

The *Sojourner's* Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 24, 2021

"Black Girls Rock and Exemplify Excellence"



AKA Great Lakes Regional Director Carrie Clark



Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Toledo, Ohio

Black credit unions provide inclusive services, is active in the community, and gives people hope. There's hope that when someone asks for help, help will be given.

#BHM

Aesthetic Visions: Toledo's Black Arts Heritage

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

The Truth Contributor

An artist represents an oppressed people and makes revolution irresistible.

- Toni Cade Bambara



Toledo's Black Arts Movement (1965-1976) was a crown jewel of the African American community during Dorr Street's heyday. Yet, most historical reflections emphasize Dorr Street's role as a business and entertainment center. Often overlooked, however, is the fact that the Black Arts Movement paralleled the progress in civil rights and Black advancement made in the 1950s, 60's and 70's.

In truth, the Black Arts Movement was a political tool that allowed the Black community to narrate its own existence and push back on Black imagery's portrayal as an inferior version of the Western aesthetic.

By focusing on the beauty of Blackness, Black artists brought Black Consciousness to the community. The Black artists' emphasis of liberation from oppression helped to deliver many political gains.

Therefore, as witnesses of this impactful history, we have the responsibility to include our cultural arts and political heritage in Toledo's Black History discussions.

Internationally-acclaimed artist Johāna was co-founder and president of the Confederation of Black Artists (COBA) in Toledo between 1968 and 1975. During that period, he was also a member of the Toledo Museum Black Arts Committee. Johāna is an artist and instructor whose work has been exhibited in Toledo; throughout the United States; and Africa.

The following is part of our discussion on Johāna's work and Toledo's Black Arts heritage.

Perryman: Please tell me a little about the Confederation of Black Artists (COBA).

Johāna: COBA was formed around '67 or '68, but then our Creative Arts Workshop opened, I think, in 1970. So, we were involved there until possibly 1978. It was then that they moved from Dorr Street next to the Mott Library to a location at Indiana and Hawley.

Perryman: I think that it is crucial to keep these memories alive. Please describe the activities at the Creative Arts Workshop and some of the people involved.

Johāna: The Creative Arts Workshop was a dream of Russ Charles. He was always into arts, and he was able to get the funding to bring it to fruition. The building we had was owned by a guy who owned some kind of sign or screen-printing company. He was moving out, and we were able to get it. The Workshop was Russ Charles' dream, and he

also was the director of it.

Perryman: How did the Creative Arts Workshop communicate the Black experience?

Johāna: The Workshop was a center that celebrated the arts from multiple perspectives. They had a jazz group there. There was an all-music club, a photography department, and they had a fine arts group that did paintings and sculptures. There was also a dance department and a writer's workshop at that time.

Each art division had its own department, had its own section in the building. You could come in any time of day or night if you wanted to go and perform or practice. So, it was an arts center that we kept regular hours. Still, it wasn't restricted just to prescribed hours; you could come in as you desired to practice or work on something; as an individual or as a group.

Perryman: Who were some of the artists at that time.

Johāna: Vernon Martin ran the music department. He was a bass player for Raasaan Roland Kirk. He then, later, came back to Toledo, where he was from, and performed with a group called Creative Spirits. Ronnie King played the alto sax, and Eugene Boggs played tenor sax.

Perryman: Who were some of the visual artists?

Johāna: There was me, Marvin Vines, James Claybrooks, Benny Griffith. We also had a guy named Jim Bowen, who came down one summer from California. Barbara Selvey, Willie Tucker who was a teacher and lived on Woodruff. Ernie Jones was part of the group and he also was also a teacher at Scott High School. Also, J.D. Jackson and Richard Rodgers.

Perryman: Performative dance is an essential element of Black Culture. Who were some of the dancers?

Johāna: Donna Thomas was one of two people who headed the dance department. Donna's older sister had run it first. The group had a whole ensemble of dancers, and they took the group to, I think, Philadelphia or New York one summer.

Perryman: How did the Creative Arts Workshop fit into the Civil Rights Movement back then?

Johāna: The Creative Arts Workshop was supportive and parallel to the Civil Rights movement. We were like the cultural arm of the Movement, really. We were concerned that imagery and the things being reflected were the correct philosophical notions of the culture. But, we also were involved in other things. For a number of years, we had a Black Arts Exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art, and we were responsible for that.

Perryman: Please describe how the Black Arts Exhibit came about.

Johāna: Some African brothers came through to visit the museum, and they "weren't well-received." So, these brothers came up to the Creative Arts Workshop and made that fact known. The Workshop then began to organize and made contact with the director of the museum. We had several meetings regarding what we felt the Museum's response should've been versus what it was. As a result, they began having an Annual Black Arts Exhibit inside a major gallery at the museum, like they do when they have any other shows. So, that activism provided us with a broader opportunity for the arts. Additionally, the Black artists' inclusion heightened the whole Black Consciousness

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Ohio Billionaires' Wealth Increased by \$1.6 Billion As DeWine Cuts \$390 Million in Government Jobs and Services

Gains of 6 Richest Residents Could Cover State's \$390 Million Budget Shortfall 4 Times Over & Still Leave Billionaires as Rich as They Were Before COVID

The collective wealth of Ohio's six billionaires jumped by \$1.6 billion, or 12.4 percent, between mid-March of last year and Jan. 29 of this year, according to a new report by **Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)** and **Health Care for America Now (HCAN)** this week. The \$1.6 billion in pandemic profits of the state's richest residents could cover the state's projected \$390 million 2021 budget gap four times over and still leave them as wealthy as they were when the pandemic started 10 months ago.

Between March 18—the rough start date of the pandemic shutdown, when most federal and state economic restrictions were put in place—and Jan. 29, the total net worth of Ohio billionaires rose from \$12.8 billion to \$14.4 billion, based on this analysis of Forbes data, and also shown in the table below.

The private gain of Ohio billionaires contrasts sharply with the health and economic struggles that average Ohioans are facing because of the pandemic. Over those same tough 10 months, some 883,716 state residents fell ill with the coronavirus, 11,006 died from it and 2,144,564 lost jobs in the accompanying recession. Black Ohioans have faced disproportionate harm because of the pandemic. Although Blacks make up 13 percent of the state's population, Black Ohioans have made up almost 20 percent of hospitalizations. Blacks are also being vaccinated at much lower rates, making up fewer than five percent of the people who have been vaccinated so far in Ohio. Significant new resources are needed to conduct outreach to the Black community about the vaccine, educate and reassure people about safety and ensure meaningful access.

But without federal aid to the state, that kind of outreach is unlikely. Gov. Mike DeWine made \$390 million in budget cuts via executive action across all state services already in 2021. DeWine's budget proposal would cut public transportation 7 percent, from \$70 million to \$7 million over the coming two years. Transportation cuts disproportionately impact people of color who are more likely to depend on mass transit to get to work, run errands or get to medical care like vaccinations.

Federal lawmakers are debating the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Act in Congress, which could bring relief dollars to Ohio to prevent more cuts and provide direct assistance for unemployment insurance, housing, public transportation, and direct cash payments to people and families. Ohio U.S. senator Rob Portman has been a prominent critic of the President's relief plan, and is leading an effort to reduce the aid by two-thirds. Portman's fellow Republicans claim the president's plan is too costly.

Yet the \$1.2 trillion pandemic wealth growth of the nation's billionaires would nearly close the funding gap between the \$1.9 trillion pro-

posed by the President and the \$600 billion offered by Senate Republicans. Biden's plan would provide \$350 billion in general aid to state and local governments to preserve jobs and critical public services plus \$170 billion to help schools reopen and support public colleges.

While Senator Portman is pushing to reduce the amount of direct cash payments to families from \$1400 in Biden's American Rescue Act to \$1000 per individual, Ohio's six billionaires have amassed enough new wealth during the pandemic, a \$1.6 billion leap, to send every one of the state's 11,689,100 residents a relief check of roughly \$136 each. A family of four would get \$544.

As Ohio billionaires ride out the crisis on a rising tide of wealth, the state's working families struggle to keep their heads above water and make it through COVID:

- 206,154 state residents were collecting unemployment the week ended Jan. 9 [U.S. Department of Labor]
- Between March and September 2020, 3,108 state businesses closed, 1,711 of them permanently. [YELP]
- Late last year, 1,043,000 adult state residents, or 13%, reported going hungry over the past week. The figure for households with children was 14%. [Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, CBPP, Table 1]
- 19% of the state's tenants—467,000—were behind in their rent at the end of 2020. [CBPP, Table 3]

Low-wage workers, people of color and women have suffered disproportionately in the combined medical and economic crises because of long-standing racial and gender disparities.

"Once again, Ohio lawmakers are demonstrating where their priorities lie, and it's not with struggling Ohio families who are trying to get through the pandemic while taking care of their families," said Reverend Marcia Dinkins, executive director of Black Women Rising. "Instead of passing the relief we need in Congress and stopping cuts to jobs and services in the state budget, Republicans like Senator Portman want to nickel and dime Ohioans even as the rich keep getting richer."

"Billionaires have been reaping bushels of pandemic profits the last 10 months while many working families are reeling, state and local services are suffering and jobs are disappearing," said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness. "Congress needs to come to the immediate rescue to get the country out of this mess. And then it should turn its attention to enacting sweeping reforms that make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes so we can create an economy that works for all of us."

OHIO BILLIONAIRES WEALTH GROWTH MARCH 18, 2020 TO JANUARY 29, 2021						
Name	Mar. 18, 2020 Net Worth (Millions)	Jan. 29, 2021 Real Time Worth (Millions)	Wealth Growth in 10 Months (Millions)	% Growth in 10 Months	Primary Income Source	Industry
OHIO TOTAL	\$12,800	\$14,391	\$1,591	12.4%		
Les Wexner	\$4,000	\$5,479	\$1,479	37.0%	retail	Fashion & Retail
Denise York	\$3,200	\$3,244	\$44	1.4%	San Francisco 49ers	Sports
Clayton Mathile	\$2,300	\$2,290	(\$10)	-0.4%	pet food	Food & Beverage
Norma Lerner	\$1,100	\$1,133	\$33	3.0%	banking	Finance & Investments
Nancy Lerner	\$1,100	\$1,123	\$23	2.1%	banking, credit cards	Finance & Investments
Randolph Lerner	\$1,100	\$1,122	\$22	2.0%	banking, credit cards	Finance & Investments

Sources: All data is from Forbes
 March 18, 2020, data is from the Forbes World's Billionaires List: The Richest in 2020.
 Jan. 29, 2021 data was taken from Forbes real-time estimates of wealth that day.

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Rental Assistance Programs for Homeless Toledo Public Schools Students Announced

Special to The Truth

The City of Toledo - partnering with the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board, Toledo Public Schools, Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio, and financial opportunity centers - has launched two new safety net grant programs to assist homeless families of students currently attending the school district, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced last week.

Up to \$2 million of Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funding will be used to help approximately 300 families with rent payments for up to three months, rent deposits, and utility payments. Families at or below 60 percent of the area median income may qualify and will be rapidly re-housed into permanent living situations.

The Tenant Based Rental Assistance program will use \$100,000 provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOME Investment Partnership funding, to provide 12 months of rental assistance, rent security deposits, utility payments, and utility security deposits to an additional 10 homeless families that have household incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income.

A case worker will work with grant recipients on the benefits of a financial opportunity center, and provide resources such as budgeting, credit repair, job searches, and educational opportunities. The funds will be paid directly to landlords and utility companies. The housing unit must be safe, decent, and sanitary, and successfully pass the City of Toledo's housing quality standards inspection.

"Toledo is a compassionate city that seeks to help those in need, and the goal of this collaboration is just that," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "We

want to help decrease the percentage of TPS families who are in shelters while providing housing stability and wrap-around services."

Toledo Public Schools has approximately 23,000 students. Of those, about 1,700 are identified as homeless.

"TPS is proud to partner with the City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods, and the Lucas County Homelessness Board to serve our students," said Heather Baker, TPS executive director of student intervention services. "As many know, roughly 1,700 of our students are challenged with homelessness. During the pandemic and remote learning, all of our students have needed more support. Through this partnership, we can provide them with the resources they need. We are grateful for this opportunity."

"We are proud to partner with the City of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools on this important initiative to help bring stability to local families," Rachel Gagnon, Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board executive director, said. "We know the effects of homelessness on children are lasting - social and emotional development are threatened, academic progress can be halted, and physical health is jeopardized. Safe and secure housing with appropriate supports provides the foundation necessary for a successful future for our children and community."

City of Toledo Neighborhoods Department Director Rosalyn Clemens said more funding is needed to address the needs of homeless students in Toledo.

"This is just one of the city's multiple housing programs, within the Department of Neighborhoods," Ms. Clemens said. "This grant program addresses yet another housing challenge - this one for homeless students and their families - with the hope to raise attention to the issue and also find more funding each year."

Mayor Kapszukiewicz, Ms. Baker, and Ms. Gagnon made the announcement during a news conference at Jones Leadership Academy of Business, 430 Nebraska Ave.

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union: A Cornerstone of the Community

By Inclusiv

In 1992, local incidences of violence in Toledo, Ohio brought faith leaders and city government together for healing. The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union emerged as one example of a solution to change the community. Its success caught everyone by surprise—the line was blocks-long in the first weeks and the credit union was, at one time, the fastest growing in the United States.

Toledo Urban serves the oldest community in Toledo, Ohio, where the members were predominately Black and either walked in or came by bike. It is literally and figuratively a cornerstone of the community. The corner building sits at the intersection of Detroit and Dorr and is easily accessible to people from downtown, the nearby University of Toledo, and major highways that cut through the city. “The community sees us as the hub,” Suzette Cowell, the CEO, said. “Whenever there are any issues in the area, families will end up at the credit union. They’re not always looking for loans but will ask us for guidance.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Toledo Urban did not close its doors. They remained open and worked with the local Small Business Development Center and the city’s Chamber of Commerce. From funds provided by Inclusiv and other organizations, they helped members who could not make loan payments because their livelihoods or circumstances were affected by the pandemic. As well, they guided members to access resources to get help.

“When the first stimulus checks were sent, the community was unaware of what to do. They did not trust the money—that it was theirs, to keep. The members who deposited the checks in the credit union caused us to grow in only a matter of months. Then, the second stimulus checks were mailed and cashed, and you saw that the money from the first check was also being spent. But people still had the same issues with buying groceries, medicine, paying mortgage and rent.” However, due to Toledo Urban’s services, its members were able to best maximize their money and navigate either their personal or professional lives during the pandemic.

Alethea Easterly, a Black small-business owner, has received continued assistance from Toledo Urban over the last twenty years. She called both the credit union and its staff a “godsend” and her “backbone” through their work with her over her struggles with financial hardship.

“I’m right down the street from them, and I know the door’s always open,” she said. “The credit union helped me out with my back taxes. Now I’m free from back taxes, and that is such a relief, such a blessing.” During the pandemic, Easterly has received loans that kept her business up and running.

Cowell noted that, when she first started, she was told by a long-time community resident that “when the community takes you in and believes that you belong to them, that’s when you’ll see a difference.” That has been what Toledo Urban does: It provides inclusive services, is



Alethea Easterly and friend



Suzette Cowell

active in the community, and gives people hope. There is hope that when someone arrives, the doors will be open; hope that when someone asks for help, help will be given. Cowell believes that if more communities had institutions that were willing to help, “our society would be a lot different.”



The buy-in from Toledo residents, including the construction of the new building, doubled Toledo Urban’s membership. The continuation of the credit union’s important work—providing an array of financial services, being active and conducting financial education seminars and workshops—has changed the dynamics of the community.

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VProject Hosts Virtual Panel Discussion

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The V Project held a virtual panel discussion that addressed and answered common and uncommon questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. The 60-minute Wednesday, February 10, event was moderated by Fred Lefebvre of News Radio and Toledo Buffalo Soldiers and featured two local physicians, Richard Paat, MD and Traci Watkins, MD. The discussion was aired live on Facebook and encouraged viewers' questions that were answered by the panelists.

Operation Warp Speed accelerated the research, development and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process. The State of Ohio, along with all U.S. states and territories have launched a gradual vaccine injection plan. Since the initial announcement, Ohio residents 65 years of age and older, those with severe congenital or developmental disorders and employees of K-12 schools who participate in hybrid or in-person models are eligible for the vaccine. The panel launched the discussion by explaining the vaccine creation process.

"These are different phases to researching and developing a vaccine. The first phase is small population testing, the second phase is a larger population test and phase three includes between 30,000 to 40,000 individuals. In each study there's a diverse population and studied a wide variety of people," said Watkins.

The FDA has approved two vaccines for U.S distribution – the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to the panelists is next for FDA approval.

"There's other vaccines in the pipeline including Johnson & Johnson. There is a difference between the first two. All of the vaccines do a great job of keeping patients out of hospital and very sick and we want to decrease deaths in the area," said Paat.

"460,000 people have died from this disease, the vaccine's goal is to decrease the number of deaths. People who aren't vaccinated could have symptoms and spread COVID to someone else. The vaccine makes COVID less likely to spread the virus," said Watkins.



Dr. Richard Paat



Dr. Traci Watkins

According to several verified health websites including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, there are common side effects associated with receiving the vaccine. An individual can experience pain or swelling in the arm where the shot was administered. The patient can also experience a fever, chills, tiredness and headaches through the entire body.

"I have heard stories about reactions. I received my second vaccine shot last Thursday. After the first shot I experienced soreness and after the second shot I felt tired and achy for half of a day. Some people can have fatigue, fevers, chills but no one has died from the vaccine. People are dying from the infection," explained Watkins.

"I had my second vaccine shot two weeks ago and I echo what Dr. Watkins has said. Some people may need two days to recover, but it means that your immune system is working. Patients should talk to their trusted

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The Truth

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Just Imagine

By RaShya Ghee

A Few Thoughts

Imagine if, after the first night of protests in Minneapolis last year, the former POTUS had stood on the White House lawn in solidarity, acknowledged the reality of racism, declared a national day of anti-racism protest (that he entrusted organizers to orchestrate and lead), and laid out a series of events all week to address these issues and let the people be heard.

Imagine if he had promised to propose legislation within 30 days that centered on anti-racism in federal government operations and urged Congress to put together a racial justice package of their own.

Imagine if, on that call with the governors, instead of calling them weak and jerks, he acknowledged the federal government's failure to lead on issues of racial justice, promised to do better, and incentivized state action to pass anti-racism laws.

Imagine if he gave an informative address. Where he chronicled this country's history with racism honestly. Edified white Americans, validated the experiences of Black Americans, and normalized anti-racism as part of the American conscience.

Imagine if, instead of tear gassing for a photo op, he sat in the park with protestors and clergy, listened to them, sharing with them, observing COVID 19 protocols with them.

How different would the last few months have been? How different would the world see us right now? How much further along would we be in this process? Sigh.



RaShya Ghee

Local AKA Chapters Honor Eight Local Women During Annual Founders' Day Celebration

Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc., Zeta Alpha Omega, Iota Iota, and Alpha Lambda hosted a joint Founders' Day celebration on February 20, 2021.

"This presentation provides the opportunity to honor local black girls and women who rock in service, in our local community. This amazing observation is presented in honor of our historic sorority's 113th Founders' Day," shared Rhonda Sewell, event mistress of ceremonies.

The celebration was streamed on Facebook and YouTube initially and has had over 300 views. The joint celebration was titled, "Black Girls Rock and Exemplify Excellence."

The program opened with a musical rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," led by Sheila Brown, meditation led by Katina Johnson and official greetings by Chapter President Andrea Price.

"Greetings, I would like to welcome each of you to the 113th Founders' Day celebration. We pause today to honor the founding of our beloved sisterhood and pay homage to the vision, courage, tenacity, and oneness of purpose of the extraordinary women who dared to create the first Greek-letter organization for college-trained African-American women," shared Price.

The celebration continued with official greetings delivered by Amani Wilson, the president of Iota Iota Chapter at Bowling Green State University, and Lisa DuBose, PhD, the Northern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Cluster Coordinator.



Felicia Dunston



Carrie Clark

AKA Sorority's Great Lakes Regional Director Carrie Clark served as the celebration's featured speaker. She was inducted into Xi Chapter, is currently a member Alpha Rho Omega of Detroit, has held numerous leadership positions and has served on sorority committees. She is also married with two sons. Clark highlighted notable women throughout his-

... continued on page 8

Black history is an essential part of the history of our nation, our communities, and our company. Black/African-American associates have been key members of the Rudolph Libbe Group team since our earliest years. This is the first in a series of articles celebrating the contributions of current associates and retirees and expressing our gratitude to them for being a part of the Rudolph Libbe Group.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

Willie "Superclutch" Jefferson arrived at Rudolph Libbe Inc. in 1965 as a 19-year-old laborer and stayed 42 years. He retired in 2007 as an operator—a career he loved.

Being an operator fulfilled a childhood dream. As a 10-year-old in Mississippi, he watched roadwork, intrigued by the thought of running equipment. Nine years later, a visit from his older brother, John Hicks, set him on the path to Toledo and a construction career.

"John worked at Rudolph," Jefferson said. "He told me he worked in construction and how much money they made. He said laborers made \$3.62 an hour, and I'm down there working for \$3 a day."

When his brother came home to Toledo, Jefferson moved here with him. "It was 4 p.m. on a Wednesday evening, July 7 or 8. John called Fritz [Rudolph] and said he was back and had brought me back with him."

Rudolph told Jefferson to report for work the next morning to a new project – the University of Toledo Ritter Planetarium. He spent the next few years as a laborer before he became an operator, running dozers, cranes, backhoes and excavators.

Work was steady for the rest of his career—a direct result, he said, of a strong work ethic—always being on time, never missing a day of work and finishing every task. "I never had a layoff slip in 42 years," he says.

Steady work made many things possible. He married six months after joining Rudolph Libbe and started a family. And there was still time for hobbies. "I got into racing big time. Big time."

Within two years, his Rudolph Libbe coworkers knew him as "Superclutch" because of his skill in repairing and maintaining his racecar. In 13 years of retirement, he continued to race until last year, when he bought an RV and began traveling, often to see his six children and nine grandchildren.

Jefferson also is a parent again. He and his wife, Beatrice, are raising her 15-year-old grandson, Kaeshawn Williamson, after her daughter died in an auto accident. "He's a good kid, a straight-A student. We got into camping last year. Last year, we went to 15 different campsites."

Construction careers continue to run in the Jefferson family. One of his sons, LaKeith Jefferson, works for GEM Inc., another Rudolph Libbe Group company.

In May, Jefferson will turn 75. "So far, I've had a good life here. I hope to live another 100 years."



**RUDOLPH
LIBBE
GROUP**

National Urban League... continued from page 7

tory who either inspired the phrase black girls rock or exemplified the definition throughout history.

"I want to commend the ladies of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter on the work that you do in the Toledo community," shared Clark, closing out her speech.

The celebration continued with a verbal and visual explanation of the sorority's targets: HBCU for Life a Call to Action, Women's Healthcare & Wellness, Building Your Economic Legacy, The Arts, and Global Impact. The 2021 honorees were selected to align with the target and sorority mission.

"Our honorees embody our mission by providing services to the Toledo community and it's residents that align with our programs and services. African-American women have made indispensable contributions to this nation and we honor the exceptional black girls who rock as outstanding role models and who have made significant contributions to this community," explained Price.

The 2021 honorees:

- Black Girl Magic Award, Amya Strong, Body by Strong and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. member.
- Community Change Agent Award, Leila Harris, Leila's Promise;
- Icon Award, Doni Miller, Neighborhood Health Association,
- Legacy of Excellence Award, Stephanie Teamer, Toledo Public School Counselor;
- Pearl Award, Margaret Huntley; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. member
- Shot Caller Award, Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals;
- Social Humanitarian Award, Tracee Ellis, The American Cultural Exchange Services;
- Young, Gifted and Black Award, J'Vann Winfield, TPS Art Teacher and Art Museum Volunteer;

"It is my honor and pleasure to be awarded, the Young, Gifted and Black



Doni Miller



Amya Strong



Tracee Ellis



Wendi Huntley

Award. Over the years, I have strived and will strive to continue to create a space where young artists, especially minority artists can reach their full potential. It has been a joy serving the youth of Toledo throughout the years, thank you for selecting me for this honor," shared Winfield.

"I was really and excited when my mom told me that I was picked for the Community Change Agent Award. When I first started helping others in our community, I didn't think that it was a big deal, I just wanted to help. I saw the homeless in Toledo on a daily basis and felt like there was something that I could do, that's when I told my mom instead of giving me gifts for Christmas, I wanted to give gifts to those who really needed," shared Harris.

According to the national website the sorority was founded on a mission comprised of five basic tenets that have remained unchanged since the sorority's inception more than a century ago. The sorority's mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethnical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their scholar stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life and to be of "Service to All Mankind."

"Thank you for attending our 2021 Founders' Day celebration and honoring us with your presence, shared Felicia Dunston, event chair, during closing remarks.



Margaret Huntley



Stephanie Teamer



J'Vann Winfield



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Alzheimer's Event on March 3 Examines Health Disparities

Special to The Truth

COVID-19 has laid bare some undesirable truths: African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In the field of Alzheimer's and dementia, statistics point to a similar troubling trend.

Which is why the Alzheimer's Association is charting a course to intentionally strive for health equity in the delivery of service and research and it wants to bring others along with them.

On March 3, the Association is hosting a virtual statewide event assembling some of the nation's top experts in the field of health equity and Alzheimer's disease to discuss some of the latest research involving underserved communities. Carl V. Hill, PhD, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the Alzheimer's Association, and Peter Lichtenberg, Ph.D., ABPP, President of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), will host the event.

Hill said he included topics such as how targeting chronic stress and blood pressure self-care can prevent cognitive decline in African Americans, and Alzheimer's disease and COVID-19 because "you have to acknowledge that these are difficult times with caregiving, caregiving while reducing risk for COVID-19. There is a high level of anxiety and stress, but I believe this is a real opportunity for us to pursue equity in terms of engaging those communities with information, care and support."

The Dr. James S. Jackson Seminar on Health Equity and Alzheimer's Disease, which will be from 5-6:30 p.m., will have speakers from The Ohio State University; The West Virginia University Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute; the University of Michigan; Michigan State University; and the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Hill said it is important to

include and apply health disparities research in the field of dementia because "this research highlights contextual factors for Alzheimer's and other dementia risk, in the spirit of Dr. James Jackson's rigorous research at the University of Michigan." For example, assessing cardiovascular health over a life course and stress coping "may be part of pathways to Alzheimer's and other dementia risk for disproportionately affected populations," Hill said.



Carl V. Hill, PhD, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the Alzheimer's Association

Just like COVID-19, Alzheimer's and dementia disproportionately impacts communities of color. For example, according to the Alzheimer's Association:

- African Americans are about twice as likely as whites to have Alzheimer's or another dementia. Hispanics are 1.5 times more likely to have Alzheimer's.
- African Americans are more prone to risk factors for vascular disease — like diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol — which may also be risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and stroke-related dementia.
- African Americans and Hispanics are less likely to have a dementia diagnosis.
- New research from Case Western Reserve University shows African Americans with dementia have close to three times the risk of being infected with COVID-19 as white individuals with dementia.

...continued on page 16



Prioritizing innovations, smart policies and pandemic recovery... that's energy leadership!

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The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

Helping Your Children Deal with the Turmoil of COVID-19

Special to The Truth

Turn to Camp Journey for relief for yourself and your children. A Journey Through Healing found the August, 2019, camp so successful and effective that plans were made to provide a week-long experience in Summer 2020. When pandemic restrictions intervened, Camp Journey went online in a one-hour Saturday morning format. Originally intended for children experiencing loss, grief, trauma, the online version of Camp Journey is designed to help children deal with isolation, confusion, and the frustration and worry of adults.

Public health actions, such as social distancing, are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but they can make us feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety.

The Centers for Disease Control lists the following symptoms for prolonged isolation:

- Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration
- Changes in appetite, energy, desires, and interests
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping or nightmares
- Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems,

and skin rashes

- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Worsening of mental health conditions
- Increased substance abuse

This is what adults experience; but how much attention is devoted to the price children pay?

What symptoms do teachers have to deal with in their classrooms as instruction resumes after prolonged online schooling? And what frustration do both parents and children experience if their technology is inadequate or several children must use the same computer?

For you own mental health as well as that of your children, please contact Beatrice Daniels, trauma and grief management specialist. Daniels will describe the activities of the online format and share the responses of the children who attend. Parents who sit in on the sessions indicate that they have become more aware of their children's frustration and themselves learn better coping strategies. You owe it to yourself as pandemic restrictions continue.

Contact Beatrice Daniels at 419.376.8159.

Black History Month Quiz

We wanted to pass on Trivia Relief's Quiz in honor of Black History Month - a series of 28 questions honoring some of the Black men and women who have contributed so much to this country, in the face of so much opposition. The answers are at the end of the quiz on page 12

1) The youngest speaker at the March on Washington was this head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who later served more than thirty years as Congressman from Atlanta.

2) At the 2014 Sochi Olympics, Lauryn Williams became only the second American and fifth person in history to achieve what distinction?

3) In 1930, already an international star, Paul Robeson played the title character in this play, which he termed "a tragedy of racial conflict". Robeson's historic performance, praised for its "dignity and stately

magnificence", was rewarded with twenty curtain calls on opening night.

4) A marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail commemorates the moment this "King of the Blues" encountered a man playing slide guitar while waiting for a train. As a musician and composer, he brought the blues from the Delta to global prominence.

5) Her 2000 New York Times obituary stated that she "illuminated the black experience in America in poems that spanned most of the 20th century." She won the Pulitzer in 1950 for her second book of poems, Annie Allen, becoming the first African American to win the prize.

6) This prominent abolitionist published The North Star, whose motto was "Right is of no sex - Truth is of no color - God is the Father of us all, and all we are brethren."

7) These two San Francisco Giants greats, who share a name, played together from 1958 to 1971. With almost as many career home runs as Ruth-Gehrig, they constituted one of the most powerful batting duos in baseball history.

...continued on page 11

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**Based on customer experience survey shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp of April 2019.
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Black History Month Quiz... continued from page 10

8) A woman of many talents, Maya Angelou was among the first partners of

this dancer, who founded his American Dance Theater in 1958. At his 1989 funeral, Angelou read a poem dedicated to him, concluding, "And Lord, give him all the plies he needs until eternity."

9) Name the Supreme Court case that effectively ended legalized public school segregation in the United States and, within three years, provide the date of the unanimous ruling. (BONUS – The landmark decision overturned what infamous precedent established by the 1896 case Plessy v. Ferguson?)

10) During the decade spanning 1957 to 1967, this jazz great had a colossal creative output, producing classic albums including Giant Steps, My Favorite Things and A Love Supreme. With a style characterized as "sheets of sound", he ranks among the best jazz saxophonists ever. Praising the subject's rise from humble roots, Nat Hentoff cited his willingness "to practice more, to do all the things that somebody has to do to excel."

11) This American artist is credited with reviving the art of the cut-paper silhouette in the 1990s, using the medium to probe issues of race, gender and power.

12) The 1936 Summer Olympics witnessed a remarkable feat of sportsmanship, when the German long jump champion and Olympic recordholder (Luz Long) provided advice to this rival, who was in danger of fouling-out of the competition. The rival remained in contention and emerged victorious, with Long being the first to offer congratulations.

13) Occurring near the start of summer, this annual celebration commemorates General Orders, Number 3 (1865), which freed slaves in Texas. From there, the tradition spread throughout the South and remainder of the country.

14) Her Danse Sauvage made her an international star, as did her performance in Zouzou, the first Hollywood leading role for an African American woman. During World War II, she provided the French Resistance with intelligence overheard at performances. Addressing the March on Washington, she decried racism in her native land with the declaration, "I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens...But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee...".

15) In 1959, Berry Gordy took an \$800 loan from his family to found this company, whose headquarters displayed a sign that read "Hitsville U.S.A.". Over the next decade, it produced a staggering procession of music, with worldwide hits by the likes of Diana Ross & the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson.

16) This African American artist worked in a variety of media but, in a 1988 obituary, was described as "the nation's foremost collagist". The subject is especially associated with Harlem, where he spent much of his life, and depictions of the area's rich culture. He was a principal founding member of Spiral, an artists' collective dedicated to the civil rights movement.

17) Born Eunice Waymon, she achieved global fame under this stage name. Acclaimed as one of the most talented vocalists of her generation, she was an active campaigner for social justice, with her music a significant backdrop to the civil rights movement. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018, her profile includes, "Her triumphant voice sang what it meant to be young, gifted and black in a sometimes unjust and troubled world."

18) Born in Crockett, Texas, in 1935, Myrtis Dightman is considered the Jackie Robinson of this rugged athletic profession. During the 1960s and 1970s, he reached the US national finals seven times.

19) This actor originated the role of Troy Maxson in the 1987 debut of August Wilson's Fences, winning the Tony Award for Best Actor. With a distinguished career in both theater and film, he is perhaps most famous for providing his resonant voice to an iconic screen character.

20) With his famous orchestra, this jazz legend toured the world for almost half a century until his death in 1974. He is universally regarded as one of the all-time great jazz composers, with hundreds of songs to his name, including "Sophisticated Lady," "In A Sentimental Mood" and "Don't Get Around Much Any More". As his biography at the Songwriters Hall of Fame notes, "His influence...simply cannot be overstated."

21) He was the first African American staff photographer at Life. Over the next two decades, his work chronicled social ills – notably poverty and racism – and provided support for the civil rights movement.

22) Born a slave, this American abolitionist dropped her birth name in 1843, when she embarked on a career as one of the most noted evangelists of her era. A fervent advocate for equal rights for women, she is especially remembered for an 1851 speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention, with its famous refrain "And ain't I a woman?"

23) This author's first novel gained the 1953 National Book Award, the first won by an African American. In his acceptance speech, he spoke of his "dream of a prose...confronting the inequalities and brutalities of our society forthrightly, but yet thrusting forth its images of hope, human fraternity, and individual self-realization."

24) Eddie Murphy praised this fellow comedian as "better than anyone who ever picked up a microphone", a view confirmed by the subject topping Rolling Stone's "50 Best Stand-Up Comics of All Time". Regarding the subject's mid-career transition, another famous comedian observed, "[he] killed the Bill Cosby in his act...it was the most astonishing metamorphosis I have ever seen. He was magnificent."

25) In April 1939, denied a venue due to segregation, this renowned singer performed at the Lincoln Memorial instead. Harold Ickes introduced her to the crowd of 75,000 with the words "Genius, like justice,

...continued on page 12

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Black History Month Quiz... continued from page 11

is blind." Among many other distinctions, the subject was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

26) Eulogizing this friend in 1988, Keith Haring wrote, "Anyone who lived in downtown Manhattan at this time [1979] was aware of the presence of Samo©. The simple sentences sprayed onto buildings, bridges and crumbling walls appeared to be the utterance of some newborn philosopher."

27) This noted sociologist addressed the challenges of the turbulent post-Civil War era in his 1935 book, *Black Reconstruction in America*. He characterized the quest for "absolute equality" as "the last great battle of the West".

28) At the 1992 US Open, twenty-four years after he won the event as an amateur on military leave, tennis royalty convened in support of this man's Foundation for the Defeat of Aids. In addition to historic championships and five Davis Cup wins, the subject is remembered for his social activism, including outspoken opposition to apartheid. His International Tennis Hall of Fame bio refers to him as "the sport's most elegant and thoughtful ambassador."

And a closing thought...

Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.

John Lewis, 2017

VProject... continued from page 8

physician and go to trusted websites that follow the science like the CDC or health departments," said Paat.

The VProject was formed as a community initiative to educate, motivate and vaccinate the entire Northwest Ohio corridor to dramatically slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To accomplish this, leaders from

industry, government, non-profit, health care, education and religious organizations have united in this unprecedented effort to effectively mobilize our community, with a goal to vaccinate 70 percent of the population. According to VProject's website medical experts agree that reaching 70 percent vaccination rate or 'herd immunity,' should be reached to assist businesses, organizations and community members thrive without restrictions.

"We will still have to wear masks even once your vaccinated until herd immunity is reached. It's possible for some areas to reach herd immunity before others, but we travel and intermingle too often to ignore the importance of herd immunity. The CDC says we can reduce exposure up to 90% by doubling up on masks. Doubling masks offers twice the protection," explained Watkins.

"This data is being tracked by the CDC, so we know how many individuals need vaccination," shared Paat.

The VProject's website and Facebook page provides resources and videos to address myths about the vaccine. The panelists addressed questions and myths that are common and those posted during the live event.

"If an individual had COVID-19 already, you have six months of immunity but it fades away. The data on this is currently iffy, but the individual can increase their immunity by taking the vaccine. The individual should wait about three months and wait until they are symptom free. However, we already have three variants so that could mean that we will need an annual vaccine. Once vaccinations increase, variants of COVID are less likely to increase," shared Paat


"We're currenting in the middle of the big rollout, but you should listen to the governor each week for the next eligible group of residents. Ohioans should worry about which vaccine they are receiving and get what's available at the time. Any shot is better than no shot," explained Watkins.

The VProject plans to post videos and resources that continue to address myths, these resources are available on the VProject Facebook page and website. Visit www.vproject.org for details.

Answers to The Black History Month Quiz

1. John Lewis
2. Winning a medal at both the Summer and Winter Olympics
3. Othello
4. W.C. Handy
5. Gwendolyn Brooks
6. Frederick Douglass
7. Willie Mays and Willie McCovey
8. Alvin Ailey
9. Brown v. Board of Education / May 17, 1954 ("Separate but equal")
10. John Coltrane

11. Kara Walker
12. Jesse Owens
13. Juneteenth
14. Josephine Baker
15. Motown Records
16. Romare Bearden
17. Nina Simone
18. Rodeo, specifically bull riding
19. James Earl Jones
20. Duke Ellington
21. Gordon Parks
22. Sojourner Truth
23. Ralph Ellison (for *Invisible Man*)
24. Richard Pryor
25. Marian Anderson
26. Jean-Michel Basquiat
27. W.E.B. Du Bois
28. Arthur Ashe




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The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation by Anna Malaika Tubbs

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your mom was always on your side.

She stuck up for you when nobody else would, through thick and through thin. She had your back, she prayed for you, and she wanted the best for you. She was always there and that never changed, though in the new book *The Three Mothers* by Anna Malaika Tubbs, some mothers change the world.

For most of her life, Louise Langdon hated the color of her skin.

Growing up in Grenada in the late 1800s, she was surrounded by the dark-skinned children of former slaves but Louise's father was a white man who raped her barely-teenage mother, leaving Louise with a pale complexion. For the rest of her life she held deep anger at the supremacy that white people assumed, from her migration north to her marriage to Earl Little and her activism, the latter of which she passed to her son, Malcolm.

As a part of the Great Migration, Berdis Jones got caught up in the excitement of the Harlem Renaissance and some months after landing in New York City, Berdis gave birth to a son whose father was uninterested. For much of young Jimmy's early life, then, it was just him and his mother, and she worked long nights at a cleaning job to ensure that he had what he needed. What he didn't need was a new stepfather, David Baldwin, who suffered from

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an undiagnosed mental illness.

The Reverend and First Lady of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church wanted only the best for their daughter, Alberta. The Williams gave Alberta the finest education, music lessons, all that an upper-class Black young lady would need. When an itinerant, uneducated preacher, Michael King, came calling on Miss Alberta, the Williams were dead-set against the romance. Alberta, however, saw a good heart in Michael — one that later inspired their son, Martin.



Three Mothers author Anna Malaika Tubbs


The Three Mothers is one of those books that you really want to like but doing so is a challenge. It's a very good book that's in very bad need of an editor.

Format-wise, it starts where all good biographies do. Author Anna Malaika Tubbs tells why she wrote this book before she plunges into a brief account of the ancestry of her main subjects. This immediately begins to build the layers of story that ultimately explain the work behind three great men.

At issue, however, is that each section of the women's lives is woven very loosely around Black history of their era. That contributes to a confusion of timeline, and out-of-place points that reduce the smoothness of a history that's otherwise riveting. It's like trying to watch three TV shows at once; add contradictions and a confidently-stated point-as-fact that experts still aren't sure about, and you may be left frequently scratching your head.

If you overlook the scatteredness and don't mind frequent side-trips, *The Three Mothers* is a great examination of a rarely-told triple story and you'll love it. If you like your books more linear and straightforward, though, just put this one aside.

THE THREE MOTHERS



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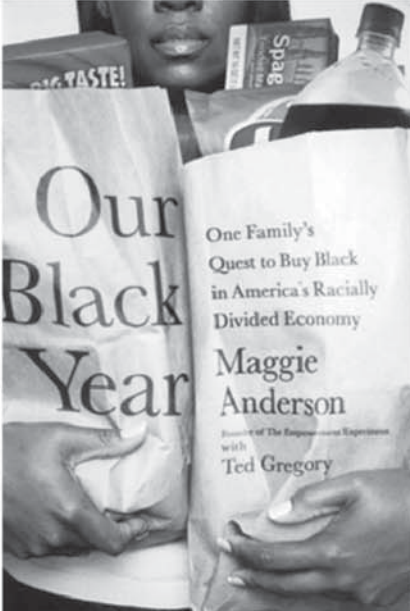
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Must have completed some college course work in history, education, communication, or related program or equivalent work experience. Some experience in customer service, and public speaking. Experience leading public programs preferred. Seasonal position through December. May include some weekends, holidays, and evenings. Up to 35 hours per week. \$9.87/hr. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to review complete job description and to apply. EOE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) and its affiliate Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC) located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Maintenance Supervisor and Resident Advisor. For complete details, visit www.lucasmha.org and click on careers. Deadline to apply: 02/28/2021. This is a Section 3 covered position(s). 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.



JOB POSTING

Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RLI) offers a complete range of project delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. For additional information, visit www.RLGBuilds.com.

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is seeking a Yard Associate at its Walbridge, OH location. The Yard Associate will help with general yard duties including loading and unloading trucks, organizing materials, jobsite delivery and clean-ups when necessary. High school diploma or GED required, construction experience preferred.

Interested parties should apply on our website at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



PARK SERVICES RANGER

Metroparks Toledo has openings for part time and full time Park Services Ranger for community policing and some park maintenance. Part time up to 24 hours per week, \$14.96 per hr. Full time Ranger, \$19.92 per hr. Certification as a Peace Officer in the State of Ohio is required. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

BAKERS NEEDED

Jera's Heavenly Sweet is seeking bakers who have extensive, professional, "from scratch" baking experience. Bakers should be passionate, able to cut or multiply a recipe with ease, multitask, and effectively communicate. To apply, send your resume to heavenandsweet@gmail.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION SERVICES NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRsb) seeks to fund and invites proposals from qualified individuals or organizations for consultation and training services to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) services. Proposed services will support the sustainable achievement of MHRsb goals throughout the next phase of its DEI efforts. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2021. Submit all questions to crs@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Find details regarding the upcoming bidder's conference, project deliverables, and submission criteria in the RFP Framework located on the MHRsb's website <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.



Account Executive

Buckeye Broadband is looking for a qualified candidate to fill an Account Executive position. The Advertising Sales Account Executive is responsible for prospecting new clients and the selling of multi-platform Buckeye Broadband advertising to local advertisers. The Advertising Sales Account Executive is responsible for achieving agreed upon productivity levels and revenue goals.

Minimum Requirements

- High school diploma or the equivalent – required
- Minimum 2 years of previous outside sales experience – required
- Intermediate computer skills with the ability to use the Internet – required
- Experience working with Excel, PowerPoint and Word – preferred
- Familiarity with contact management applications (such as salesforce or other CRM) – preferred

Core Competencies

- Agile – Embraces change; adaptable and flexible; sense of urgency;
- Innovative – Uses critical thinking; Creativity; Continuous learning; Challenges the status quo;
- Customer Focused – External/Internal; Creates the exceptional customer experience; demonstrates a sales and service mentality;
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BuckeyeBroadband.com/Careers

Black Arts Heritage... continued from page 2

Movement and that of us as individual Black artists.

Perryman: The fact is that a true, rich, healthy, and diverse Black aesthetic was being left out of standard perspectives of what constitutes high quality. So, you stressed that conventionally-accepted institutions' collections should also include Black Artists and their works?

Johāna: Yes! And, I think the museum actually became a way of moving the whole Black Arts Movement to another level, broadening its scope, because then everybody was able to see it in a museum context. I think it heightened people's awareness as to what the Black arts were doing.

(to be continued)

Johāna received a BFA degree in painting from Miami University (Ohio) and additional training at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Columbus College of Art and Design, and the Art Academy of Cincinnati. He taught African American art history at the University of Cincinnati, and was Artist-in-Residence for the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati.

In 1980 Johāna was nominated for the Corbett Award for work done by an individual artist. In 1981 he was honored by the NAACP for artistic contributions and with a feature in the Black Art International Magazine. In 1987 he was a finalist for a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1988 he was nominated for an Award in the Visual Arts (AVA).

Johāna's work is represented in numerous public collections including the City of Toledo, Fisk University, University of Massachusetts, Price Waterhouse, The Franciscan Hospital (Cincinnati), The Toledo Museum of Art, Imani Temple (Washington, D.C.), Ascension Lutheran Church (Toledo), and Jerusalem Baptist Church (Toledo).

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

Alzheimer's Event... continued from page 9

Hill said while growing up in College Park, GA, he witnessed challenges for accessing quality health care. He initially went into public health and developed his interest in health disparities research because he wanted to study "the factors that kept important resources like quality health care from being shared equitably in all communities."

Today, "this is an urgent opportunity for the Alzheimer's Association, our chapters and volunteers, to encourage people with information and to take advantage of the resources that we have for them" like the Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

Eric VanVlymen, Ohio Regional Leader of the Alzheimer's Association, said at the national level the Alzheimer's Association is committed to not only funding diverse initiatives – like the new IDEAS study, whose goal is to enroll 4,000 African American and Latino participants to determine if amyloid PET scans improve diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease - but also committed to working with national partners to ensure that early detection and diagnosis initiatives reach all communities. Locally, the Alzheimer's Association is analyzing service levels and looking for community partners who can help the organization work on solutions and outreach to diverse populations.

"Being there in the community and working within the community I think is so critically important," Hill said. "It's an unparalleled opportunity to translate research findings, and engage all communities using community-based participatory strategies."

When people leave the March 3 event, Hill said he wants "everyone to consider how they can contribute to diversity and inclusion and become ambassadors for a shared vision for health equity as we really look to a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia for all communities."

To register for the Dr. James S. Jackson Seminar on Health Equity and Alzheimer's Disease, visit: alz.org/jackson-seminar.

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