical. Suppose decisions are being made in a vacuum without the benefit of diverse thoughts, opinions and experiences: In that case, you begin to get decisions that have blind spots and don't appreciate what those in a diverse country like ours would appreciate. Diversity is critical - not only demographic diversity but diversity in thought and experiences. I'm not aware of anyone on the Sixth District who has any military experience. I'm not aware of anyone on the trial court bench right now who has any military experience. I believe strongly that a more diverse court is a stronger court.

Perryman: Do you believe a less diverse court might have hidden biases of which they are unaware?

Judge Duhart: The reality is, we all have implicit biases, and so, it is incumbent that those who sit in judgment of others acknowledge those implicit biases, recognize them and actively take steps to offset whatever those are. I also strongly believe that individuals from diverse backgrounds on the court can accelerate the process of identifying implicit biases, take affirmative steps to address them, and put in place mechanisms - either in rulings or other administrative ways - to minimize the effect biases have on our decision-making.

Perryman: Finally, what key messages would you like to communicate to voters about your campaign?

Judge Duhart: The main message is, don't forget about the judges. When you fill out your ballot or go to the polls, judges will not have party designations next to their name. So, make sure you've investigated and researched the judges on the ballot to include myself and make an informed decision. We must have good judges on the bench.

Now, why? That may sound simple, but the judicial branch is a coequal branch of government - the executive branch, the legislative branch and the judicial branch. When there is an overreach by the executive and/or the legislative branches, generally the judges bring that back in line. This

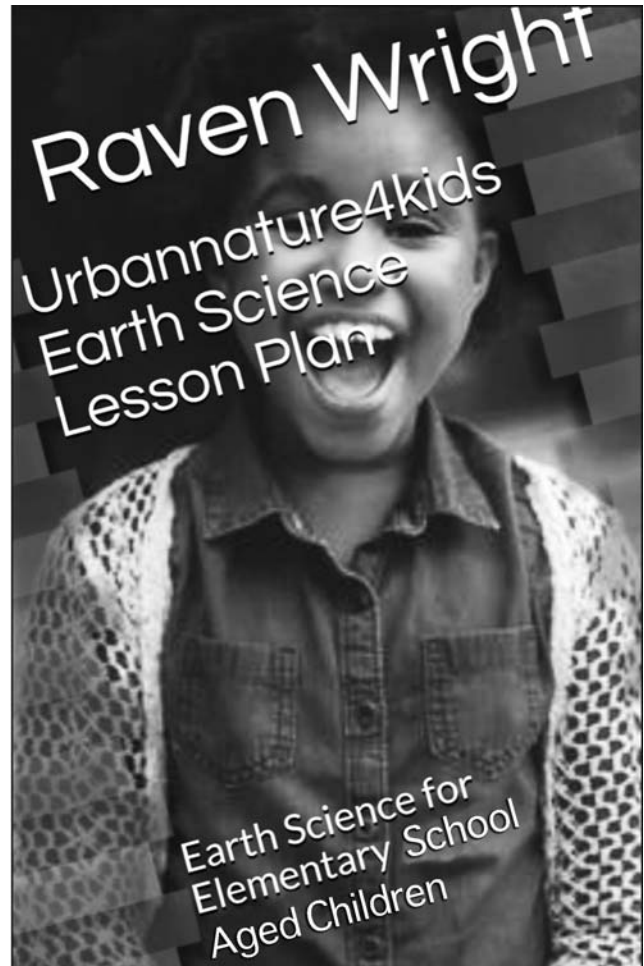


Judge Myron Duhart administers oath

is not a partisan statement, but in the current state of America, starting from the federal government all the way down to state and local levels, there is a great deal of dysfunction, discord, and acrimony. Generally speaking, it's the judges who have weighed in. No matter what side of the political aisle that judge is on, I trust and think that the decisions are being made based upon the law and not partisan politics.

That's how vital judges are, and I encourage folks to make sure that they research me, particularly, and when they go to vote, make sure that

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St. Paul MBC Celebrates Women's Day

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Christian Women standing Strong in Uncertain Times," was the theme of this year's Women's Day at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. The annual celebration continued in the midst of a global pandemic on Sunday, September 20.

The congregation practiced social distancing, enforced masks and welcomed everyone with a sanitization station. The traditional color of white for all women in attendance was accented with various rainbow colors including: blue, red, orange, and pink as each woman displayed a handcrafted white mask.

"This is our first virtual women's day and a real point of praise. The coronavirus is real. Once we go on our knees, God will heal our land," shared Sister Deborah Gardener.

This year's service included Sister Deborah Gardner, who led the morning devotion and sang the Lord's Prayer; Sister Mary Reed, who delivered the call to worship and invocation; Sister Sharon Hubbard, who led the litany. Scripture was recited by Sister Dawn Scotland; Sister Daisy Fisher led offertory prayer; Sister Opal Dunlap led a candle memorial service and Sister Vontyna Smith was the guest speaker.

"Thanks to my co-chairs Sister Katie Davis and Sister Pamela Clark who supported me and the committee members who volunteered their time and talents. This was different and a challenging experience, especially as my first time chairing anything," shared Women's Day Chairperson Barbara Ifeduba.

Vontyna Smith was born and raised in Toledo and the only child of Mary Liggins of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. She graduated from Notre Dame Academy, earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Eastern Michigan University and Masters of Public Administration from The Uni-

versity of Toledo. Professionally, she worked for ProMedica for 16 years and currently serves as director of client operations in for CHAMPS Oncology based in Cleveland. Personally, she's married to Reverent Allen Smith Jr, and serves as first lady of NuAir Baptist Church in Cleveland.

"I want to say thank you to the women for a great job. This was a beautiful service. I am grateful to God that you did in the spirit of love. When you hear a speaker, you wait to hear from them, but I am pleased to hear my daughter speak today. She uplifted the name of the Lord, you spoke the word of truth," shared Rev. Willis during closing remarks.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church is under the leadership of Rev. James Willis, DMin, and located at 1502 N. Detroit Ave in Toledo. The congregation celebrated 100 years of existence in 2017 and currently airs services on Facebook and provides in-person each Sunday.



Co chair Katie Davis, First Lady Linnie Willis, guest speaker Vontyna Smith, Rev. James Willis and Chairwoman Barbara Ifeduba



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Students Return to School This Fall with a Scholarship from NOSF

Special to The Truth

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund announced last week that they have awarded a total of 450 K-8 scholarships including 76 new scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. These students are attending 66 different private schools or are being homeschooled.

The eligibility scale for these scholarships is based on the National School Lunch Program and all of the families receiving the scholarship are at the 270 percent poverty level or below.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) provides privately funded scholarships to students from low-income families in grades K-8 to attend a private school such as Christ the King, Emmanuel Christian School and Maumee Valley Country Day.

Students can receive up to \$2,000 per year for tuition or \$750 for home-school expenses. Families must reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot and are required to pay a minimum of \$500 towards their tuition.

NOSF also awarded sixteen \$2,500 renewable high school scholarships for NOSF eighth grade graduates for private school tuition. These students

are attending St. Francis de Sales, St. Ursula, Monclova Christian Academy and others.

NOSF has been awarding scholarships since 1999. Deb Gehring, whose family has been in the program since 2011 and has three children using the scholarship this year, said "if not for NOSF my children would not have been able to attend Christ the King School in Toledo."

Interested families can find more information about the program and apply online on the NOSF website at www.nosf.org. Once awarded, families can renew their children's scholarship each year if they meet the income eligibility requirements and can also add siblings. For more information please contact Ann Riddle, Executive Director of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048.

NOSF is a partner with the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF). CSF provides scholarships to families in need so they can choose the private school that best meets their children's needs. Every dollar raised locally gets matched by CSF which provides additional dollars for scholarships. Since the program began, more than 180,000 students have been awarded a CSF Scholarship nationwide.

Students at TPS Barber Academy Are Offering Free Hair Cuts

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Youngsters in the preschool to 12th grade classes aren't the only students the Toledo Public Schools are preparing for bigger things in life. Adult students are also a part of the program – the TPS Adult Education Program.

TPS offers adults the opportunity to study in its Barber Academy and its Toledo School of Practical Nursing.

The Barber Academy is an 1,800 hour training course, the only one in northwest Ohio, and instructs students on barber shop management, shampoos and hair topics, history of barbering, cosmetic chemistry, razor cuts, clipper cuts, skin and scalp diseases, hair cutting, among many topics.

The academy offers students the opportunity to become licensed by the State of Ohio upon completion of the program and also a chance to go into business for themselves, possibly by opening their own shops down the line.

However, during this pandemic, the students are not getting the chance to cut hair as much as they need to so the Academy is dropping its usual fees

and offering free cuts to those 10 years and older. The usual precautions are being observed – masks, social distancing, hand washing – for the safety of students and customers

The school, at 3281 – site of the former Devilbiss School – is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 419-617-8700 for more information.



Larry Warniment, Director, Adult Education, and Zonta Moore, Barber Academy Instructor



Student Ruben Martinez cutting Jacob Harris' hair

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Distance-Learning... continued from page 4

pictures to graphs or geometry diagrams. However, for those who prefer a physical graphing calculator, look for a tool that can handle coursework now and in the future. For example, the fx-9750GIII from Casio contains all the features needed to make remote coursework easy to follow.

Finally, students of all grade levels, from kindergarten through college, can learn new mathematical techniques and supplement their studies using free downloadable activities created by teachers. To access these resources, visit casioeducation.com.

- **A Dedicated Workspace:** While desks used for remote learning may double function as a place for free time journaling and personal projects, drawing a clear mental separation between the school day and personal life is important. Students can make a few visual swaps to signal when class is in session and it is time to focus on schoolwork. These swaps may include using a particular setting on the desk lamp, clearing away personal objects or tacking up school-related paperwork to a corkboard during the day.

- **A Hotspot:** If you have multiple people learning and working from home, it doesn't hurt to have a mobile hotspot on hand in case of Internet outages or other connection snafus. This can help ensure students don't miss a remote class session or lose their connection when it's most needed.

- **Smart Planners:** Free apps can help students organize their coursework so they never forget an assignment or quiz, as well as offer the tools

Perryman... continued from page 7

they pull that lever.

Perryman: And voters want to see judges that are fair and impartial.

Judge Duhart: Absolutely, and so critical! I was at a judicial conference a couple of days ago. One of my classmates at Duke, Bernice Donald, who sits on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, said something, which was so profound, but simple. She said: 'perceived justice is just as important as actual justice.'

So, while it is incumbent on judges to make sure that actual justice is being done, it is critical also to ensure that perceived justice is being done. Because, if there are certain members of disenfranchised communities who believe or perceive that justice is different for one group as opposed to another, whether or not actual justice is being done or not, then we've got dysfunction and we've got a problem.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

needed for better time management. Unlike traditional paper planners or calendars, a smart digital planner actually learns the habits of the student in order to tailor push notifications and alerts.

As your family once again falls into the groove of distance-learning, a few tools and considerations can help expand everyone's ability to work from home.

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Covid Relief.... continued from page 6

to respond or withstand the crisis.

As clergy and faith leaders who minister to many such people in our congregations and communities, we see first hand the devastating effects of the pandemic on these individuals and their families. We also see the growing need for basic services like healthcare, housing, food assistance and worker supports and protections particularly among African Ameri-

cans and minority communities that are disproportionately impacted, as data shows.

We're writing to request that Congress take increased immediate action to ramp up relief efforts, including committing sufficient resources for longer-term recovery so that families, states and our nation do not suffer long-term harm from the disease. In that spirit, we urge lawmakers to continue to act quickly on behalf of millions of people who are depending on you to provide the critical resources we all need to secure the future.

Among these, we urge you to prioritize the following important elements:

Increase health care access through Medicaid: Lawmakers must substantially increase the current FMAP increase to 15 percent for the traditional Medicaid populations (aged, blind, disabled) and their services, with automatic adjustments based on state economic conditions, and increase the FMAP to 100 percent for the expansion population under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). There should be no modification on the maintenance of effort requirements. These Medicaid increases must stay in place until the economy recovers, measured by unemployment figures and other economic measures. States like Ohio should be able to use federal Medicaid funding to cover testing and treatment for everyone, including immigrants who are part of our community.

Worker Supports and Protections: Congress must take action to protect workers on the job and off. More than a million Ohioans have filed unemployment claims already and we expect there will be more. Congress must ensure that workers who lose jobs don't also lose healthcare, housing and other services by providing 100% COBRA premium relief for laid-off and furloughed workers for the full-length of the economic downturn until they are able to return to their jobs, improving the ACA financial assistance to make private coverage more affordable, pro-

vide housing assistance to make sure everyone can pay rent or mortgages, and increase funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so people can put food on the table. For essential workers who continue to go to work while facing huge risks from COVID, Congress must ensure that workers are protected through OSHA safety requirements that hold employers accountable for providing protective equipment (PPE), that they can take paid family and medical leave and paid sick time to care for themselves and their family members.

Direct relief to state and local governments: State and local governments are bearing the direct brunt of increased needs and shrinking revenues during this time. Ohio is debating use of the state's rainy day fund to address immediate needs, but it's clear that won't be sufficient to avoid cuts in services that could both cost the state additional jobs and services in the short term and slow down recovery longer-term. The lesson of the last recession--which is likely to dwarf the one precipitated by the current pandemic--is that the federal government must take action now to put in place resources. Congress must provide at least \$500 billion in unrestricted federal funds to local and governments to support relief and support to those who need it and to preempt future cuts in jobs and services that will further slow down the economy and stretch out the recession.

COVID is battering the United States, where more people have been infected and more people have died than any other place in the world. But the United States is also blessed with many more resources and much greater capacity to respond to crisis and challenge than most other countries.

It's up to our elected officials to demonstrate meaningful leadership by deploying our resources to best serve our people, to prioritize the long-term recovery of the nation based on the many lessons we have learned from the past. Elected leaders at every level must act on

... continued on page 13



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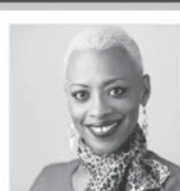
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My Own Words by Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Please and Thank You.

Those were The Magic Words you learned at your mother's knee, the ones that opened doors and gained favors. That was also when you learned something important, as you'll see in *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg (with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams): letters, when properly collected, can move mountains.

c.2016
Simon & Schuster
\$30.00 / \$39.99 Canada
374 pages

Born in working-class Brooklyn in 1933, Joan Ruth Bader was her parents' second daughter; sadly, their eldest died of meningitis just 14 months later.

Theirs was a close-knit neighborhood, and the family had many of the luxuries of the day. Bader attended public school a block from her home; there, because of other girls in her class who shared her first name, she started using her middle name "for more official purposes." She was raised to be independent and was an avid reader, a notably talented storyteller, and she loved gymnastics but "was not... especially fond of math." And since she grew up in the shadow of World War II and was Jewish, she was fully aware of anti-Semitism.

Even as a child, in fact, young Bader chafed at inequality and "hypocritical rules." She was also eloquent in her writing and was first published (in a Jewish Center newsletter) at age 13. Her leadership skills apparent, she entered Cornell University the fall after graduation from high school;

there, she was greatly influenced by two teachers, novelist and European lit professor Vladimir Nabokov, and constitutional scholar Robert E. Cushman. The latter man "encouraged Ruth to go to law school."

In mid-2003, co-authors Williams and Hartnett approached Bader Ginsburg and pointed out that it was time for her to tell her story, before someone else did. She had known both Williams and Hartnett for years through mutual interests and similar work, so "Without hesitation, I said yes to their proposal."

In her preface, author and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg says that *My Own Words* was meant to be written after a planned biography but her co-authors "thought it best" to wait on the biography until her "Court years neared completion." They "flipped the projected publication order..."

You might wish they hadn't.

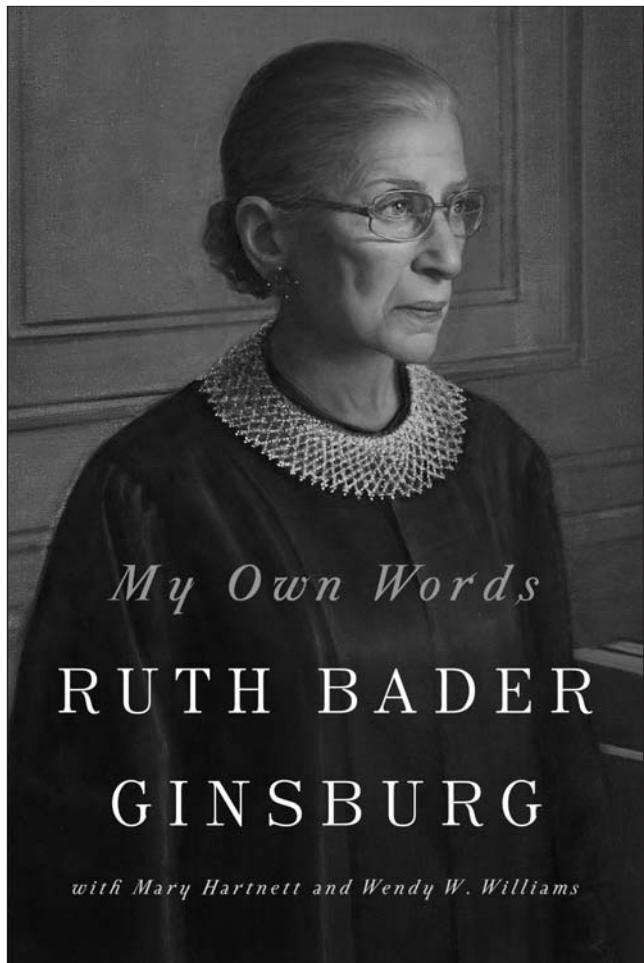
You'll hang onto every word of Ginsburg's life story. It's everything you'd expect from her, and it surely won't disappoint readers. What will, though, is that *My Own Words* aren't always her own words. Yes, you'll read transcripts of speeches by Ginsburg, legal briefs, bench announcements, introductions, and wisdom inside law review articles. Yes, you'll see her fierce strength in that which she firmly believed. But a good amount of this book consists of verious-length essays, speeches, and articles written by others about Ginsburg, including things written by her co-authors. That could be a disappointment; the written speeches and judgments are okay, but a biography...? Wait for it.

This Is. Not. A bad book. It's just not what you might expect, so be warned. If you want more biography, fewer essays, be patient; it's likely to be coming. In the meantime, *My Own Words* will please you.

Covid Relief.... continued from page 12

the moral imperative to address current needs and lay the groundwork for rapid recovery based on economic benchmarks that clearly indicate improvements in people's lives.

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CLASSIFIEDS

September 23, 2020

Page 15

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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMMING SPECIALIST

Metroparks has an opening for a full time Diversity and Inclusion Programming Specialist position at Wildwood Preserve Metropark to carry out programs and special events that focus on the inclusion of diverse populations and to develop and coordinate those with community partnerships. Bachelor's degree preferred or equivalent work experience. Moderate level of experience in program development, production and evaluation and producing special events to diverse populations. Experience in developing and coordinating partnerships with community organizations. Must be 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. \$18.45/hr. Full time with benefits. Please visit www.metroparkstoledo.com or <http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/careers> for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume. EOE

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To apply visit www.metroparkstoledo.com or <http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/careers> for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume. EOE

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New Council Members Sworn in to Replace Those on Suspension

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Three women and one man have been selected by Lucas County Probate Judge Jack Puffenberger to fill the four Toledo City Council seats vacated by the suspensions last spring of Yvonne Harper, Gary Johnson, Tyrone Riley and Larry Sykes.

Judge Puffenberger, who was selected to appoint the members pursuant to Ohio law, narrowed a list of candidates for council from more than 100 applicants who expressed interest in serving on the municipal legislative body – a number of prominent citizens and past elected officials were on the list.



John Hobbs III

John Hobbs III will take the District 1 seat that Riley had served, Vanice S. Williams will take the District 4 seat that was previously filled by Harper. Tiffany M. Preston Whitman, EdD, will assume an at-large seat, and Cerssandra McPherson will take the other vacant at-large seat. All have extension experience in the filed of education.

Hobbs, now the District 4 councilman, has been the owner of Hobbs Barber Styling Salon for more than 25 years and is also a BCSN color commentator for high school sports, a substitute teacher with Toledo Public Schools, an inspector for the Ohio State Barber Board and a barber instructor with the Toledo Barber Academy. He is a graduate of



Tiffany Preston Whitman, EdD

St. Francis de Sales High School, the University of Toledo and the Ohio State Barber College. He has been a coach of high school girls basketball teams for years, most recently as the Bowsher High School head varsity coach.

Williams, the new District 1 representative, earned her bachelor's degree from Lourdes University and is an experienced educator, working with LifeSkills Center of Toledo for a number of years, most recently as an administrator. She is the founder of First Light Consulting, LLC which operates the First Light Child Care Center that opened earlier this year and has already earned its first star from the State of Ohio.



Vanice Williams

Preston Whitman, a graduate of Central Catholic High School and The Ohio State University, is



Cerssandra McPherson

the director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Toledo. She has worked in various capacities in secondary and higher education and her areas of interest include K-16 education reform in underserved communities, civic engagement, community-based learning experiences and university-community partnerships.

McPherson majored in education at UT and has been a paraprofessional with Toledo Public Schools for 28 years working with severe emotionally disturbed and developmentally disabled students. A longtime community activist, McPherson has been involved with or a member of such organizations as the Coalition for Black Trade Unionists, the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc, the Toledo Federation of Teachers Board of Directors, the NAACP, the A' Phillip Randolph Institute, the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club and the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers. She has also served as a volunteer on numerous political campaigns.

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