

# Michigan Banner

Leading in Diversity for 18 years

## Community group launches effort to save Neighborhood House

COMMUNITY, PG 11



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDITION



TERRY PRUITT

## Why it is important to celebrate Black history month

By TERRY PRUITT

As we move into February 2021, after a tumultuous month of January, we again take time to celebrate the heritage and contributions of African-Americans to this nation, "Black History Month". Over the years, I've often been asked, largely by my white friends and associates, why is it necessary to set aside a month out of the year to celebrate Black History.

CONTINUES ON PG 40, BLACK HISTORY



### Perspectives for nonprofits during the pandemic

COMMUNITY, PG 19



### Black media, from U-M's Eugene Robinson to Saginaw

COMMUNITY, PG 20



### Carlean Gill and Idlewild: More than simply dancing

COMMUNITY, PG 26



CELEBRATING LOCAL BLACK BUSINESS

THREAD128 CREW

# The path to THREAD128

*Reflecting on the journey of entrepreneurship in my hometown*

By GREG CARTER

Every time I think about how we landed at THREAD128 I'm still amazed. We opened for business on December 4, 2017. Prior to opening, I was employed by Saginaw County Mental Health, planning for retirement and working on my post retirement plans. Like I had done for many years, I stopped into my current location to buy a Detroit

Tiger hat and t-shirt from the then owner. During that visit we started to talk about everything and nothing at the same time. As I was leaving she asked if I knew anyone that was interested in a business, out of courtesy I asked what kind of business and she said the store. At that moment all my other plans became a memory because that possibility felt so right. I asked for a few days as I might know of someone who may be interested. I left there not even remembering where I was headed. I went to my Moms house, found a quiet space and prayed. After that I called my wife to be Tamara, my daughter Chalonde, and my brother William and told them what had happened and the vision the Lord put in my spirit. At that time they couldn't see it,

CONTINUES ON PG 2, THREAD128

### REMEMBERING BLACK ICONS

#### Cicely Tyson

Trailblazing American actress and fashion model

DEC 19, 1924 - JAN 28, 2021

#### Hank Aaron

Legendary American professional baseball player

FEB 5, 1934 - JAN 22, 2021



## Cover Story, THREAD128



BARBER CUTS AMOS O'NEAL'S HAIR AT THREAD128

but trusted and supported what I saw and felt.

Business wasn't foreign to me. As a child my father James Carter worked at Gray Iron and poured concrete sidewalks and driveways as his side business. My uncles, Hoover Carter and Herbert Williams also were business owners. I also had an older brother, cousins and their friends who were sharp and smart guys who I watched and emulated as I kid. My thought was "if they could do it, so could I". At that point my wife and I worked out the details with the owner while learning all we could about the retail business. In my vision I also saw a barber shop, so I had to learn as much as I could about how that worked and how we were going to combine the two under one roof. With God's help and providence we were able to do so. With that done a name was needed. As mentioned my brother, older cousins and their friends were smart and sharp guys. Back in the day they referred to their clothes as threads or vines, I knew that would be a part of the name. The number 128 is my wife's birthday, which she loved and we felt that THREAD128 was it and reflected our unique combination of services. Once we

had a name we secured all the necessary licenses, made sure all accounts were in order, found a great tax/accounting firm and started to reconstruct the space. While this was happening we knew there had to be more. The idea of starting this business was attractive because it's in the neighborhood I grew up in and it was important that people had access to a unique combination of services. We also wanted to project a positive business image that the community would embrace while building a competitive advantage for future growth. I knew we wanted to sell more than haircuts and clothes; we wanted to sell hopes and dreams and inspire those who came to support THREAD128. I knew Saginaw had produced outstanding athletes so I secured as many of their photos as I could to hang on the walls because their stories are important and their journeys all required the same things, "focus, hard work and determination" and I wanted to share that with the young people that came to the shop. It worked and also started a lot of "you remember when conversations" which is great. Along with the pro athletes, I also wanted our young people to see the college educated professionals who also grew up in the same neighborhoods as them, and that their journey required the same elements as their athletic counterparts "focus, hard

work and determination" and that goal was more possible because we all can't be professional athletes, but we can go to college, learn a trade or start a business. Mission accomplished as they ask who they are, and I love sharing with our young people.

Now mind you this all came together in a matter of weeks. During this time my wife Tamara and family totally supported me because it was a heavy lift. From the short learning curve, the "why you doing this crowd", to following the strict State and City processes/procedures and my own doubts it was nuts, BUT GOD! Thank you Jesus! So we're almost ready, we have a store full of "grab and go urban wear and a full service barber shop but no barbers. Talk about leaning into your faith and your prayers being answered, the next day there's a knock on the door. In walks a young man, a fully licensed barber, Fabrian "Fab" Thomas. I really love this kid, I tell him all the time. So my wife, Fabrian and I opened the doors to THREAD128 on December 4, 2017. Since then we've added two more outstanding and fully licensed barbers, Demetrius "Blend Master" Pruiett and Kendrick "Stacks" Archibald. I'm bragging a bit, but I think THREAD128 has the best crew in the city because they're true professionals and understand how important and vital it is to be role models to our young customer base.

Since opening, the learning continues and we have a great time together. THREAD128 is a continuation of what I love doing. In my career I've worked as a Probation Officer, a Mental Health Administrator and served in local politics for fourteen years. All those things have allowed me to engage with people in my city. I'm a "Saginaw Guy" from top to bottom. I was born and raised here, attended Saginaw Public schools. Left to attend Jackson State University (Bachelors, Criminal Justice) and came back. I completed a Masters Program at Saginaw Valley State University (Organizational Leadership and Administration) and now I'm a retired "new old guy". I've never wanted to go anywhere else, I love my city.



CHILD VIEWS IMAGES OF LOCAL SPORTS FIGURES

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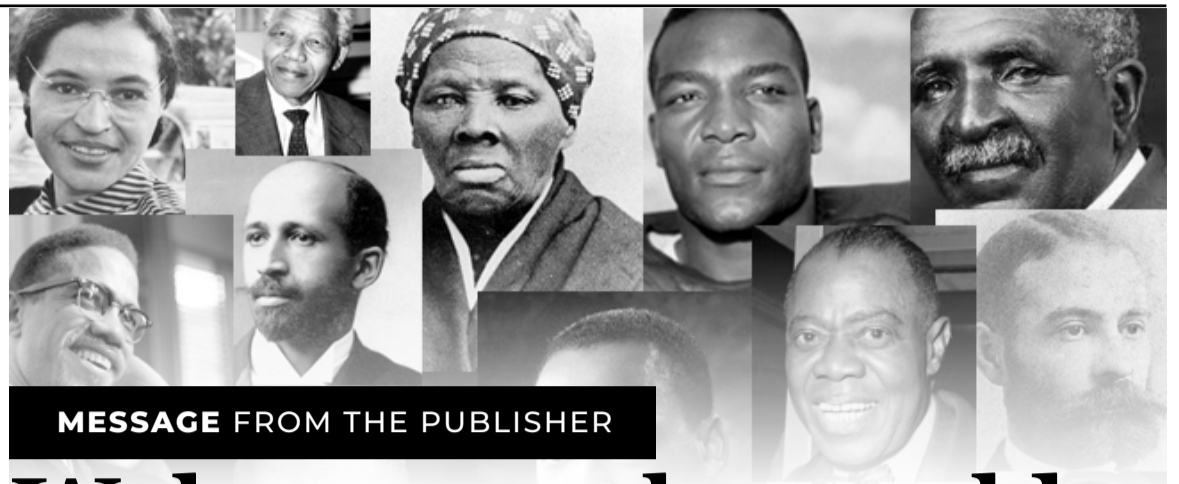
**MISSION**  
The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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# Welcome to the world of Black history

This edition is filled with articles, editorials and advertisements celebrating Black History Month 2021. Welcome to the world of Black History! Welcome. There is much to learn from the pastors, politicians, community leaders and others who have taken time out to contribute very thoughtful, rich, and timely words of wisdom this month. There is a tremendous need for balanced thinking and speech right now. The voices of truth and reason are competing with illogical and unreasonable theories. We struggle to hear and comprehend the much-needed courageous conversations which will help to bring about change and healing. Frederick Douglass once said, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” We must then put forth the effort to spotlight Black achievement, learn from past challenges and struggle to bring about change. That’s what this month of celebration and remembrance is all about. Learning from the past as we create a better future.

What better time is there to ‘cross the aisle’ and delve into a bit of history each day? Read an article (there are several to choose from in this edition), listen to a podcast, have a courageous conversation with a trusted colleague. We can change the vitriolic dialogue that we are unfortunately becoming accustomed to. Former President Barack Obama said, “Change will not occur if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones that we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Let’s learn and grow from mistakes and failures of the past – the next generations are counting on us. Again, I say, welcome to Black History Month. Welcome.



*Jerome Buckley*  
Jerome Buckley  
Publisher, Michigan Banner

## IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Latino Banner .....	LB 1 - LB 5
Community .....	11
Politics & Public Policy .....	42
Health .....	46
Education .....	49
Business & Wealth .....	54
Sports .....	62
Youth Banner .....	64 - 65

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T

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# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

**9th Annual Premios K?ONDA! Awards**

**JACK LUNA**  
Knowledge of Is and Award

**DOMINGO VASQUEZ**  
Outstanding Mexican Award

**CELESTINA ROSLES**  
Newcomer Singer Award

**KAPILLY TEKPALE**  
Distinguished Group Award

**JUVE ALBACO JR.**  
All Time Achievement Award

**BOBBY BARRERA**  
Creative Lyricist Award

**ELIDA ANDAVERDE**  
Appreciation Award

**NINA HAGENESS**  
Appreciation Award

**PRIDE INC.**  
Appreciation Award

**MIGUEL LUNA**  
Heritage Award

**JESSE SALCEDO**  
Heritage Award

**THE MIDWEST**  
Allstars

Saturday April 3, 2021 at Horizons Conference Center  
6200 State Street Saginaw, MI 48603  
5pm Social Hour 6pm Dinner and Awards  
Dance featuring Jr. Albaco and the Midwest Allstars  
Tickets are \$40 per person and a table of 8 \$320.  
Tickets on sale at Maria's Mexican Restaurant  
or by calling (989) 332-1107.  
(Following COVID-19 guidelines)

K?ONDA EVENT FLYER



¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES / EN LOS BARRIOS Y LAS GRANDES LIGAS

## 9th Annual Premios K?Onda! Awards

SAGINAW, Mi. – Tickets are available for the 9th Annual Premios K?Onda! Awards. The event will take place on Saturday April 3, 2021 at Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw, MI. Join K?Onda! as they celebrate the past present and future of Hispanic music in the state of Michigan.

K?Onda! is a weekly Hispanic publication dedicated to promoting Hispanic culture in music, health, education and community by informing and providing a public forum to exchange ideas, inspire and motivate.

Tickets can be purchased at Maria's Mexican restaurant or by calling (989) 332-1107.

## Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition “¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas,” coming to the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History

SAGINAW, Mi. – The history and culture of Latinos and their impact on American culture and society through the lens of baseball will be shared in the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition

Service’s (SITES) new bilingual (Spanish and English) exhibition, “¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas.” The exhibition will be on view at the Castle

Museum from January 23, 2021, through April 18, 2021.

“¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas” was organized by the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and received support from the Cordoba Corp. and the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

The exhibition captures the excitement of the game, from community baseball teams to the Major League, highlighting how the game

CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, ¡PLEIBOL!

## LB Cover Story, ¡Pleibol!



¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES / EN LOS BARRIOS Y LAS GRANDES LIGAS

can bring people together regardless of race, class, and gender. It will feature reproductions of historic and personal photographs, and graphic elements as well as a short bilingual video produced by “La Vida Baseball.”

Throughout the 20th century in the United States and Latin America, baseball provided a path for a better future. Workers in agriculture and industry in the United States used baseball to make ends meet and as a socially acceptable space to find community and organize for rights and justice.

“¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los Barrios y las Grandes Ligas” has been made possible through close collaborations with over 30 partners in 14 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico to help bring visibility to Latino community histories through baseball.

Smithsonian curators collaborated with partners and local communities across the country to document and preserve baseball stories at the heart of Latino communities. The traveling exhibition will visit 15 cities through 2025.

The Castle Museum of Saginaw County History is working closely with our board member Larry Rodarte, editor of *Mi Gente* magazine, on a local complimentary exhibit. In addition, the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame will be providing artifacts and information from their collection to supplement this intriguing look at baseball’s impact on the Latino community and Saginaw County as a whole.

SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations are critical national outreach units at the Smithsonian Institution. For more than 65 years, SITES has been connecting

Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes and maintains the Smithsonian’s long-term partnerships with museums, educational organizations, and cultural institutions in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Panama. Together, SITES and Affiliations share the Smithsonian’s vast resources with millions of people outside Washington, D.C. Visit <http://sites.si.edu> and <https://affiliations.si.edu> for more information.

The National Museum of American History explores the infinite richness and complexity of American history. It helps people understand the past in order to make sense of the present and shape a more informed future. For more information, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu>.



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# The Anti-Black in Latin American culture



ISTOCKPHOTO

By MB STAFF

Influenced by Indigenous, African, and European cultures, Latin Americans (those born and having roots in Latin America) hold complex identities that place them anywhere within the black skin/white skin spectrum. In fact, it is not rare to see siblings sharing the same parents and being on opposite ends of this black and white spectrum resulting in different lived experiences. This piece specifically focuses on phenotypes like skin color because it helps illustrate the anti-Blackness that is present and reinforced in Latin American cultures. It is important to take this into account because it highlights the complexities that Latina/o/x (pronounced Latina/Latino/Latinx) face. While there are anti-Indigenous sentiments in Latin America, this piece is not intended to downplay the oppression that Indigenous Latina/o/x populations have faced or are facing (a later piece will highlight their atrocities committed by Europeans). Instead this piece demonstrates through historical and current accounts how Latin America use/d white supremacy to oppress communities of color. In fact, through the use of religion and law, which I will show, Europeans have executed an anti-Black agenda while slightly lifting up Indigenous communities.

Influenced by white supremacy, which is the permanent and constant effort through various means to oppress people of color in order to uplift white people, Latina/o/x culture centers European culture while marginalizing both Black and Indigenous culture. While presenting historical examples there is a deep foundation of anti-Blackness that influences the current context of Latina/o/x culture.

The long oppressive history of Latin America can be explained through white supremacy, very much mirroring the same tactics used by Europeans to form and sustain the United States. For example, when the Europeans came to Latin America, they first began their empire by stealing the land from Indigenous communities: the first step to building any empire. There was so much stealing of land in Latin America that the Spanish and Portuguese had to use a treaty signed by Pope Alexander the VI to designate each country their “share” of land (See Treaty of Tordesillas). By the “power” of the pope it is clear to see the ramifications of this treaty through language. For instance, Brazil is the only country in Latin America that has Portuguese as their official language. The rest of the countries of Latin America has Spanish as their official language because they were conquered and ruled by the Spanish.

Once Europeans stole land from Indigenous civilizations, they enslaved and forced Indigenous communities to work the lands across Latin America, including the Caribbean, Mexico, and parts of Central and South America.

After witnessing the atrocities that Europeans committed towards Native communities in the island of Hispaniola (the island that contains Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Bartolomé de las Casas (1474-1566)—a Spanish Bishop—advocated stopping the suffering of Native communities on the island. In order to stop the maltreatment of the Natives, de las Casas suggested using enslaved Africans as a replacement. Despite de las Casas’s regret to suggest the use of enslaved Africans later in his life, the Spanish, along with Portugal, began importing millions of enslaved Africans to their colonies across the Americas to address the dying of millions of Natives that were not prepared to fight off diseases like smallpox. Enslaving Africans and using them to work the fields was extremely lucrative. So much so that the last country to ban the transportation of enslaved Africans in the western hemisphere was Brazil in 1888 (Haiti being the first in 1804).

The proposal made by de las Casas in the sixteenth century demonstrates the foundation of anti-Blackness that carried over to the rest of Latin America and can still be seen today. Case in point, imagine walking the streets of Mexico City as a Mexican and being told that you did not belong and were a foreigner because you were black. This is a common experience among Afro-Mexican in Mexico. In two unfortunate cases, two Afro-Mexican women were deported to Honduras and Haiti because they were black despite having Mexican issued identification cards. The police officers that detained these women suggested that they could not be Mexican because according to them there were no Blacks in Mexico (see <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35981727>). The police’s actions exhibit anti-Blackness that stems from years of reinforced hate towards Black people in Latin America. In fact, the invisibility of Afro-Mexican in Mexico is itself a anti-Blackness.

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 5,  
ANTI-BLACK**



## COMMUNITY BOARD

Submit your announcements and events at [michiganbanner.org](http://michiganbanner.org)***¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS  
AND THE BIG LEAGUES******JANUARY 23, 2021 - APRIL 18, 2021***

*THE CASTLE MUSEUM OF SAGINAW COUNTY HISTORY HOSTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S "¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES" TRAVELING EXHIBIT. EXPLORE HOW LATINOS/AS HAVE MADE THE GAME WHAT IT IS TODAY, AND BASEBALL'S PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THEIR CULTURE. WITNESS HOW BASEBALL UNITES ALL RACES, CLASSES, AND GENDERS IN THIS NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN EXHIBIT.*



Smithsonian Institution  
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CASTLE | SAGINAW  
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HISTORY

**Continued from LB pg 4, Anti-Black**

Despite an early presence of Africans in Mexico since the sixteenth century through slavery, Mexico only recently began recognizing its Afro-Mexican population though its census in 2015. After including Afro Mexicans, the Mexico Census counted around 1.38 million people of African descent which is about 1.2% of the country's population. While Afro-Mexicans have been only recently recognized by the Mexican government other non Afro-Mexicans around Mexico were unaware of their presence in Costa Chica, which is on the southern part of Oaxaca, Mexico. Mexico would have not included "Afro"

as a category in their census if it were not for the efforts of the advocacy group Negro Mexico. It is important to note that gains will never be given, they can only be fought for, especially when forms of oppression are present, in this case anti-Blackness.

While making Afro-Mexicans invisible for many years and only recognizing them six years ago, Mexico centered the Indigenous Aztec civilization on their national flag since 1821. The Golden eagle that is centered on Mexico's national flag represents an Aztec legend where the Aztec civilization would be built where

an eagle is seen on a prickly pear cactus devouring a rattle snake. Mexico's effort to hide their long history of Afro descendants clearly demonstrates the anti-Blackness that continues to linger through white supremacy after Bartolomé de las Casas suggested to use enslaved Africans as labor over Indigenous communities. It is critical to fight against the anti-Blackness that exists in Latin American culture especially if you have roots in Latin America and are not Afro Latina/o/x. First steps include recognition and awareness. Follow Negro Mexico on Facebook and blklatinasknow on Instagram.



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# + COMMUNITY



PICTURED FROM L TO R: JAMES CARTHAN, MICHAEL PRATT, KEVIN HAYES, GREG HAYES, TRICIA PRATT, ALVIN PRATT, CHARLES PARKS, RAY JONES, JIMMIE BENTLEY

## Community group launches effort to save Neighborhood House

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Kevin Hayes recalls childhood good times at the Neighborhood House, even when sundown approached and it was time to head home.

"We would all head home together, each of us peeling off one by one as we reached our homes," Hayes said. "It was like a parade. It showed the camaraderie that we had with one another."

Today, patrons of the South Side community center are marching again, this time in a quest to save the Neighborhood House, which closed prior to the holidays due to a funding pinch at long-time sponsor Samaritas, formerly known as Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

Kevin Hayes is part of a nine-member rescue crew that has acquired ownership, named "The Nabe," reflecting their

youthful slang for the neighborhood beacon at Russell and Gilmore, where they gathered for fun and games and special events.

He is joined by sibling Greg Hayes, Jimmie Bentley, James Carthan, Ray Jones, Charles Parks and a trio of Pratt family members -- Alvin, Tricia and Michael.

"We are taking care of our community," explains Tricia Pratt.

None of the nine is an expert. They say they will learn as they proceed, with a future made even more uncertain because of the Covid-19 outbreak. They have started to meet with a grant-writing specialist, with aims to gain proper non-profit 501(c)(3) status.

Their efforts are dedicated to past supervisors at The Nabe, Ray Culpepper (1935 to 2011) and also Edd Roberson

(1951 to 2011), who knew all of their names and always offered special talks that were teamed with kind words for all of them.

All the while, memories will linger as they move forward with cleanup and restoration inside the facility during winter and outdoors when spring arrives.

"I remember the boxing ring, where I made Michael Pratt cry," jokes Charles Parks.

Actually, Michael and Alvin are joining as spokesmen in pursuit of more supporters who will offer volunteer time, effort and donated supplies. For instance, The Nabe is looking for both paint and for painters to brush a few sore spots that exist. Any gifts of cash would be good as well.

**To learn more about The Nabe and to support their efforts, email [AP1Jams@yahoo.com](mailto:AP1Jams@yahoo.com) or [badepratt@yahoo.com](mailto:badepratt@yahoo.com).**

+ COMMUNITY

# Why was Neighborhood House closed in the first place?

By MIKE THOMPSON

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, LSSM, obtained ownership of Neighborhood House community center at 3145 Russell in 1984 and provided funding and administrative support for 36 years. LSSM changed its name to Samaritas in 2016 in order to reflect Good Samaritan-type services for all people, not restricted in any way to those of the Lutheran faith. The major project in Saginaw continues to be Samaritas Senior Living at 3200 State, near the former Kroger store at State and Court streets.

Following is the complete statement from Samaritas CEO Sam Beals, issued Jan. 29, regarding the closing sale to a volunteer community group, "The Nabe," which aims to revive the Neighborhood House. His explanation involves an unsuccessful local attempt to form a charter school academy within the center that would have provided state per-pupil



THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, 3145 RUSSELL ST, SAGINAW, MI

support as an alternative source of funding.

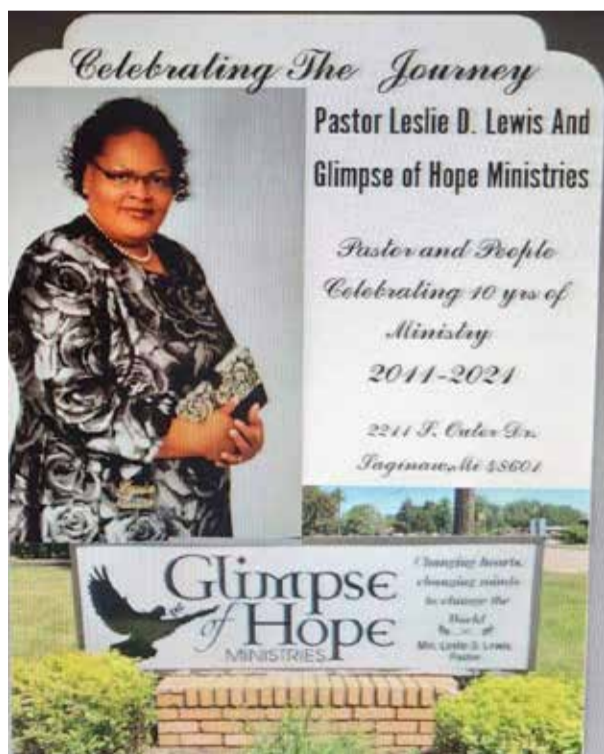
"Across the state, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed the need for greater health and human services," Beals writes. "But the longer the pandemic has continued, the harder it has been for nonprofits to secure the funding sources needed to provide quality services for Michigan's most vulnerable populations. This past October, we learned that a major state funding source had rescinded their two-year commitment to fund a new partnership in Southeast Saginaw. While we know the decision did not come lightly, it was critical to the Saginaw Community Center. It was a devastating loss. However, we remain committed to Saginaw and its residents. To that end, we have consolidated our adoption, foster care, disability and Saginaw Community Center services to the St. John's Lutheran Church (downtown at 915 Federal), and are working with local partners to launch

additional services.

Funding has presented a challenge to other community centers during the past generation. Trinity-St. John and Civitan both have closed, leaving First Ward Community Center as a sort of "last man standing."

Also, the population of Saginaw city children is reduced by a staggering two-thirds since the peak during the 1960s and early '70s, especially in the most hard-pressed abandoned neighborhoods. For example, in the distant past many children walked to First Ward CC. Nowadays they arrive in buses or in family vehicles. And beyond that, fewer parents send their children to community centers or simply outdoors to play and to recreate.

All of these challenges will arise in efforts to rescue and revive the South Side's Neighborhood House.



## SAAP

### SAGINAW AFRICAN AMERICAN PASTORS

A Community Conversation

### "The COVID Vaccine and Our Community"

Friday,  
January 29, 2021  
10:45am - 11:45am

Thursday,  
February 4, 2021  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Our Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Brenda Coughlin  
CEO Great Lake Bay  
Health Centers

Ms. Angelia Williams,  
MSN, BSN, RN  
Special Projects Director,  
Great Lake Bay Health Centers

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## BOOK REVIEW

# A civil right story and a family story

By MIKE THOMPSON

The title sort of tricked me, but that turned out all for the better.

"Daughter of the Boycott" by Karen Gray Houston was on the library shelf. The one and only Montgomery bus boycott. Not only the first main modern civil rights event, but among the greatest in terms of effort, sacrifice and execution. Three hundred and eighty-one days. Incredible.

I was enamored by an impression that Ms. Houston, a retired top radio and then TV journalist, would offer some new-to-myself deep strategic details. And indeed, she does. Her father, Thomas Gray, and her uncle, Fred Gray, were leading attorneys in a case that eventually was won at the U.S. Supreme Court. Pops also was a local businessman (electronics repair service) who organized the volunteer drivers, who in turn offered free taxi-type service in lieu of bus rides.

We also learn more about the characters of such unsung leaders as Montgomery NAACP President A.M. Nixon, and the youthful maturation of Dr. King. And while 1963 Birmingham later became known as Bombingham, a mob of cowardly white-bigot explosives-makers was mad in Montgomery nearly a decade earlier.

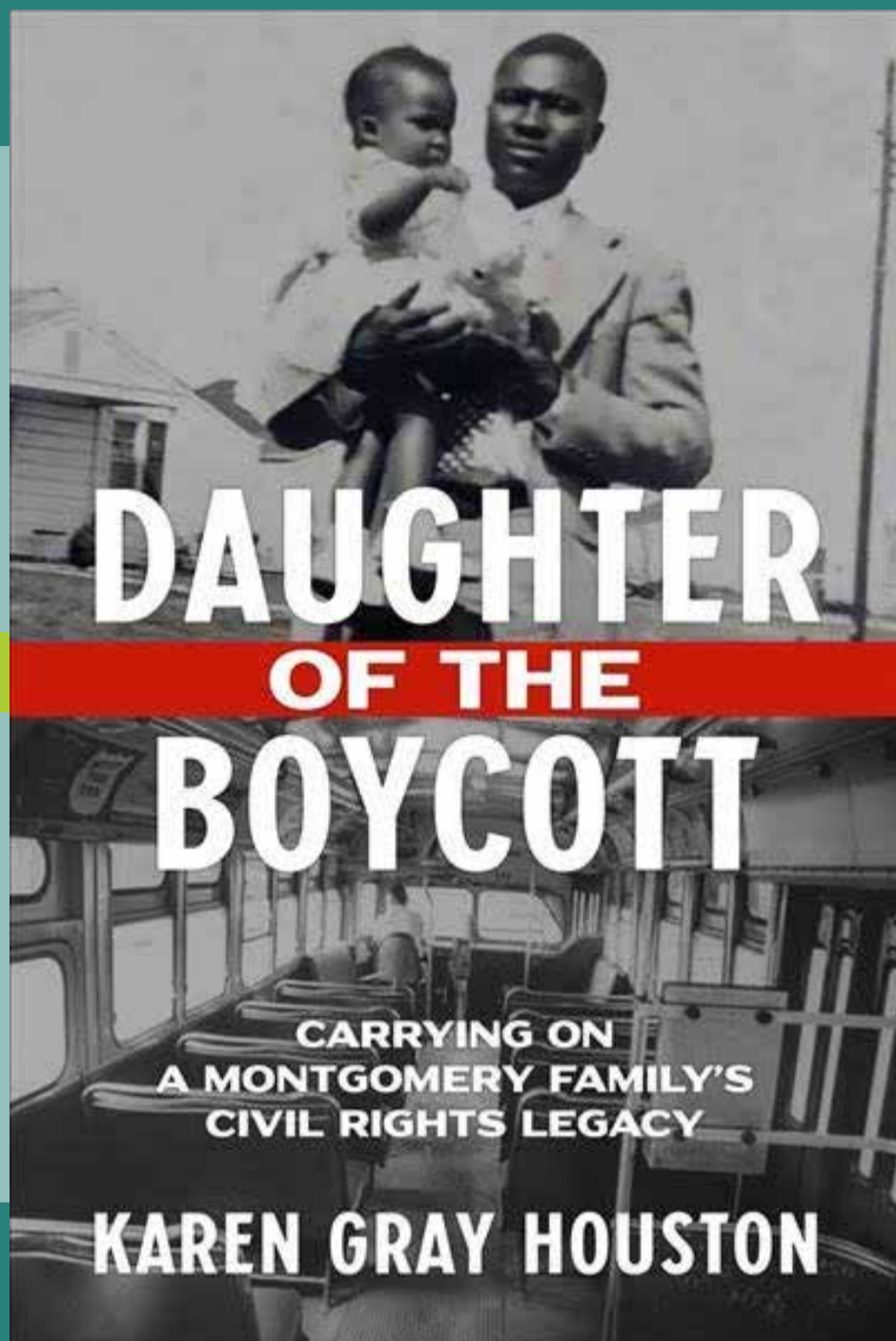
Rosa Parks? Yes, she was a woman of courage who was so vilified that she was forced post-boycott to move with her husband to join family first in Chicago

and then in Detroit. She didn't simply "get tired" on that bus after finishing her seamstress shift on December 1, 1955. This was pre-planned, and several other cases of transit bias were forestalled by local leaders because the victims were not considered as socially distinguished as was Mrs. Parks. (A surprising small aspect is that Rosa Parks was not a specific plaintiff in the litigation that went all the way to the SCOTUS.)

The "Daughter of the Boycott" sections that surprised me were the author's weaving of family stories from that era, some having virtually nothing to do with the

social justice protest that was taking place. She writes of everything from childhood excitement over a train's passing through town, to summer community picnics, and her love for her father (and mother) and uncle is fully expressed. It's almost as if she desired to tell these tales in the first place, and the Montgomery boycott provides an anchor post to do so.

Our libraries for now are covid-closed, but you still may telephone or online order this outstanding book, and others, for at-the-door pickup. A little something different for Black History Month.



## + COMMUNITY



MILLION MAN MARCH

# The **Black community's** unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

By DR. DAWN HINTON



DR. DAWN HINTON

How many of us know that the cost of breath here on earth is that we will give something back to those who will come after us? Each of us has a responsibility to leave a legacy once we transition.

There are a number of legacies that have influenced where we are as a people, among those that are significant during Black History Month are the legacies of Carter G. Woodson and that left through the Declaration of Independence. Here, I challenge you to consider these and how we can use them to build a society where all citizens are valued.

As a sociologist by training, there are a

number of guiding principles that inform my approach to understanding the world. One of those guiding principles is that we have the ability to effectuate social change. I believe that we can create, sustain and change our environments, we are not living in a system where we have no control over what happens. However, these changes only come as we demand them.

*Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will*  
~Fredrick Douglass (1857)

As early as 1857 the great abolitionist Fredrick Douglass made the above statement. According to Douglass, people who are in positions of power have given up nothing until it was demanded of them. These are the ruminations of one of the greats that still hold true today. Unless the oppressed demand freedom, it will not simply be granted. Consider the history of America, when we decided we no longer wanted to live under the rule of the British, not only did we throw the tea overboard, but we wrote them a letter to explain our discontent and then went on to violently defend the rights identified.

This letter is known as the Declaration of Independence. It starts with "When in the course of human events..." and goes on to say:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.*

Let's interrogate this. The Creator has given us rights that cannot be taken away or denied: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit

**CONTINUES ON PG 15, BLACK COMMUNITY**

## Continued from pg 14, Black community

of Happiness. In order to make sure that we maintain these rights, we create governments – who only have power because we give it to them. That’s right the people have given elected officials power to make sure that our rights are secured. Now, catch this part – according to this document if we have a government that does not ensure these things, as a people we have the right to ABOLISH IT! Go back and read that again! Not only can we abolish it but we can insist that a new government be created to protect our safety and happiness.

Now this was great language when it came to the American colonies telling the British that taxation without representation was not working for us. However, many Americans have a problem with this when we talk about Black folk. When Black people, who have been clearly marginalized and persecuted, start to say ‘this is not working for us’; when we say we need a new government that will secure our rights, we are seen as terrorists, as un-American.

Many may believe that Black people in American are not an aggrieved population and their rights are not being violated. In all honesty, no one is trying to hide this information, it is everywhere. More recently Michelle Alexander brought these issues to the forefront in her book “The New Jim Crow.” In the interest of time, I will limit my observation to the discussion of the ‘War on Drugs.’ According to the CDC National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2017) 12% of whites and 13% of Blacks use illicit drugs. However, the FBI Uniform Crime Report (2017) indicate that 27% of those arrested for drug possession are Black. In 2014, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) found that sentences imposed on Black males in the federal system are 20% longer than those imposed on white males.

So what he have here is data that indicates that Blacks and whites use illicit drugs at about the same rate. However, Blacks are more likely to be arrested for said drug use and when arrested they are likely to serve a longer term. This is a problem! A structural problem, not an individual problem. The rules are being unfairly

applied, additionally what this means is that we cannot look for the solution to this problem by fixing people. So, stop telling Black people to pull up their pants, stop using slang, fix their hair, take care of their kids and to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. The solution is not in fixing the people, but in fixing the structure.

**We are in a  
state of crisis  
and you waiting  
on Jesse**

The question then becomes how do we fix the structure with individual effort? Let us look to Dr. Woodson, the father of Black History for direction. In 1915, Woodson participated in a national celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. He hosted an exhibit to discuss the progress of Black people since the destruction of slavery. There was such interest in his work that an overflow of six to twelve thousand people waited outside for their turn to view his exhibit. He was so inspired by the turnout that he knew he needed to do more, hence the creation of Black History Week. Central to Woodson’s belief is the idea that “history is made by the people, not simply or primarily by great men.” Rather than focusing on one or two people, the Black community, he believed, should focus on the countless black men and women who had contributed to the advance of human civilization.

I believe that this has been the problem within our community, we have not learned from Woodson’s legacy. We celebrate famous people with “big names.” We all know Obama, Oprah, Beyonce’ and Jay Z. Now I am not taking anything away from the contributions of these people, for they have made major contributions and in some cases serve of examples of those who have risen from poverty to wealth, and we should respect that. But are these the only within our community who should be looked up to and admired? What about Big Mamma, Uncle Jo, and Tee Tee Sarah?

What about all of those people who made personal sacrifices so that you could have access? Why do we not celebrate them during Black History Month? This month, my challenge to you is to celebrate our own during Black History Month. Let this year be the year of celebrating our local, hometown, homegrown heroes. In addition, 2021 is the year for you to accept the responsibility to be someone’s hero. See yourself as the one we have been waiting for. Let’s stop waiting on Jesse Jackson, Meek Mill or even Stacey Abrams to save us – You do it.

*“Freedom is not given, it is won”  
~A. Philip Randolph*

This freedom that we enjoy was not something that was easily attained. Our ancestors fought for it and we are in a battle now to maintain it. We all have a responsibility to ensure that those coming behind us will benefit from the lives we lived. If you are paying attention you would see that we are in a crisis not of our making.

Environmental racism is rampant, people and government are allowing for the pollution our air, soil and water;

Unemployment among Blacks is double that of whites. According to the National Center for Education Statistics almost twice as many Blacks and 4 times as many Hispanics drop out of high school when compared to whites. We also know that only 42% of Blacks graduate from college compared to 62% of whites. Racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, ageism, various forms of religious persecution run rampant in our society. We are in a state of crisis and you waiting on Jesse.

Now I am not sharing this to discourage you or to scare you but to challenge you. You are our hope. You need to leave the world better than it was when you got here. How do you do that? By embracing your freedom, stop asking people to think for you, personally accepting the responsibility for our community and its development. I want you to follow Fredrick Douglass’ charge to demand that those in power protect the unalienable right of Black people to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

## + COMMUNITY

# It's time to tell the truth!

By **REV. VINCENT D. MCMILLON**  
SAINT PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

**O**n April 16, 1963, in response to the criticisms of his fellow White clergymen and others, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote the *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. In that letter Dr. King stated:

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Last month, our nation officially commemorated the life and legacy of Dr. King. In doing so, I believe we should pause and ask ourselves, why on January 6, 2021 was there an attempt of insurrection at our National Capitol? As a nation we should ask ourselves, why were so many right-wing media pundits, government officials, clergy and common citizens so comfortable with the misanthropic rhetoric leading up to the events that took place on that day? Let me try to address these questions.

A parable is told that personifies the truth and a lie:

The Truth went down to a stream, and undressed itself for a cool swim. While the Truth swam, a Lie came along and took off its cloths and put on the cloths that belonged to Truth. The Lie, then paraded itself through town, dressed as the Truth. Many of the towns people were impressed, and amazed with the Lie so splendid, and beautiful dressed as the Truth. The Lie looked, and sound good, but in fact, he was still a Lie, dressed as the

Truth. When Truth finally stepped out of the water, and found that his clothes had been stolen, he had to make a choice. He saw the cloths that the Lie had left behind - but decided within himself, "I'd rather walk around as the Naked Truth - than to walk around as a Lie.

In the Gospel of John 8:31-32, Jesus is talking to a group of believers and nonbelievers when he says, "*If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free (KJV).*" With this Scripture and parable in mind, I wondered for some, just how inconvenient the truth must be? How some would rather clothe their mind with a lie, rather than deal with the naked truth. How does one deal with inconvenient realities? I have to imagine that it must be an inconvenience when a lie has paraded itself around for so long as truth, that it must be hard to deal with when truth finally shows up. Perhaps mob violence and insurrection are the logical conclusions, unless the truth is embraced.

It must be a social paradox for many of those who witnessed the seismic shifts that took place in our society during the mid-late 20th Century. The notion of race identity, the reality of social inequities, and the fight for economic inclusion continues to shake and mold the national narrative for whiteness and people of color, as we struggle together toward unity. A part of that struggle for dominance has been to hold on to the notion of whiteness while minimizing one's own ethnic identity. The reality is, the notion of whiteness is a legal social construct that historically has served to include some while excluding others. In his book entitled: *White by Law – The Legal Construction of Race* (2006), Ian Haney Lopez uncovers the historic legal construction of race as a means to normalize the notion whiteness for social and economic gain of the dominate culture. Lopez asserts that "prerequisite [law] cases show that race is a social construct fabricated in part by law" (2006, Lopez, p. 109). He continues, "the prerequisite cases confirm that the construction of race is a construction of relationships – invariably relationships of domination and subordination, normativity and marginality, privilege and disadvantage, that White identity is given content" (p.

## MICHIGAN BANNER SERMONETTE SERIES



REV. VINCENT D. MCMILLON

116). The legal fight for whiteness has left a pale residue of poor social logic, which still stains our collective thinking, habits, and the soul of our nation.

The legalized myth of whiteness as a superior social construct has dominated our social boundaries, and language in America since its inception. Although some would suggest not only has the notion of whiteness been baked into our social lexicon – but also the notion of race. In her book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Pulitzer Prize recipient Isabel Wilkerson argues race as a myth, in light of the origins of classical caste systems. Wilkerson contends that our language and thought patterns are tainted by the notion of race and that it is caste systems that give life to the lie of race. Wilkerson (2020) says,

"If we have been trained to see humans in the language of race, then caste is the underlying grammar that we encode as children, as when

CONTINUES ON PG 17, TRUTH



## Continued from pg 16, truth

learning our mother tongue. Caste, like grammar, becomes an invisible guide not only to how we speak but how we process information, the autonomic calculations that figure in to a sentence without our having to think about it" (p. 18).

Wilkerson suggests that our logic - how we understand, think, speak, and interact with one another has ancient origins. She argues that we are hardwired by the earliest systems of caste. This might explain the notions of implicit bias born of white privilege; and on a more visceral level it also underscores why we are "caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality."

Because the lie of whiteness and race, has been woven into our nation's logic and history, on the eve of Dr. King's birthday, we all witnessed yet another attempt at insurrection. It must be a real inconvenience to constantly renegotiate with a historic lie now dressed in truth's clothing. How hard it must be to make, the ever illusive prospect of Democracy for all - a reality, when those who have been nursed by a lie stormed our Nations' Capitol with homicidal intent. There were those who were shocked who stated they had never seen anything like it before. I wondered what country had they been living in, and whose history they had read. *Justice for all* sounds good, but when a lie has clothed itself, in the garment of truth and justice for so long, justice becomes one-sided. Intelligent well-meaning brothers and sisters are now strangely confused when they consider how so many others could be fooled into believing a lie. When the truth manifests itself where a lie has been nurtured and allowed to grow for more than 400 years, it can be a real inconvenience.

In a since, Jesus was also dealing with a mob who came face to face with an inconvenient reality, and refused to believe the truth. Those religious leaders could not see themselves being mentally or physically in bondage. They denied that possibility and claimed Abraham as the source of their truth and freedom. These religious leaders had based their entire social theology on their patriarchal father - Abraham. They had forgotten

that even Abraham (400 years before the Law) was justified by faith (Genesis 15:6); meaning Abraham accepted the true God and His promise that all nations would be blessed because of him. It is sad to think that these religious leaders could not grasp the significance of the One who said, "*If the Son makes you free - you are free indeed*" (John 8:36). It is sad to think that these religious scholars refused the Truth standing before them. Consider how so many during Jesus' earthly ministry were misled, by the religious teachings of their leaders. Imagine how convenient it must have been to believe that they were already free, and without sin.

Today - in parallel, some far-right evangelical brothers and sisters, who have the awesome responsibility of preaching and teaching those sitting in their pews must tell those potential disciples the truth. Some of them may have become comfortable believing the lie of whiteness, and of race. There remains a responsibility to tell them, "*whoever commits sin, is the servant of sin*" (John 8:34). They must be told that, "*the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life eternal*" (Romans 6:23). There is a responsibility to tell them that all men, are precious in God's sight! It's time out for nursing God's people with a watered-down Gospel, informed by political interests.

Jesus said in Luke's Gospel 4:18-19:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor [also to those with a poor spirit]; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives; recovering of sight to the blind, to set free the bruised; that the time of the Lord's favor has come" (KJV).*

Jesus was sent to advocate for all men - with and without melanin in their skin. Our greatest task as clergy where politics is concerned, is to make sure that our faith governs our politics, and that our politics never governs our faith. If our praxis (how we practice our common faith), is not what Jesus stated in Luke's Gospel, we only preach and practice a lie.

As I understand Mark's Gospel, the

truth does at least two things, for the body of Christ. Jesus says: *The truth makes you free!* The idea of being made free is a result of the redeeming work done on the Cross of Christ. Redemption is therefore, to be brought back from the condemnation of sin, and death by the One who said, "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by me*" (John 14:6) (KJV). It's time to tell the Truth! Jesus did not die just for the White man, the Black man, the Red or Yellow man, but for all of humanity who would dare believe on His Name. Jesus and His teachings are the source of true social equity and liberation. That is the redeeming truth of the Gospel. To that end, there would be no more schisms or mob violence on our nation's sacred soil, with the Body of Christ in tandem.

Truth not only sets us free but it also exposes to whom a person belongs. In today's society it is not hard to tell to whom a person belongs. A person's allegiance becomes evident by the clothes they wear, the language they use, and the flags with which they adorn themselves. It's time to tell the truth! Too many who claim to be in the Household of Faith, are more, or loosely affiliated with a red MAGA hat, than with the red blood-stained Cross of Redemption. Please don't misunderstand, #45 is just the product of a larger, systemic and historic problem: *the lie of caste, race and whiteness.*

First John 4:20-21 (KJV) states,

*"If a man says - I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him - that he who loves God loves His brother also."*

There is no room for the language of hatred or sanctioned violence in the Body of Christ. It's time to tell the truth, and shame the devil! The truth exposes whose you are. And the sad truth is, there are some who have already condemned themselves. John 3:16 is widely known

CONTINUES ON PG 18, TRUTH

**+ COMMUNITY****Continued from pg 17, truth**

in the Body of Christ, but consider the 19th verse, which says, *“And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Everyone, that does evil hates the light; neither will he come to the light; lest his deeds will be exposed.”*

Nearly 58 years ago, our nation’s modern-day martyr for truth and justice, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came to our nation as a light. Even today there are many who refuse to accept Dr. King’s dream. From a public jail cell Dr. King scribbled on newspaper and toilet paper what would become a blueprint for the struggle of civil rights. He wrote to his fellow white clergymen and others. He hoped they would hear and tell the truth to those that followed them. He wrote to expose the darkness of historic social and economic wrongs. Dr. King’s letter shines today as a far-reaching light of brotherhood, irrespective of color or race. We all have a choice to make. We will either walk together in truth or fall together in masquerade. It’s time to tell the truth!

As Disciples of Christ, we have the sublime responsibility of teaching God’s people the truth, to love one another in the same way that Christ has loved us all. Dr. King’s words yet challenge us to rethink our common history and destiny. Whatever affects me and my children’s children will eventually affect you and your children’s children. We must never give up on Dr. King’s dream to live together in truth and brotherhood.

The truth has the power to redeem the soul of our nation and to make us one; and that should not be an inconvenience. In honor of Dr. King’s life and legacy we must choose to put on the perennate garment of truth, and refuse the lie’s legacy of hatred, division, and premature death. Let us consider one another as we speak, before we act. In doing so, together, we will contend for a *“more perfect union.”*

Join me Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube @ *St Paul MBC Family Connection*; and contact me via email [stpaul2@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaul2@yahoo.com).

**CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES****COLORS**

**Please don’t judge me by the color of my skin**

**Dig a little deeper, search my soul within**

**None of us were born with a multiple choice**

**Black, White, Red, or Yellow, We all have a voice**

**Today’s society is full of crime, all our people doing time**

**What is the lesson, we’re teaching our children today**

**To Fight First, ask questions later, Demand to have it their way**

**I don’t think this is how God intended it to be,**

**For our babies to be watching all this violence on National TV**

**We all need to stop, look, and listen, and hear all the cries**

**Stop killing, Stop Raping, Put a stop to all the drive-bys**

**There are innocent people dying, on a day to day basis**

**They are White, They are Black, and they are all different races**

**Why can’t we solve our problems, by sitting down and talk**

**Learn to start stepping, add a little speed to our walk**

**Let’s stop all the nonsense, let’s put down the guns**

**Let’s learn to relax, let’s have some safe fun**

**Let’s stop abusing our Women, Give them back their sense of pride  
Whether the answer be yes, whether it be no, Respect and Abide**

**Let’s teach our children values, and to look pass skin**

**Let’s give them a sense of direction, Let them choose their own Friends**

**And when we lay down at night, let’s be quiet and still**

**And know that peace, Can someday be real!**



**Brigitte Johnson**



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## + COMMUNITY

# Perspectives for nonprofits during the pandemic

By CRAIG DOUGLAS



CRAIG DOUGLAS

The pandemic has hit just about everyone. My wife and I have each survived COVID 19, for example, despite being cautious and "masking up," we caught it in early November.

Gratefully, our symptoms were relatively mild and with expert health care provided locally by Heritage Family Physicians and Ascension Medical Group, we have survived. Others we know have not been as lucky; sadly, my brother-in-law Jerry Blakely caught the virus and succumbed to it on January 14th. This virus is very real for our family and so many others.

The pandemic has impacted businesses and nonprofits, and until we emerge out of the limits COVID 19 has dictated, we are in for a rocky ride financially. I will share some thoughts about nonprofits based upon observations I have made during the last eleven months. As an optimistic person, I seek "success stories" in an effort to replicate them.

Our region is rich in nonprofit organizations. Some are relatively new; others date back generations or more. Each seems to have a niche, a purpose, that otherwise would go unserved or perhaps, unnoticed. One such organization is the Emmaus House of Saginaw, featured in this edition through the skilled craftwork of Mike Thompson.

Emmaus House has become a "labor of love" for my wife and me since our retirements from K - 12 education. We

are on the Board of Directors of Emmaus and volunteer in various capacities at the invitation and urging of Sr. Marietta Fritz. Our overall goal has been to support the mission that Sr. Marietta founded, "Each person is good, a unique expression of God. Our hope is to provide an environment where each woman can come to realize her own goodness, and hence, the goodness of God. We provide transitional living and service to women coming from jail, prison, and rehabilitation. Our goal is to provide women (clients) with a family-like, Christian atmosphere while they are creating new lives; we provide for clients' physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs."

In recent months, our goal has shifted into "survival." As a nonprofit, how do we navigate a pandemic? Gratefully we can report that Emmaus House has "survived" so far by relying on three key principles.

1. Focus on health and safety. Keeping two dozen guests and staff in close quarters safe and "COVID free" during the pandemic has been no easy accomplishment. Being "safe" takes work and effort, and to the credit of Donna Clarke, Executive Director, Jen Hauch, Assistant Director, and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Klier, Financial Director, everyone has stayed safe. Support from Saginaw County Health and Great Lakes Bay Health Center officials has been key. Their guidance has been well-received and heeded.
2. Outreach and collaboration. Emmaus House has relied on other nonprofit organizations historically, but even more so during COVID 19. It is impossible to cite ALL of the churches and nonprofits who have helped keep Emmaus House going; I will highlight two of them for this essay.

Hidden Harvest brings food to Emmaus House on a weekly basis. These food items sustain the guests of Emmaus House with healthy options that would be expensive and in some cases, hard to find. Consider the fresh produce such as squash that came to Emmaus House this fall; they had been grown for use in restaurants whose needs suffered from the pandemic. They were

shifted and redirected to Emmaus House for consumption.

The YMCA of Saginaw has opened its doors to Emmaus House guests and staff. The opportunity to interact with other YMCA members and to take advantage of swimming and other exercise has been invaluable. Here is one nonprofit reaching out to help another one in an effort to leverage each others' attributes, a great message of hope for all involved.

3) Support from near and far. The outpouring of new supporters, some from out of the region and even out of state, has been unbelievable. In particular, December 2020 donations during the pandemic actually increased by \$ 20,035 over December 2019 nearly three months pre-pandemic.

We see this as a hopeful sign, sorely needed, since overall revenues shrank for the 2020 calendar year by \$ 72,663.

Support is not limited to money. We have had many examples of donated items to the Morrow Center, for example, that become treasures for guests and neighbors to use. People have cleaned closets and gifted appliances that have sustained others in need. The spirit of "helping each other" has helped Emmaus House cope with the pandemic's challenges.

I would encourage everyone to consider helping out a nonprofit keep going. Now, more than ever, their services are needed. We invite you to view the streaming concert, "Our Choirs Love Emmaus House," for example. This is our 7th annual fundraiser, being presented online this year for the first time due to COVID 19. Our resolve is to persevere, and through the outreach of many local churches, we are confident this year's concert will be a success. Our gratitude goes out to all involved, especially First Presbyterian Church and Colin Whitfield who is producing the concert virtually.

You can register online at <https://emmaushousesaginaw.com/get-involved>.

You will not only be inspired, you will be supporting a nonprofit being supported by others, including other nonprofits. Each of us, one at a time, can truly make a difference.

## + COMMUNITY

# Black media, from U-M's Eugene Robinson to Saginaw

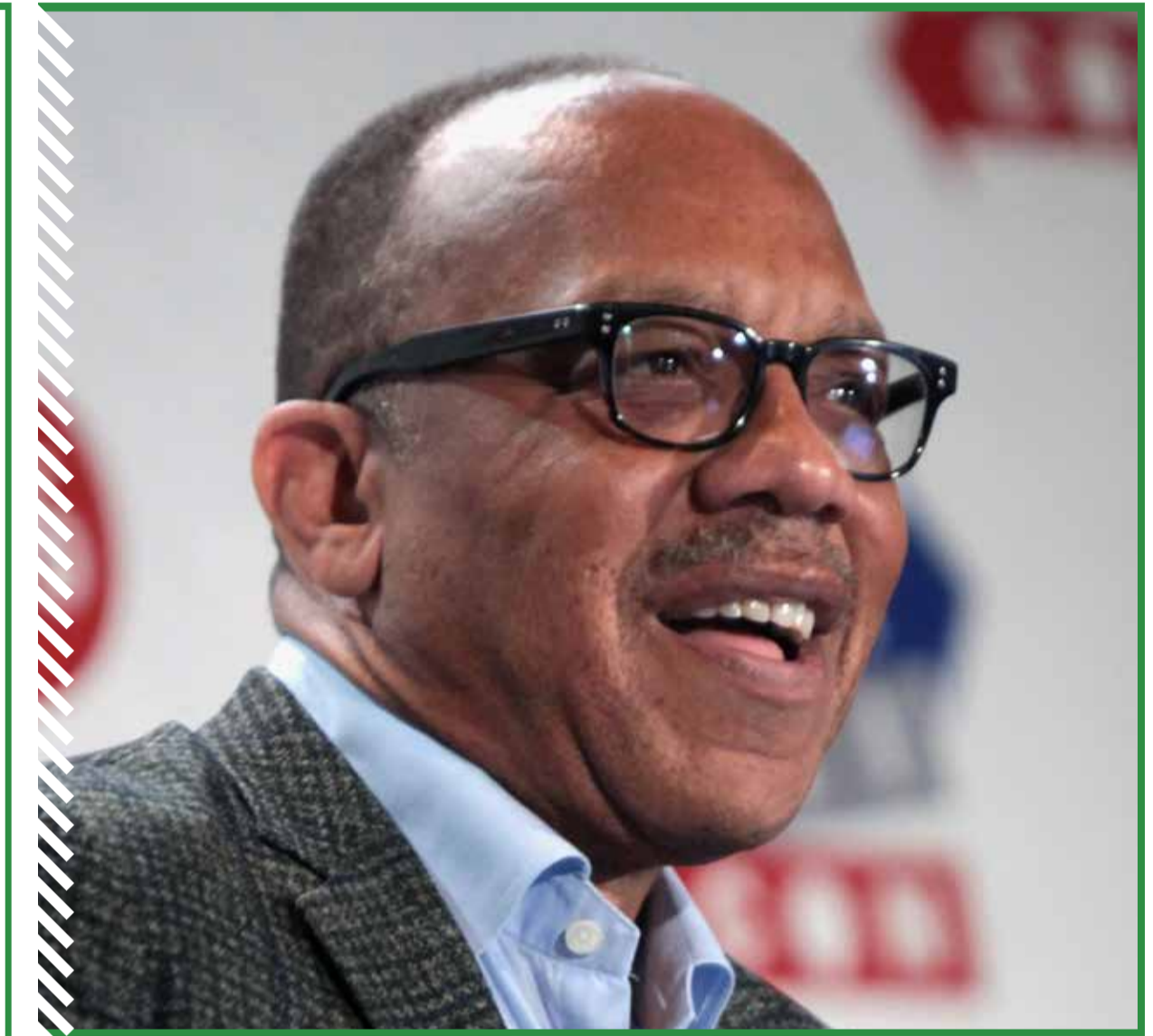
By MIKE THOMPSON

For many Americans, the most-encountered black journalist is Eugene Robinson.

His opinion columns are syndicated to more than 250 newspapers through the Washington Post, but the main reason for his recognition is that he is on television so often, beginning from weekday wakeup with MSNBC's Morning Joe, often ranging to the Today show, Nightly News, even Meet the Press.

If we in the Saginaw area feel some sort of connection, it may be that the 67-year-old Robinson, a South Carolinian, was journalism educated 90 miles away at the University of Michigan. He became the first African American editor-in-chief of The Michigan Daily, which functions as a regular newspaper far more than a college paper. This achievement could be considered akin to Barack Obama as the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Black journalists were scarce at that time, and black news commentators were even more rare. Eugene Robinson, no relation to ABC pioneer Max Robinson, worked the grind of smaller daily newspapers until he joined the Washington Post in 1980 as a City Hall reporter. As he moved up the ladder, he was assigned to cover the groundbreaking Obama presidential campaign, and his reports led to his coveted 2009 Pulitzer Prize.



EUGENE ROBINSON | GAGE SKIDMORE

In turn, his Pulitzer helped him make inroads into television, although his deep bass James Earl Jones-type intonations also are a TV asset.



LEM TUCKER

On the Saginaw front in black journalism history, Lem Tucker (Saginaw High 1956, Central Michigan 1960) came along a generation too soon to become a television pundit such as Robinson, but his wide-spanning career until his 1991 death included service with all the Big

Three networks -- first NBC, then ABC, and finally CBS.

While Tucker never faced a chance to express his own opinions on air, he most definitely was a political person, beginning with his election as CMU student body president during the late 1950s, when the Mount Pleasant campus was less than 1 percent African American. An annual CMU journalism student scholarship endures in his name.

Tucker achieved not a Pulitzer, but a pair of Emmys. These were for his coverage of racial concerns in 1979, and for Hunger in America in 1983. He was also known for his on-the-spot CBS radio and television reports of the Reagan assassination attempt in 1981.

Meanwhile, several younger Saginawians are following the Tucker and Robinson footsteps.

**CONTINUES ON PG 21, BLACK MEDIA**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 20,  
Black media



BOB JOHNSON

**Bob Johnson**, a lifelong resident of Saginaw graduated from Delta College in 2010 and began working for The Saginaw News as an intern reporter. He returned in 2013 to

the news which was now known as MLive/The Saginaw news to cover local community events, crime, government, education and business.

Another Saginaw and Central Michigan product, **Isis Simpson-Mersha**, began at mlive in 2017. She also gained broadcast experience on CMU student public radio.



ADRIENNE BRODDUS

**Adrienne Broaddus** (Bridgeport High 2002, Michigan State) has emerged on CNN, based in Chicago. She began with an assignments at TV5, advanced to major media markets and last fall broke into the big time.



NICQUEL TERRY ELLIS

**Nicquel Terry Ellis** (Arthur Hill High 2006, MSU) is a senior writer on race and equality at CNN headquarters in Atlanta, with

previous status at USA Today and The Detroit News. A key portion of her work has been devoted to police killings of black people and the protest demonstrations that have resulted.

We won't see **Tolleah Price** (Saginaw High 1998, Oakland University, University of Maryland) on screen, but her behind-the-scenes role as a TV news producer is

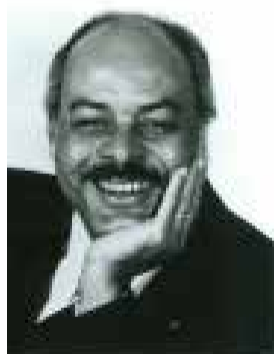


TOLLEAH PRICE

equally distinguished. She began as an associate producer at TV12, advanced to CBS News, and now is executive producer for Hearst Television's "Matter of Fact" with Soledad O'Brien.

Tolleah is mother to two sons with husband Corey Mitchell (Saginaw High 1995, University of Michigan) as they approach their ninth wedding anniversary this summer in the Washington, D.C., area. Corey began at The Saginaw News and moved ahead to Washington correspondent for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. He now reports and is associate editor for the prestigious Education Week magazine.

As Black History Month commences, we may also consider some of our local pioneers.



FRED PORTERFIELD, JR.

**Fred Porterfield, Jr.** (1931-2000) worked most of his TV career in St. Louis but returned to TV12. His father, a gas station owner, was one of the first black citizens born in Saginaw.

**Perry Farrell**, a Buena Vista High product, recently retired from 30 years as a sportswriter at the Detroit Free Press, where he covered and authored a book about the Detroit Pistons' 2004 NBA championship.

At The Saginaw News, **Jacqueline Bates, Mary Lawrence, Zada Blayton** and **Denise Ford** were Saginaw-born staples. At TV5, the late **Otis Washington Jr.** was featured on air and **Ivory "Bud" Jones** manned the cameras. On W-3-Soul, **Dante Toussaint** may have

spoken rarely but he said a lot, as did **Petey Greene** and still-going-strong **Joyce Harvin**. And of course, on Delta College radio, dearly departed **Howard Sharper**, known in his retirement years for his nature photography.

Saginaw's first taste of "black press" came not from a media company, but from a 1960s homemade newsheet published by the United Power group via **Omowale Art Smith**. An outgrowth is the annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival, among the nation's longest-running celebrations.



DOROTHY AND MITCH NICKLEBERRY

On the publishing front, we have **Dorothy** and her husband, the late **Mitch Nickleberry** with **Word Up!**, preceded by **Jim Colvin** (Publisher of The Valley Star), and last but not least our publishers, **Jerome Buckley** and his wife, the late **Rae Lynn Tinsley-Buckley** with the Michigan Banner.



RAE LYNN TINSLEY-BUCKLEY

**Donny Lyons** was an earlier publisher of The Saginaw Banner, and during the late 1990s, **Jay Price** was responsible for the clergy-supported Community Voice.



JEROME BUCKLEY

*With apologies to anyone overlooked, these are among our main representatives in media.*

## + COMMUNITY

# The elephant's rope (belief)

By **REV. CAROLYN L WILKINS**  
RESURRECTION LIFE MINISTRIES  
FGB CHURCH

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

The elephant the fascination of his size, giant eyes, tons of pounds, a short neck, and the long nose that reaches from here to yonder and with one step he can crush anything.

I can remember waiting for the circus to come to town, and one of its main attractions for me was "the elephant". Of course, it was top on my list "a" I must see!

While reading this parable "The Elephant's Rope" it enticed me to rewind/recall whether there was a rope or chain around the elephant's leg/ankle. It clicked. I remembered always seeing a rope/chain around the elephant's leg and a stake driven in the ground. The elephant stood there glued never to move (conditioned).

---

How many children thought they were safe because the rope/chain was holding the elephant and he could not break free!

I am sure many children thought the same. "I won't confess"

Imagine had the elephant tugged gently enough he could have set himself free. His mind was locked (held captive) from what could be because of his training and conditioning. He helped draw the line of life's future and existence for himself. Captivity!

How many of us have found ourselves in similar situations? Chained where no chains exist...largely because we have tied our minds to beliefs, ideas, and traumatic experiences that we just can't shake? Admittedly, we all at one time or another have found ourselves chained to matters, behaviors, and ideas that keep us from moving forward. However, I have learned through my many years and experiences that the mind can be trained to do the right thing, no matter the chains that attempt to occupy a permanent grip on your very being. Now think for a minute, your mind, every second, every minute, and every hour is in the business of receiving information and processing it so that you may exist to be the person you are.

Your brain and all its synapses must process and enable all of this information so that you can move forward and become the person you wish to become. Now, how does one address these "change challenges," and become free of negativity, untruths, traumatic experiences, etc. My answer is prayer and living a Christ-centered life propelled by faith, love, hope, and forgiveness, respect, charity, and kindness. A full embrace of these Christian values and ideas will ward off anything or anyone who attempts to keep you bound to the stake of ignorance, servitude, and/or disenfranchisement.

Black theologians through the years have preached a liberation theology that calls upon their worshippers to use scripture as guideposts in freeing their minds and fighting oppressive laws and oppressive individuals and anything or anyone who attempts to keep us bound like the elephant who had been trained from birth not to free himself. February 2021

## MICHIGAN BANNER SERMONETTE SERIES



REV. VINCENT D. MCMILLON

is Black History Month and is just one of many tools that we embrace to free us from the chains of racism and discrimination that unfortunately continue to rear its ugly head in our daily lives.

### BE ENCOURAGED

What we **BELIEVE** our vision, dreams, aspirations and about ourselves is the **MOST POWERFUL** thing in our **INNER-MOST-BEING** and in this **WORLD!**

My Dear Reader, I have no clue where you are in life today, or how the "new normal" lifestyle of living is affecting you, your family, visions, dreams, aspirations, and your stick-to-itiveness in this season. Much will weigh upon your **faith, prayer,** and the strength of your **belief factor** "in times like these". *For we are His workmanship, created unto Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them* (Ephesians 2:10). Be encouraged and encourage yourself untie the rope anklet and its ravel, unchain yourself from perceived beliefs that have been lurking around (even before the pandemic – despair, tears, fears, shame, doubt, unbelief), holding you back.

CONTINUES ON PG 23,  
ELEPHANT'S ROPE

## + COMMUNITY

**Continued from pg 22, elephant's rope**

What is it? "You can do this!" just choose to!

*Being confident in this very thing that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus. Philippians 1:6*

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He regards those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6*

The theme song of the Jefferson's sit com says, "**Well We're Moving on UP!**", which defined their destination. The elephant's rope zapped all his energies,

possibilities, transformation, and hope keeping him bound.

Whether you are young or old, it is never too late to believe in the possibilities of you achieving them (The I can push/spirit).

**"KEEP IT MOV'N (FOCUS)"**

Almighty God,

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. You are the wind in my sails. I praise you for I am fearfully

and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works in me; And that my soul knoweth right well. Let your Spirit lead and guide me as I keep it moving every vision, every dream, every project, and aspiration pleasing in thy sight. No good thing will you withhold from those who walk upright. To God Be the Glory,

P.S. Interpret this different/difficult season as your season to achieve and make it happen.

**BREAK EVERY CHAIN  
BREAK FREE!****Volunteers  
needed to  
seek local  
police oversight**

By MIKE THOMPSON

Last October's unanimous Saginaw City Council ordinance vote to establish a new Citizens Police Advisory Commission was a victory for everyone who supports reforms.

The movement has grown in the wake of national and local protests that followed last summer's slaying of George Floyd in Minneapolis, among a number of noted victims.

However, Saginaw's effort to get started is stalled by a lack of applicants to give their time, and unless something changes, citizens with grievances and ideas for reform still will lack a needed venue.

Each of the nine volunteer "CPAC" commission seats is geared for a specific niche. City Clerk Janet Santos says four have received applicants. They are representing African-Americans,



SAGINAW POLICE CHIEF BOB RUTH

neighborhood groups, at-large and the police chaplain.

However, five more need to be filled. They are:

- Latinx citizen
- High school student (the school need not be located in the city but the student's family must reside inside)
- LGBTQ representative
- Ex-offender

- Mental health professional

Councilwoman Annie Boensch, who led the push for the ordinance along with former Councilwoman Jamie Forbes, suggests that even if someone cannot apply, they could strive to seek out a friend or acquaintance who is qualified.

"There was a great deal of support for forming this type of commission," Boensch says. "We always need constructive feedback. Even if anyone has questions, we can't talk about it until we see what it's about.

"Hopefully, people realize that our ordinance gives much more investigatory power than previous groups had received in the past," she adds, referring mainly to the former Saginaw Human Relations Commission under Marjorie Connor.

City residency is required. Applicants may call the clerk's office at 759-1480 ext. 6, visit between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays or check online at [saginaw-mi.government/city\\_clerk/index.php](http://saginaw-mi.government/city_clerk/index.php) and then click "apply to boards and commissions."

Also, anyone interested and willing to serve with an independent group, Saginaw Citizens United for Equity and Justice, may visit their website or Facebook page. The group advocates not only an open grievance process, but also reforms to end mass incarceration.

+ COMMUNITY



FRIENDSOFHOYTPARKSAGINAW.WEEBLY.COM

# 'Bringing Back the Ice' returns for 2021

*The annual winter event will go on with COVID restrictions enforced*

By MB STAFF WRITER

SAGINAW, Mi. — Positive Results, PRIDE in Saginaw, Inc. and Friends of Hoyt Park are pleased to announce that 'Bringing Back the Ice' 2021 return to the park for two Saturdays in February for skating and sledding.

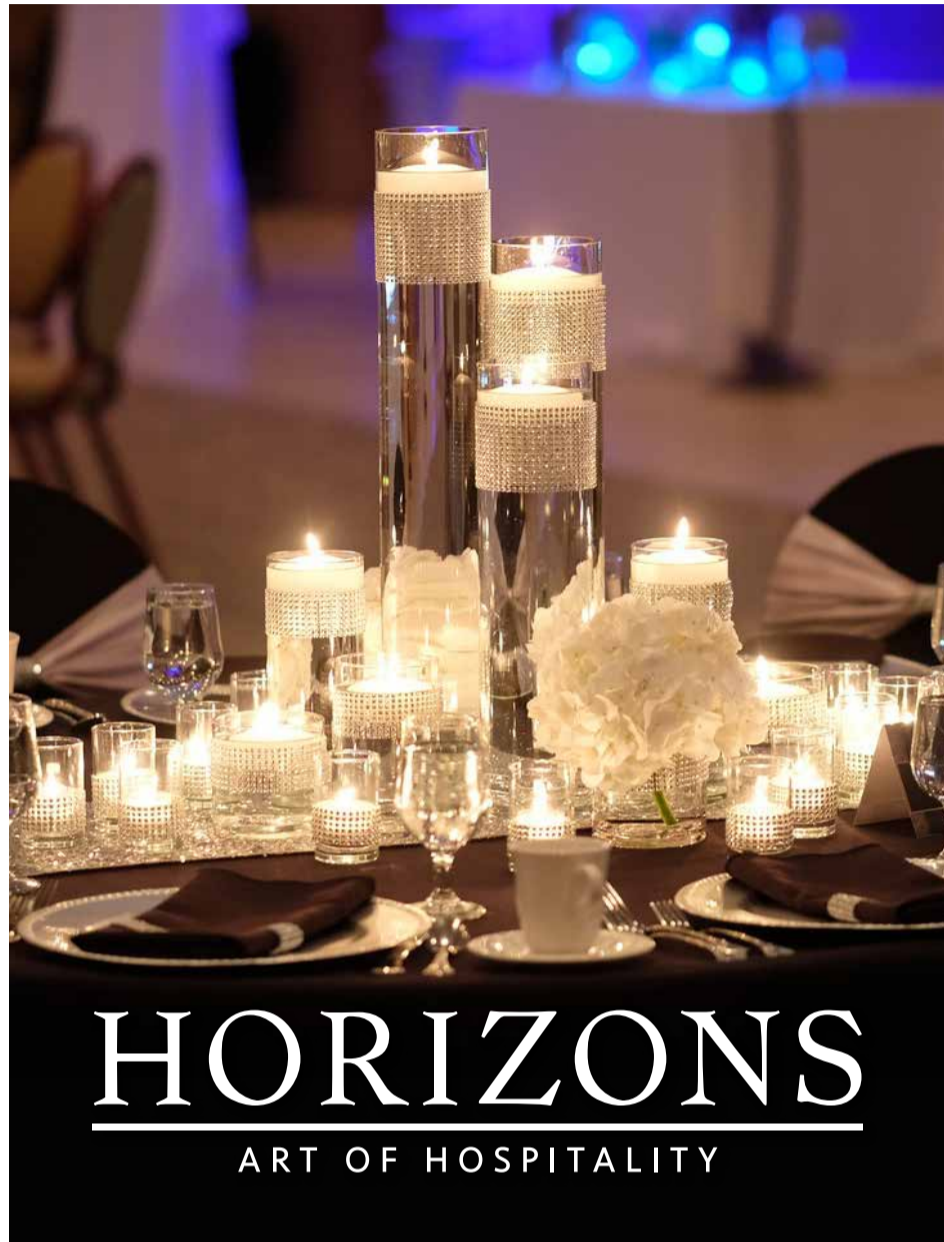
A night skate on Saturday, February 6 will take place from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM with a live remote from Kiss 107.3. Saturday, February 13 will feature skating from Noon to 4PM with a live remote from 97.3 Joe FM.

Free Skate rentals will be provided courtesy of Saginaw County Parks & Recreation.

Covid restrictions as well as CDC and Saginaw County Health Department Covid protocols will be followed. Masks and social distancing will be required; free masks will be available on site courtesy of the Saginaw Community Foundation. There will also be a warming house with limited people permitted in the warming house at one time.

'Bringing Back the Ice' is a skating and sledding event created by Friends of Hoyt Park & Positive Results Downtown to bring winter activities back to Hoyt Park. The event is sponsored by Jolt Credit Union, Dow Chemical, Covenant HealthCare and Saginaw County Parks & Recreation.

For additional information about 'Bringing Back the Ice', contact Jeanne Conger, Director of Positive Results Downtown, PRIDE in Sainaw, Inc. at (989) 753-9168 or Larry Brethauer at (989) 284-0945.



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## + COMMUNITY

## I'M JUST THINKING.....

By PASTOR HURLEY J. COLEMAN, JR., WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS CHURCH

# Living in Black history 2021

February is set aside to “celebrate” black history in America. In 1976 President Gerald Ford decreed the national observance of *Black History Month*. In September of 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the study of Negro Life and History (now the association for the Study of African American Life and History) to promote studying black history as a discipline and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans (Julia Zortham, TIME 1/29/2016)

Since 1976, there has been this annual effort to give the shortest month of the year to intentional reconstruction of a history that was obscured from view in the American history story. So many accomplishment, so much pain, and so many broken promises are in the constant review of that history.

Two years ago, we were exposed to the *1619 Project* through the New York Times, developed by Nikole Hannah Jones, whose aim was to “reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the United States narrative.” It was published on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the Virginia colony. (Wikipedia)

This year, we are writing history to be remembered in the years to come. In the midst of a tumultuous election, and the shocking visible evidence of the resurrection of the war that never ended, the American Civil War, we have witnessed a series of firsts in this continuing saga of Black History in America.

It is 2021, 245 years after the Declaration of Independence, and 402 years from the evidence of its original sin of slavery and America is still in the pursuit of a “more perfect union.”

To make the point, Rev. Ralph Warnock will be the 11th Black U.S. senator in history. 151 years ago, Rev. Hiram Rhodes Revel became the first black U. S. Senator. The Mississippi Republican was the first senator to serve from the state which had seceded from the Union during the Civil War. This story is wonderfully told by Theodore R. Johnson, “*The Loneliness of the Black Senator*”, in the January 24, 2021 New York Times Magazine.

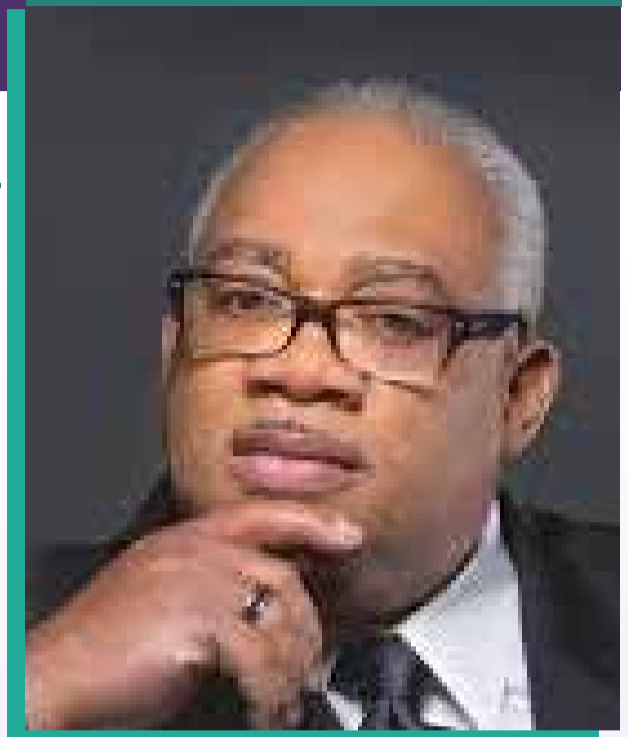
The powerful image here is not lost on me, the son of a preacher. I followed in the footsteps of my father, Dr. H. J. Coleman, Sr. who founded our church more than 60 years ago in a racially, culturally, and economically divided community that was the normal, average American industrial community during the great black migration from the south to the north, in search of the ‘American Dream’.

It was his example of the minister’s leadership in the community that I saw, and that I hope to continue. It is striking that the first black senator and the latest black senator both came from the ranks of African American ministry.

In Rev. Warnock’s case, his story is a powerful message of legacy, as he ascends to Washington from the pulpit of the historic Atlanta pulpit that was once tended by the icon of civil rights in America, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

It says to me, and should say to all of us, that there is a great weight upon the faith leaders of the Black community. There has always been a need for an unfettered voice to speak to and for our community.

The African American pulpit has always provided that important platform. From the days of slavery, through reconstruction and Jim Crow, thru the seasons of Civil Rights and the new “awakening”, and even today it has been the place where voice of courageous leadership could be heard, and trusted.



If there ever was a time for this voice to be clear, pure, and courageous it is now. We cannot ignore the resurgence of the spirit of the past that would keep people in bondage. We cannot ignore the fact that the response to the 1619 Project was the establishment of the *President’s Advisory 1776 Commission*, whose purpose was “restoration of American education.”

As we celebrate Black History, we must understand that we are living the history that the future will read about. Just as those leaders in the past took the courageous steps to lead, speak, and place themselves in harms way for the benefit of a people, there must be spiritual leaders of today who will do the same.

There must be leaders of faith, men and women of integrity, honor, and commitment to truth, justice, and freedom. The future is calling for us to do our part to live Black History, and not just remember it.

Again, I quote from scripture, “*And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it.*” Ezekiel 22:30

“*For I beheld and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counselor, that when I asked of them, could answer a word.*” Isaiah 41:28

I’m just thinking.....

## + COMMUNITY

# Carlean Gill and Idlewild: More than simply dancing

By MIKE THOMPSON

Carlean Gill's Idlewild saga goes far beyond her becoming a young showgirl during some of the final 1950s and 1960s years at the historic black resort community, performing before a cavalcade of stars the likes of Della Reese, The Four Tops, Temptations, Brooke Benton, Etta James and Jackie Wilson.

It's also the story of her later career as the owner and operator of one of Saginaw's most prominent African American enterprises during those times, the Saginaw Beauty Academy and Saginaw Barber College.

And it tells how Nichole Braggs Harris – daughter of Carlean and Arthur Braggs, creator of The Arthur Braggs Idlewild Revue -- was nurtured into a loving child who now promotes Idlewild stories and tradition with the same enthusiasm as her mother.

So what's up with Carlean nowadays? She has stayed with Nikki (Arthur Hill High, 1993), a regional sales manager for Mercedes Benz, for the past decade, now in suburban Dallas, TX doting on her twin grandchildren Myles and Sophia, 4 years old.

Her life became far fuller than she may have imagined back when she graduated from Detroit's Lincoln High School in 1957. She was feeling aimless, working as a switchboard operator downtown on Woodward Avenue and taking classes in typing and shorthand to become a secretary, which was what young single black women were "supposed" to do at the time.



CARLEAN GILL

CONTINUES ON PG 27, CARLEAN GILL

## Continued from pg 25, Carlean Gill

Then a friend informed her of a audition for The Arthur Braggs Idlewild Revue, which began in 1950s and 1960s in an isolated northwest Michigan town of Idlewild, formed around 1912 as an original summer fun getaway for high-rolling black elites from across the Midwest. She made the grade. With an on-site cottage room in the wooded clearing, a nice salary and off-season tours on the so-called "chittlin' circuit, Carlean was an onstage showgirl. The showgirls were the Fiesta Dolls, consisting of 36 people. The showgirls walked around in the beautiful Vegas style costumes.

### End of Idlewild

Suddenly came the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and it's reverse impact. Previous all-white vacation resorts were forced to integrate, and places like Idlewild slowly died, similar to baseball's Negro Leagues a generation earlier after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier.

She figured her next step should be to parlay her experience in beauty and fashion. She planted roots in Saginaw, first with studies at All-American Beauty School, then opening Carlean's Beauty Salon on Janes Street, followed by Saginaw Beauty Academy and Saginaw Barber College. In the early 1990s Carlean also was instrumental in opening Natura Beauty School in Zimbabwe, Africa. She was also a founding member of SAMBA -- Saginaw African American Business Association and Combo, a Michigan small business association.

It was during those years that Carlean gave birth to Nichole, while joining Arthur Braggs in his final pursuit, horse breeding and racing, based on a farm out on East Road, in Saginaw. The threesome eventually would travel the national horse racing circuit.

"We spent every Saturday together," Nikki recalls. "My father was always tender and loving and nurturing."

Carlean recalls the final day in 1982 when Arthur Braggs, approaching his 70th birthday, suffered a fatal heart attack during a race day at a track in Waterford, West Virginia.



CARLEAN GILL

"Everyone afterward was coming by the hotel room," she says, "and my little daughter was managing it all, seven years old. She was strong for me and I had to be strong for her."

### Life goes on

Things back in Saginaw, especially the horses, never were the same. Carlean eventually pivoted to what she knew best, cosmetology, and decided her best bet was to put all her efforts in pursuing her dreams and not the dreams of Arthur. In 1984 she went on to win the National Hair weaving Championship in Austin, Texas and in 1996 in Honolulu, Hawaii and from there on hair weaving became her special.

Reflecting over her 50-plus years in Saginaw, Carlean is grateful. She enjoyed every single customer and then student

"It was never work, I loved each and every day," she recalls. "My greatest life's joy is re-connecting with an old client or seeing one of my former students. I wanted

to provide our community with a way to be entrepreneurs and to have self-sufficient careers, it's been my greatest life's joy."

Today, mother and daughter continue organizing and conducting Idlewild educational events -- Carlean at the Saginaw Castle Museum, at Western Michigan in Kalamazoo, Michigan and at Ferris State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Carlean has also spent her retired years traveling the globe with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and working major US disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Both she and Nikki enjoyed traveling the world and credit travel to helping increase their sense of community.

Now Carlean is settling in to quiet family times down south with Nikki, son-in-love Tracy and the twins.

"I have been able to share everything with them," Carlean says.

## + COMMUNITY

# House of recovery becomes new home

By MIKE THOMPSON

Four years ago, Donna Clarke knocked on the door of Saginaw's Emmaus House with a heroin addiction and only a slight ray of hope.

Today she's drug-free and executive director of the entire non-profit operation, which provides housing and recovery support for women who face all sorts of challenges.

"I'm open and I share my story with the women," she says. "I've been in the same place that they have been."

**In her second year at the helm, Clarke again will help oversee the program's main annual fund-raiser, "Our Choirs Love Emmaus House," at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14. The event normally is celebrated at First Presbyterian Church, but Covid-19 is forcing the heavenly hymns to go viral this time.**

**Featured will be the First Presbyterian Choir with soloist Erin Whitfield, the St. John Vianney Catholic Choir and an assembly from various congregations, Seniors Set Free. The lead sponsor is Jolt Credit Union. To take part or to make a donation, pre-register to set up a link at [emmaushousesaginaw.com](http://emmaushousesaginaw.com).**

## Her best as a guest

Donna Clarke came to Saginaw after she randomly discovered an Emmaus House pamphlet at a center near her home in Macomb County. After completing a successful full year of recovery, she first signed on as a house manager, then as an assistant director, and then in June 2019 to the head position.

"I came here knowing nothing, with no life skills," she says. "Emmaus House gave me everything -- the support, the counseling, the spiritual guidance."

She pauses and then adds. "It is only natural that this would become my work and my service. This is what I should have been doing all along."

Board member Joan Douglas volunteered to serve as interim director late in 2018 when a new pick for the top role quickly quit, leaving the Emmas operation high and dry. Douglas was determined not to have the same scenario repeat with another outside hire, and so she when she took the reins she invested more half of a year to guide and train Clarke for the job.

"Donna was showing leadership skills even back when she became a house manager," Joan explains. "She would know to have a room ready, the personal supplies ready, the paperwork. And with the ladies, she always could relate, a real motivator."

Douglas says many other professionals in the treatment field are "critics" of placing recovered addicts in employment.

"They would say that two or three years is too soon, that a person won't be able to handle the responsibilities," she says. "I feel the opposite because of Donna."

## Support for recovery

Emmaus House started in 1987 under Sister Marietta Fritz and the dearly departed Sister Shirley Orand. They were jail chaplains who were seeking a solution to women repeatedly returning to confinement or falling short in rehab. They began in the convent of the vacated Holy Rosary Church at 733 South 14th, a half-mile into the city from Veteran's Park on South 20th, and then expanded to the rectory and to four community homes, with a combined capacity of 35 clients,



DONNE CLARKE

or as Clarke prefers to describe them, "guests."

Although she shares a common bond with Emmaus guests, her experience is somewhat uncommon, because her first drug encounter took place not during childhood or adolescence, nor in an environment of personal abuse.

She was 25, a former high school honors student, a Western Michigan University graduate who had launched an elementary school teaching career. She was married and had started a family.

"I had never even drank or smoked," Donna says, "but at a party I tried heroin, and that was that, and I spiraled totally out of control for more than 20 years."

Clarke did not develop what often is described as a dollars-per-day habit, which fooled her into thinking she had control.

"Using every day is bad enough," she notes. "At that point, it doesn't matter how much."

She adds that her background proves, "Every situation is different."

## Functioning in addiction

During the early years of her nightmare,

**CONTINUES ON PG 29, HOUSE OF RECOVERY**

## + COMMUNITY

**Continued from pg 28,  
House of recovery**

she maintained her teaching role, but when she found herself falling asleep in the classroom, she departed her chosen profession and opted for sporadic work as a waitress and a barmaid. Her husband stuck with her through much of the ordeal before filing for divorce. They remain friends and Donna keeps in loving contact with their three now-grown sons in the Detroit area.

The Emmaus guest count has dipped to 22 amid the Covid-19 era and past volunteers no longer are able to visit, but to this point nobody involved has contracted the virus.

The annual budget of \$280,000 is entirely free of government funding and constrictions, with individual donors and non-profit foundations offering support.

The three-person staff consists of Clarke, Jennifer Hauch as assistant director and Sister Mary Elizabeth Klier as part-time financial manager. Sister Marietta keeps in touch from her retirement surroundings in Cincinnati. A local 10-member volunteer board provides oversight.

In addition to seeking cash donations through "Our Choirs Love Emmaus House," the project seeks gifts of clothing, furniture, household items and food for the on-site Morrow Center, which serves the needs of guests and neighbors free-of-charge. An average of 50 patrons per day visit the Morrow Center, which helps to provide employment training for Emmaus residents and offers space for activities such as 12-step meetings. Crews of Emmaus guests are available to pick up items.

A portion of the Emmaus welcoming statement says: "We do not judge or dwell on the past. We believe that all of our women are unique, precious creatures from God."

Emmaus House is named for a village that was visited by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

The phone number is 755-7538.

**New surroundings,  
new outlook**

Those who follow Donna Clarke's remarkable saga of recovery may pause at a single question.

How, and why, could she discover a pamphlet for Saginaw's little old Emmaus House all the ways down near Detroit?

But among the racks of literature at her hometown Macomb County meeting site, the brochure stood out, featuring a colorful photo of the former Sacred Heart Church convent.

"Perfect," Donna told herself.

That was four years ago. Today, she explains, "I needed to get away. You cannot heal in the same environment in which you were sick. Find a place with fresh people and fresh places, where there are not all the triggers" to relapse.

This is the reason that Clarke makes sure the Emmaus literature remains circulated far and wide. About 40 percent of guests arrive from out of town, as distant as the Upper Peninsula, in one case.

Donna's brother and sister drove her up Interstate 75 on her first fateful day of transformation. Her clothing and possessions were packed in a pair of paper sacks.

"I had never been to Flint, much less farther up to Saginaw," she recalls, with a chuckle. "I had thought I was coming to a horse-and-carriage little town. But Saginaw has tremendous resources for recovery support.

"It's all about change, to get out of our comfort zones, to change all of the reasons for doing what we did. I still can't go back around Detroit (to live). Saginaw is my home."

**In Their Own  
Words**

A good number of the women who reside at Saginaw's Emmaus House are from out of town, seeking new surroundings, and most are middle-age. Director Donna Clarke explains that after

turmoil during their 20s and 30s, they reach a point in which they grow sick and tired of being sick and tired. Following are a pair of testimonials from residents of multi-year status who now serve as house managers.

**Takila Baker, from Flint, 44, mother  
of five**

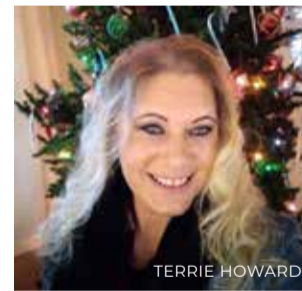
TALIKE BAKER

"Everywhere I went for treatment in Flint, there were pamphlets that said Emmaus House, Emmaus House. I picked one up and read it. And so

I finally made the phone call and prayed that somebody would pick up and answer. Thank God, Donna answered and was there. My counselor and my friend. May 10, 2018.

"Crack had been with me for 20-plus years and at first, I didn't have any real hope. But the leaders here brought the motivation and the potential out of me.

"Now I have my birth certificate in order, and my vehicle registration and I own my own house that was donated to the program."

**Terrie Howard, from Clare, 45,  
mother of three**

TERRIE HOWARD

"I was at Tri-CAP because I had violated probation so often. Domestic violence, breaking and entering, three DUIs. Tri-CAP (Tri-County

Community Adjudication Program) was like my last stop prior to what would have been prison. And so when my probation was finished, instead of going back to Clare, I came here to Emmaus House. March 23rd, 2019.

"Do I wish I were back home? Absolutely not. Here I have encountered one blessing after another.

"My main goal at the current time is to stay until I get my driver's license back."

## + COMMUNITY

# We must sing our holy songs in a strange land! *Psalm 137: 1-4*

By **REV. DR. LACRETA M. CLARK**

## Scripture Text:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. **How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?**

## Sermon:

“Lift every voice and sing; ‘til earth and heaven ring; ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise; high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling seas...”

## This holy song was written in a strange land...

James Weldon Johnson pinned the words of this National Black Anthem in America in the 1900's, during a time when Jim Crow laws were replacing slavery, and black people were looking for identity. He wrote this as a poem and his brother, John, put it to music. In this song, he writes of the history and struggle of black people from the sweltering heat and oppression of slavery and the cotton fields; the demoralization and devaluation of our humanity; the undeterred run to freedom; and, our abiding faith in a never changing, powerful God who will sustain us and bring us into a better, more hopeful future of freedom and wholeness. The first verse opens with a command to optimism, praise, and freedom. The second verse reminds us to never forget the suffering and obstacles of the past. The third and final stanza is about the challenges of the future. They are to be met with perseverance, courage, faith, and trust in God!

Well, here we are in 2021, and the winds of racism and hate are still blowing, and the humanity of the black man is still threatened, and white supremacy

and immorality has found legitimization in the politics of today, led by a former President who sowed the seeds of division, corruption, and immorality, and incited an insurrection on our democracy. It makes me ask the question, are you still singing your holy songs in this strange land?

Songs have always been medicine for our souls, declaring our trials, struggles, and our faith. Songs allow us to put to words and music our sorrows, hurts, and yes, our joy and love. Songs have carried us from bondage to freedom; giving direction and notice to slaves about the time and place to run for their freedom. Songs are food for the soul, and songs are a universal communication mode that draws us in to the experiences of those singing.

Every year, when I traveled to Kittur, India, to work with and learn from the girls who attended the Rani Channamma Residential Sanik School for Girls, I looked forward to the opening and closing ceremonies. Hundreds of girls would leave their families, and convene on the campus, a strange land, to begin their studies. We would be escorted to the auditorium to watch hundreds of girls in grades 9-12, outfitted in military uniforms, march into the auditorium. Then when everyone was in, silence would fall on the auditorium, and at the direction of their Wing Master, the entire auditorium of girls would chant a Hindu song. Their voices would begin low, and then slowly feel the entire auditorium with song that sounded like angels in heaven. I was overwhelmed to tears by their song. I did not know the words, but I felt their spirits as they honored their creator and asked for strength and wisdom as they embarked on another school year.

## **Our holy songs are our faith story, and they tell of our hopes, and fears, and joys and pain, even in a strange land!**

Here in our text, we find the Israelites being taken into captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The

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REV. VINCENT D. MCMILLON

Babylonians have pillaged their land, destroyed their temple, and have taken many into captivity. In this exile, were Daniel, and the three Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (also known as Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, their birth names). They have been marched out of their land and find themselves at the Euphrates River; despondent, uncertain of their future, and just simply tired.

They wept over the death of so many loved ones.

They wept over the loss of almost everything they owned.

They wept over the destroyed city of Jerusalem and her great temple.

They wept over the agony of a forced march from Judea to Babylon.

They wept over the cruelty of their captors.

They wept over the forced captivity of their present.

They wept over the bleak nature of their future.

They wept over their sin that invited such judgment from God.

**CONTINUES ON PG 31, HOLY SONGS**

## + COMMUNITY

**Continued from pg 30, holy songs**

Yet, in the midst of their grief and pain, their oppressors asked them to “sing one of those songs of Zion”, and, to this, they responded with a question, “how can we sing our holy song in a strange land”?

How many times have you been in pain and failed to call on the name of Jesus?

How many times have you been in a foreign place and failed to call on the name of Jesus?

How many times have you seen the wicked trample over the righteous, and failed to call on the name of Jesus?

Well, I want to say to the Israelites then, and to each of you today; even in the midst of this pandemic; even in this climate of social unrest, racial unrest, and economic uncertainty; even in the midst of the millions we have lost to this virus; even, in the midst of a bad doctors report; even in the midst of job loss and weight gain;

**WE MUST SING OUR HOLY SONGS IN A STRANGE LAND!**

For the best songs of Zion were written with a faith that said, God will take care of us, and God will have the last say! Well, I stopped by to tell you **GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, SO YOU MUST SING**

**YOUR HOLY SONGS IN A STRANGE LAND!**

Father, I stretch my hands to thee; no other help I know; if though would withdraw thyself from me, Lord, where there shall I go!

Yes! Amid a pandemic that has killed millions, God will take care of you!

Yes! In the face of health and economic disparities in the richest country in the world, God will take care of you!

Yes! In the face of White Supremacy by a mob that attempted to threaten our democracy, God will take care of you!

**So, wherever you find yourself, YOU MUST SING A HOLY SONG!**

It was Paul and Silas who sang at midnight and shook the foundations of the prison!

**SING YOUR HOLY SONG!**

It was the people of God who sang as they marched around the city of Jericho!

**SING YOUR HOLY SONG!**

It was our ancestors who sang the songs of Zion, even in their oppression and struggle! **SO, SING YOUR HOLY SONG!**

**No matter the times we face; no matter what your circumstance; no matter what trials you face, our faith compels us to sing a Holy Song in a strange land! Why?**

Because **GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!!**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble!

**SING YOUR HOLY SONG IN A STRANGE LAND!**

“Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun; Let us march on ‘til victory is won!!”

**SING YOUR HOLY SONG!**

“The Lord will make a way somehow; when beneath the cross I bow; He will take away each sorrow; let him have your burdens now; when the loads bear down so heavy; the weight is shown upon my brow; there’s a sweet relief in knowing, the Lord will make a way somehow!”

**SING YOUR HOLY SONG!**

**WE MUST SING OUR HOLY SONGS IN A STRANGE LAND!**

## **Celebrate Fat Tuesday—with a cause in mind**

### *28<sup>th</sup> Can Council virtual Mardi Gras auction on February 16*

Saginaw, Mi. –The pandemic has created many challenges in the fundraising world, and CAN Council has worked to adapt. Presented by Garber Automotive, CAN Council’s 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Auction will be held online Fat Tuesday, February 16 beginning at 7pm. Event proceeds work toward protecting the children of Saginaw county from abuse and neglect.

CAN Council provides strong advocates and dedicated professionals to help end child abuse and neglect in our region. CAN also offers supportive education to

parents struggling with the day-to-day challenges of raising children. The Mardi Gras Auction is CAN Council’s largest fundraiser and ensures continuation of these services throughout 2021.

Back this year to MC the virtual event is media sponsor WNEM’s Meg McLeod. Guests will enjoy exciting silent and live auction experiences, a Mardi Gras costume contest, and a special bidding activity to raise funds for CAN’s Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. The silent auction will begin online on Saturday, February 13 at 12:00 pm.

Stand up for a child in our community today by registering to bid in the live and silent auctions, or sponsor the event at [www.cancouncil.cbo.io](http://www.cancouncil.cbo.io). Contact the CAN Council with any questions by calling 989.752.7226 or emailing [cancouncil@cancouncil.org](mailto:cancouncil@cancouncil.org).



## + COMMUNITY

# BLACK HISTORY

## hometown highlight:

# Trevis L. Ruffin

Assistant Chief Counsel Trevis L. Ruffin is a United States Federal Prosecutor assigned to the Department of Homeland Security based in the state of Texas. Previously he served the State of Michigan as a Major Crime Prosecuting Attorney in Saginaw County. He was the youngest Major Crime Prosecuting Attorney serving in Saginaw County at that time. As a member of the major crimes unit, Attorney Ruffin prosecuted Saginaw County's most violent offenders. He has a strong passion and commitment to public safety.

Ruffin graduated from Buena Vista High School, he often quoted as saying "so many discredit education when it does not check the traditional achievement boxes, however education is about more than scoring high on standardized test, Buena Vista taught me grit, it taught me how to get up, it talk me how to LIVE STRONG". Attorney Ruffin obtained his bachelor degree with honors from Northwood University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Trevis L. Ruffin earned his Juris Doctorate with distinction from Western Michigan University Thomas L. Cooley Law School. While attending law school Trevis L. Ruffin discovered a passion for criminal law, and a desire to serve the citizens of the state of Michigan.

Mr. Ruffin joined the Saginaw County Prosecutors Office in 2010 as an unpaid volunteer. After Mr. Ruffin graduated from law school he was hired full time as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the State of Michigan serving in his hometown of Saginaw, MI. After a short time of service

as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Saginaw County, Ruffin was quickly promoted to the Major Crimes Unit, where violent offenders are investigated and prosecuted.

In 2012, Ruffin was appointed as Saginaw County's first and at the time, the only Special Prosecutor to the Saginaw County Mental Health Court, a specialty court designed to identify and treat individuals within the community who suffer from mental illness.

Ruffin's passion for community, and specifically his unwavering advocacy and support for victims of violent crime led to the development of Saginaw County's first and only witness assistance program. As a co-founder of the witness assistance program Ruffin helped develop, design, and create a program specifically directed at supporting the heroes of the community, victims and witnesses of violent crime.

Trevis L. Ruffin's commitment to the community extends beyond the courtroom. Mr. Ruffin was appointed to the board of directors for the largest community mental health hospital within all of Saginaw County, Health Source Saginaw. Mr. Ruffin also served the community as a member of Project Safe Neighborhood, ALPACT and he served as Saginaw County's contact for federal prosecution of violent crime. Working directly with the Eastern District of Michigan United States Assistant Attorney, for over 6 years Ruffin evaluated several of Saginaw County's most violent offenders and recommended federal prosecution.

In 2016, Attorney Trevis L. Ruffin was selected to train and instruct an international law enforcement delegation from Beirut, Lebanon and he also served as a Director for the Saginaw County Bar Association.

Mr. Ruffin not only served the community within the legal context of the courtroom, but he also served as an ordained minister. Ruffin teaches that aside



from salvation the most important thing in this life is discovering and understanding purpose. Ruffin's favorite quote comes from the late Dr. Myles Munroe, who said "The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but life lived without purpose".

Ruffin believes the foundation of a strong community is the family. Ruffin often says that he knows that he is God's favorite because God blessed him with Heaven's best gift his wife. Ruffin describes September 6, 2002, as one of the greatest days of his life. On this special day, Ruffin



TREVIS RUFFIN SWORN IN BY JUDGE DARNELL JACKSON AS AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR FOR SAGINAW COUNTY

married his 8th grade prom date Sparkle Katrina Ruffin, whom he lovingly calls his spinach. Mr. & Mrs. Ruffin have been happily married for over 19 years, and have been blessed with 4 beautiful children; Zion Shaniah, Trevis Elijah, Alissa Nicole, and Serenity Grace Ruffin.

Currently based in Texas, Ruffin still calls Saginaw Michigan home and credits his hometown with giving him the opportunity to make an impact, and serve on the federal level.



## + COMMUNITY

# Black history, local heroes



By **BISHOP DEMPSEY ALLEN**  
JACOB'S LADDER  
MINISTRY

Here we are again in the eve of another Black History Month observance. After the past year of political and racial unrest we would do well to reiterate the bygone years of our struggle to ensure that our eyes are yet on the prize. I love history; it was one of my minors as I pursued an undergrad degree. But rather than the repetitive regurgitation of known facts of a few of our race who have gained notoriety; I have chosen to take a look at some local heroes and sheroes whose focus and determination made a difference right here in this region. Our view will give cursory observation to these local notable first for their ground-breaking, way paving contributions to us all.

*The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson, chronicles the Great Migration of Black Americans from the South to the beckoning bright lights of the North and West in this nation. Surrounding the narrative are three protagonists that weave their own unique stories through the familiar backdrop of proving oneself as being worthy in spite of anyone's view of their blackness. Our locals, while not all Saginaw transplants, where at best those who bloomed and even flourished where they were planted. Their stories could have easily graced the pages of Wilkerson's manuscript.

**Frances Elnora Moton Carter**, (1928-2020) was born in Saginaw. She made phenomenal educational accomplishments throughout her life graduating from Saginaw High School in



FRANCES ELNORA MOTON CARTER

1946 and later graduating and two degrees from the University of Michigan. She matriculated at one time or another in most of

the public universities in the state Mrs. Carter's most notable first is her ascension as the first Black person to serve as principal of a Saginaw Public School. Mrs. Carter took the helm at Potter Elementary where she had attended as a child. She was a formable voice within Bethel A.M.E. Church holding membership for over 80 years and a distinguished member of AKA sorority. This merely skims the surface of the contributions that this kind, quiet, always confident personality made to her community. This regal woman of God touched so many lives. *"Her children respect and bless her; her husband joins in with words of praise"* Proverbs 31:28



PRESSIE (PERCY) FENTRESS

**Pressie (Percy) Fentress** (1932-2011) this humble, jovial man is an example of what the Bible would call cunning. Daniel 1 describes the type of children of Israel that the King of Babylon desired to carry away captive. The wise and cunning. Those knowing how to rightly apply what they knew. Like them, Percy was skilled in displaying his talents without flaunting. His accomplishments and easygoing demeanor opened doors for him. Percy began working at an ice cream company in the mid-fifties. Soon after he joined the army, completed active duty and served as a reservist, retiring after 29 years of service. He juggled a job and business college. Maneuvering into General Motors he landed as the first black mail carrier within the Grey Iron Foundry. He later transferred to Chevrolet Bay City, snagged a security position and soon became supervisor. He started several business and mentored many young black men and women to use what they had to get what they needed. This writer was one of them. Always kind, always smiling perpetually stretching out his hand to help others,

are characteristics of this longtime member of Zion Baptist Church. His being the priest, provider, protector and prophet of his home were shining examples to countless young black men on how it could be done.



DOROTHY NELL YOUNG ALLEN

**Dorothy Nell Young Allen** (1947-2011) was shy, this fact however, did not equate to her being timid. She was oftentimes thrust into situation as the "only one" which taught her to dismiss fears early on and replace them with faith. She had never known of a black adult probation officer in Saginaw, but that didn't stop her from applying. So with her newly acquired BA degree in hand she completed the application and interview and was hired by the 70th District Court in 1974. as the "first and only" She soon became known within the Black community is that tough but fair little lady probation officer. She later pioneered a leading position with drug treatment program. Her final two steps up the career ladder took place within the Saginaw County Child Receiving Home. She was hired as the social worker but within several years promoted to director. It was there that her managerial expertise flourished. She excelled in developing placement strategies for sheltered children and served as advocate and expert for abused and neglected children. She credited the Girl Scouts and Sunday School at Zion Baptist Church for influencing her "Yes I Can" attitude. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"* Philippians 4:13

Our trailblazers all have certain things in common: A pride in self, without the arrogance of becoming proud, a love for people in general and a particular affinity for their own kind and a reverence to God that grew into worship by their lifestyles and their gifts. (Romans 12:5-12). We salute our local "first. I thank each of them for breaking up fallow ground for us.

## + COMMUNITY

# Did God curse Black people?

By **BISHOP RON FRIERSON**  
NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN  
CENTER

Throughout the history of this nation, blacks have been subjected to some of the most devastating inhumane treatment in the history of this planet. We were told that we were not as intelligent or as attractive as whites, and that we could not compete and do as well as they could in life.

When a people hear the same thing said and demonstrated over a long period of time, that person or people group tend to believe it even if what they hear is an untruth.

The untruth tied to the treatment of black people has to do with black skin color being viewed as a curse. In this article I will answer the questions with the help of study aids afforded me by my spiritual father, apostle frederick k.c. price.

1. Have black people actually been cursed?
2. What does the bible say about it?

The bible tells us in genesis chapters 9-10, that god instructed noah to repopulate the earth after the great flood. Noah had three sons who became the patriarchs of the three major color groups of mankind. There are 71 nations that descended from those three sons.

1. Noah's son, shem, is the father of the asiatic or yellow color group, including jews, arabs, the middle eastern and asiatic people groups.

There are 27 nations that came from shem.

2. Noah's son, ham, is the father of the dark or black people which came to a total of 30 nations.
3. Lastly, from japheth, the father of the white or caucasian color group which includes the germanic peoples of northern europe, came a total of 15 nations.

Noah's three sons are responsible for every nationality on this earth today. But since there has been so much intermingling of the people groups, we find very few groups that can be called pure today.

So, where does the notion that ham's blackness was a curse start?

Apostle price discovered several sources in jewish legend that let us know how this idea began.

**A.** Volume seven of the encyclopedia judaica, under the entry of ham, we find this account in a subsection titled "in the aggadah."

Ham's descendant (Cush) is black skinned as a punishment for Ham's having had sexual intercourse in the Ark (Sanh.108b). When Ham saw his drunken father exposed, he emasculated (castrated, weakened) him saying, Adam had but two sons and one slew the other; this man Noah has three sons, yet he desires to beget a fourth. Noah therefore cursed Canaan, Ham's fourth son, since through this act he was deprived of a fourth son. (Gen.9:25)

According to another opinion, Ham committed sodomy with his Father. (Sanh.70a)

Another tradition attributes the curse to the fact it was Canaan who castrated Noah. Ham was blamed because he informed his brothers of their father's nakedness.

Canaan was so wicked that in his will he told his children to love one another, love robbery, lewdness, hate your masters and do not speak the truth.

Ham was also punished in that his descendants, the Egyptians and

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BISHOP RON FRIERSON

Ethiopians, were taken captive and led into exile with their buttocks uncovered.

Check this out, the clothes God made Adam and Eve in the garden were handed down from Enoch to Methuselah and finally to Noah who took them on the Ark with him. Legend states that, Ham stole the clothes and gave them to Cush, who in turn gave them to Nimrod.

**B.** In The book called The legends of the Jews, Vol.1 by Louis Ginsberg gives more credence to the myths about Black people. It states,

"After the sacrifice was complete, God blessed Noah and his sons. He made them to be rulers of the world as Adam had been, and He gave them a command saying, "be fruitful and multiple upon the earth, "for during their sojourn in the ark, the two sexes of men and animals alike, had lived apart from each other, because while

CONTINUES ON PG 35, CURSE

## Continued from pg 34, curse

a public calamity rages continece is becoming, even to those who are left unscathed.” This law of conduct had been violated by none in the Ark except by Ham, by the dog, and by the raven. They all received a punishment. Ham’s was that his descendants were men of dark skin.

The book goes on to elude to Noah going to his wife’s tent drunk, Ham seeing his father there went and told his brothers saying “The first man Adam had but two sons and one killed the other. Noah has three sons, yet he desires to have a fourth. The book goes on to say, Ham did not rest satisfied with these disrespectful words against his father. He added this sin irreverence by attempting to perform an operation on his father designed to prevent pro creation. So when Noah woke up he pronounced a curse on Ham in the person of his son, Canaan. So Ham himself could not be harmed because Noah had conferred a blessing on his three sons. Noah put the curse on the last born of the son that had prevented him (Noah) from having any other sons other than the three. (Ham, Shem and Japheth) Ham’s last born son was Canaan.

1. The book goes on to say that the descendants of Ham through Canaan therefore had red eyes, because Ham looked upon the nakedness of his father.
2. They had bigger lips, because Ham spoke with his lips to his brothers about the condition of his father while drunk in his wife’s tent.
3. They have nappy or tightly curled hair because Ham turned and twisted his head round to see the nakedness of his father.

These statements would have you laughing as if you had just heard a good joke if they had not been so damaging. Think of it, curly hair on black people was said to be the result of Ham turning to see his father naked or that our lips are the way they are because of what Ham said about the nakedness of his father, Noah.

These lies have been passed down from generation to generation. Mind you not all our Jewish brothers and sisters feel this way about black people, but some have. We have all been deceived and are victims of the devil’s lies.

A black historian, J. A. Rogers, in his book SEX AND RACE, VOL. 3, informs us of another fable about Ham and how Black people became black. It states that the descendants of Ham, that is the Egyptians and Ethiopians, became black because Ham was cursed by Noah. This came from the Talmud and other writings from the second to the fifth century A.D. All these have to do with sexual relationships.

1. Noah had forbade all persons and animals in the Ark from having sexual intercourse. Ham disobeyed the order, the dog followed his example and then the raven and as a result all were cursed. Ham was cursed with blackness, the dog was attached to the body of the female dog after intercourse and the raven was made to copulate through the mouth.
2. There is more information found in Louis Ginsberg (The legends of the Jews, vol.5, p.56, 1925) says “The older sources (Sanhedrin 108b;Br.36:7.Yerushalmi Ta’anit I, 64d; Tan. Noah 12) states that three were punished because they did not observe the Law of Abstinence while in the ark.
3. Another version says there was a quarrel between Noah and Ham in which Noah cursed him because of Ham’s attempt to castrate Noah.

These twisted legends bear no spiritual or scientific proof but were firmly believed by supposedly intelligent white Americans and is still accepted by millions of them today. Noah’s curse worked in reverse because the sons of Shem became slaves to the mythical Ham for over 400 years in Egypt.

Now these concepts of how we became black were written long after the Jews had left Egypt and were in Europe. In reality,

the Jews were very likely a black people originally, and became fairer through mixing with lighter skinned Asiatics and Europeans. This whole story has its basis in the rivalry over the land of Canaan, which the Jews claimed that God had given them as an inheritance or more likely because the Egyptians had made concubines of the Jewish women. Placing a curse on a people is still used as a justification for taking what they have and otherwise exploiting them.

So the Egyptians took the Hebrews into bondage for 430 years.

Black slave masters took Hebrew women as concubines, just as the slave master in this country took the female foreparents of black Americans and made them concubines. That is why today you can find black people who look white to very black. J. A. Rogers also states that the holy fire that Moses saw was not a regular fire but the color was black because if it had been as a regular fire the people would have worshipped every fire and looked for God to talk to them through every fire.

The Ancient of Days is Jesus the Christ so in the book of Daniel chapter seven verse 9 states that the Ancient of days had hair like wool. So according to Jewish legend the ancient of days was both black and wooly haired.

The book of Revelation Chapter one verses 14-15 says Jesus had hair like wool, as white as snow, and in verse 15: His feet were like fine brass.

In the book, WHAT COLOR IS YOUR GOD? Authors, Columbus Salley and Ronald Behm point out an interesting fact pointing stating, “It is obvious from this passage (Genesis 9:25) that the curse pronounced by Noah is not upon Ham but upon Canaan. Therefore, in order to reconstruct what took place, whatever sinful act occurred and elicited Noah’s curse, it cannot be ascribed to Ham but to Canaan. The apparent contradiction between the fact the text records that Ham “saw the nakedness of his father “ and the fact that Canaan is cursed by Noah

CONTINUES ON PG 36, CURSE

**+ COMMUNITY****Continued from pg 35, curse**

is adequately explained by an alternate meaning of the term, “youngest son” in verse 24. It records that “when Noah awoke from his wine and knew what the youngest son had done to him, “ he pronounced the curse upon Canaan. But since Ham is not Noah’s youngest son, the guilty party was another. The alternate meaning of “youngest son “ is “grandson,” which in this case would logically explain why the curse is upon Canaan, the grandson of Noah.”

It is amazing and interesting that white preachers and writers never made the point that Noah had cursed Canaan and not Ham. They always say that God cursed Ham. Wow ! Black people must be somebody. It seem that over the expanse of time many have been against Blacks. Sinners, Society and the Saints alike have decried the inferiority of the Black People. It kind of seems like black people are the chosen people. Others have tried to destroy us physically and psychologically, we have been persecuted in every decade for no other reason than we are black.

The idea that blackness was the curse of Ham has been present in this country from its inception. In the book, *The Wolf by the Ears: Thomas Jefferson and Slavery*, John Chester Miller makes this statement: “ Here Jefferson reflected the age old belief that blackness was somehow a curse.”

Another book, *All God’s Children* by Stephen L. Mackenzie, an associate professor of the Hebrew Bible, Old Testament at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee states that what is summarized from pages 2-4, indicates that in his opinion as a white man, the idea that black people are somehow cursed appears racist.

A quote in the Boardman Bible Commentary validates how this so-called curse of Ham has been traditionally used by Whites in America. Commenting on Genesis 9:18-29, the passage reads: “There is hardly an Old Testament passage more difficult to interpret. This scripture was the favorite text of Southern preachers during the Civil War as they asserted the right of white men to enslave the negro. Often used in recent times to defend segregation, the passage is the unrecognized source of the

common saying “A negro is all right in his place, by which is meant that his proper position is secondary to that of the white man.”

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**Surprisingly, in the book, *Boys in the Hood*, Johnny Lee Clary, a former imperial wizard of the KKK, who is now an ordained minister of the Gospel makes this observation: He called slavery a cruel and evil deed and inconceivable wicked act against Blacks. The sad commentary of all this was the fact that **the curse theory was started by white bible believing Christians** who in turn introduced this theory to the rest of society. These words come from a white former klansman who indicted his own society for the mistreatment of blacks.**

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In *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*, Andrew Hacker, a professor of political science at Queens College in New York City, makes the statement: However, most white Americans interpret the African emphasis another way. For them it frequently leads to a more insidious application of racism. There persist the belief that members of the black race represents an inferior strain of the human species. He goes on to say, that most individuals of African heritage will lack intelligence and organizational capacities the modern world requires. Also, most whites who call themselves conservatives hold this view and proclaim it when they are sure of their company.

So it seems that as far as some Christians and non-Christians think, the

idea of blackness is the curse of Ham. And that we deserve to be treated badly just because we are black. This way of thinking was and is justified by the so-called curse of Ham.

But what does the Bible say about the curse of Ham in Genesis 9:18-29? Noah says, in Genesis 9:25: “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren.”

Notice:

1. Noah pronounced this curse on Canaan himself not on his descendants.
2. Noah pronounced the curse not God and it was not something God told him to do. The Bible did not say, “God said to Noah.”
3. Noah’s acted on his own, emotionally.
4. The curse of Ham is not scripturally correct because Ham was never cursed.
5. The Bible says, “So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.” Ham was not the youngest son of Noah. Ham was Noah’s middle son. So Noah could not have been talking about Ham.
6. Racists continue to try to make blackness a curse but it was impossible for Noah to curse Ham. Why? Because, Genesis 9:1 states, “So God blessed Noah and his sons.” God blessed them therefore Noah could not curse them. Noah did not have that kind of authority.
7. The Bible principle stated in Numbers 23:8 says, “how shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced.”The Bible does not say the curse was blackness nor does it talk of Canaan becoming a slave.
8. The Bible said “a servant of servant

**CONTINUES ON PG 37, CURSE**

## + COMMUNITY

**Continued from pg 36, curse**

he shall be to his brethren.” There is a difference between being a servant and a slave.

- There are 203 verses in the Bible where the words curse, cursed, curses, cursest, curseth, cursings and cursing are found. In all those verses not one reference is made of a man, a group of men or a nation that was cursed eternally or in perpetuity, leaving no possibility of that curse being lifted. Not one.

In a country where black people were forced here and given nothing when they arrived here, Praise God! We have done

very well for ourselves.

We have become the first black governor in USA, Douglas Wilder of Virginia.

We have become the first black Senator from Mississippi, Hiram Rhodes Revel.

We have become black inventors like George Washington Carver, who did wonders with a peanut, Dr. Shirley Jackson, who invented the touch tone phone, Lewis Latimer who invented carbon filament and Marie Brown who invented the closed circuit T.V. and many more. Not to mention our first Black President and First Lady, Barack and Michelle Obama or our first Black female Vice-President, Kamala

Harris. The list is endless and our future is brilliantly exciting. Thanks to people like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rosa Parks, John Lewis and many others.

Not bad for a people who supposedly lacked intelligence, was viewed as only being 3/5 of a person, persecuted, murdered, unjustly accused, beaten, raped and burned out whenever we showed our brilliance. God did not curse black people! We are beautiful, intelligent, creative and innovative. In Acts 17:26, God said, “He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth.” We are in an exclusive class as one of God’s chosen Nations.

**SEEN ON THE SCENE... LOOKING BACK****Glimpse Of Hope Ministries 8<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**

Pastor Leslie D. Lewis and the members of Glimpse Of Hope Ministries welcome Bishop Rance Allen as the Keynote speaker of their 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (January 19, 2019)



## + COMMUNITY

# What will we find in Saginaw's city budget?

SAGINAW, MI SKYLINE

By MIKE THOMPSON

## Here's a challenge: Become a fully informed citizen

This will require gaining knowledge, which will take a level of dedication that matches a favorite hobby, similar to being a sports fan or an avid gardener or a kitchen chef, whatever.

But you can do it, choosing your own level of interest and how far deep you wish to explore.

To pick a sample for guidance, we selected the Saginaw city budget. OMB Director Yolanda M. Jones has been kind enough to start us on a tour.

We need not purchase a textbook. It's online.

It's this year's budget, fiscal 2020-21, July 1 through June 30, which we need to study in order to form our viewpoints for the next upcoming one.

To begin on your PC, open "saginaw-mi.com." Where it says "I want to find," type in "budget." Then scroll past several URL advertisements and click the first non-ad site that says "budget." The entire document should pop up, 445 pages, but do not be intimidated. Like a textbook or a Bible, you will need to explore only a few pages per visit.

Mayor Brenda Moore admits that when she received her first annual budget book in 2015, she "was overwhelmed." But with patience and diligence, she took part in an ongoing education. After all, the mayor should be the most informed citizen of all.

"Anything we can do to educate the public and to be transparent, it's all for the good," she says.

### Like a good book

You may be surprised to learn that it's not all dull ink on paper, endless line items with an onslaught of figures and facts. The colorful cover illustrates City Hall, downtown, and the Rose Garden and Celebration Park near Andersen Enrichment Center. Begin with a table of contents and an overall statement from City Manager Timothy Morales, and you quickly will discover eight more pages of colorful bar graphs that help shed light into various functions of the city.

The first thing a reader will learn is that Jones and her budget team wish to help you learn. The opening 100 pages, some more skimmable than others, contain various explanations of all the ins and outs. Repeated review is suggested. It's sort of like learning to ride a bike or drive a car. Once you begin to get it, you ask yourself why it seemed so difficult.

"Our intent is to create a budget that is easily understood, that reflects the city's commitment to transparency and accountability," Yolanda says. "The budget process and budget document is the venue in which this can be demonstrated. Since I have been here over the last 15 years, my goal is to create a budget and budget document that is a policy document, a sound financial plan, and operation guide and an effective communication device."

A main lesson is that much of the budget is in the non-general fund areas, approximately 71 percent. Water and

sewer, for example, operate on a user fees basis that we all pay, not based on taxes. The same goes for trash pickup, and the city receives state dollars for street maintenance, etcetera.

Therefore, we encourage informed citizens to focus on, or begin with, the portion known as "general fund." This is the fund that contains basic governmental services such as police and fire, and the funding shortages linked to being an older, hard-pressed, manufacturing town. You may ask, why does City Hall have to rely on so many state police these days? Or, why have we been forced to close one of our four quadrant fire stations (Hess)? Or, why don't we have the same summer recreation and youth jobs that we had when I was a kid? You will begin to find answers here.

A few simple numbers: Saginaw city had a peak of about 100,000 residents during the peak 1960. Today's it's less than half, about 48,000. The total yearly city budget rounds off at \$125 million, a little more than \$2,500 for each of us. An average house would sell for \$36,000 and the annual city share of property taxes is \$850, or \$71 per month.

Council priorities, working with citizens and staff, are (1) economic development, (2) neighborhoods, (3) arts/culture/recreation, (4) police and fire, and (5) public utilities.

### Budgeting never ends

We recommend that you scan Page 31 of this year's budget. It displays a timetable. Budgeting is a year-round process, and Jones and her team already have started working with the various departments. Basically, departments begin their review of their operations to determine their needs for the next year's budget and future year budgets. This includes the review of the funding levels of personnel and their various programs.

Council members receive the proposed budget in April, and May becomes their main discussion month. They are required to decide by June 1. Unlike the federal government, they legally are disallowed from running deficits or debt. This is what

CONTINUES ON PG 39, CITY BUDGET

## + COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIES

REV. RODRICK A. SMITH

# The church

By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**  
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period when the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society.

Wherever the early Christians entered a town the power structure got disturbed and immediately sought to convict them for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators." But they went on with

the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven," and had to obey God rather than man. They were small in number but big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated."

Things are different now.

The contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
An excerpt from Letter from Birmingham City Jail  
16 April 1963

## Continued from pg 38, city budget

has gotten other cities such as Flint into past troubles.

One piece of advice is, that if you or your group wish to express a budget priority, even if for something as simple as more mowing in parks or more tree plantings, it would be best to air your views ASAP instead of waiting until an official hearing in May. A budget always is flexible and amendable, but specifics become more entrenched as spring arrives. The sooner, the better.

Whatever the case, hopefully this article has started to give you a basis for becoming an informed citizen. Why so much emphasis on the budget? Because a local spending plan -- city, county, school or public health -- is the manner in which we map concrete plans for our goals and our dreams. In that sense, it's no different than a family budget.

In future Michigan Banner editions, we will focus on specific City Hall departments of concern, everything from police and fire to streets and parks. Readers are invited to stick with us in this process. There's always something to learn.

(FOR EXAMPLE: We call them water bills, but more than half of those fees are for our sewers. Actually, Saginaw provides some of the state's lowest-cost water. Simply for example.)

**Any questions? Send them to Mike Thompson at [mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com](mailto:mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com).**

**This article is the first in a monthly series.**



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## + COMMUNITY

... continued from Cover Story

# Why it is important to celebrate Black History Month

In most instances the connotation is that it isn't justified because we don't do the same thing for other ethnic groups (which of course are not true). Being a product of the civil rights era, I'm committed to the idea that observance is justified. The only issue for me is that somehow, we need to more to appreciate the contributions of African-Americans year round.

So, let me briefly review the origins of Black History Month and why I feel it is important that we continue to celebrate it. These are my thoughts and opinions. You are free to agree or disagree with them.

First, Black History Month generally recognized as the annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing our essential role in U.S. history. It event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Ronald Reagan's first Black History Month proclamation stated that "understanding the history of Black Americans is a key to understanding the strength of our nation." Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia, Woodson worked as a sharecropper, miner and other jobs in his childhood to

help support his family. He graduated from high school in under two years. After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson worked in the Philippines as an education superintendent for the U.S. government. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and entered Harvard University in 1912. He was only the second African American (after W.E.B. DuBois) to earn a doctorate from this prestigious institution.



CARTER G. WOODSON

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson went to Chicago to take part in a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation. He joined thousands of Black Americans to view exhibits highlighting African American achievements since the abolition of slavery, Woodson was inspired to do more in the spirit of celebrating Black history and heritage. Before he left Chicago, he helped found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). A year later, Woodson singlehandedly launched the Journal of Negro History, in which he and other researchers brought attention to the achievements of Black Americans.

Like DuBois, Woodson believed that young African Americans in the early 20th century were not being taught enough about their own heritage, and the achievements of their ancestors. To gain attention to his concern, Woodson turned to his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, which created Negro History and Literature Week in 1924. But Woodson wanted a wider celebration, and he decided the ASNLH should take on the

responsibility. Woodson sent out a press release in February of 1926 to announce the first Negro History Week. The month of February was chosen because the month contained the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two prominent men whose historic achievements African Americans already celebrated. From this initial weeklong celebration, it officially evolved into a month-long event beginning in 1976.

In my view there are several reasons why it is justified to have the annual celebration. First, celebrating Black History Month reminds all of us that black history is OUR history. The impact African Americans have made on this country is part of our collective consciousness. It draws every race into the wide-ranging story of this nation.

Secondly, I believe it creates awareness for all people. Black history is often lost or understated. The annual observance gives people of all races the opportunity and ability to learn about a past and a people of which they may have little knowledge.

Next, the annual celebration honors the historic leaders of the black community. All of our African-American heroes deserve to be honored for their sacrifice and the suffering they endured for the sake of racial equality and forcing this nation to correct its wrongs.

Finally, the celebration represents a chance to highlight the best of black history and culture in light the many historical negative stereotypical portrayals of African-Americans.

Let us enjoy our heritage and the contributions we have made and continue to make to this nation. GO VICE-PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS!





CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

LET IT GO

I must let go of the memories,  
Memories that bombard my mind.  
The memories of lost Love, shattered dreams,  
The memories of what could have been, what  
should have been,

I remember the feelings of ecstasy  
As I floated on the clouds of love,  
As my heart overflowed with captivating,  
mystifying passion,  
Feelings of love so deep, so intense, what is this  
feeling, this emotion so powerful

I had no idea, no one ever told me that love  
could be as strong as a Tsunami  
I didn't know that this type of love existed  
So powerful, so overwhelming so exuberating,  
Floating, floating, floating.....like a lonely boat  
in the ocean

And like a storm, it came and left,  
The damage had been done  
The wounded, bleeding, aching, pain stricken  
heart,  
Look! Look! There it is, there it is, hanging.....  
hanging like clothes on the clothesline,

Waiting, waiting, waiting,  
To be covered with ointment, to be nursed back  
to wellness  
But wait!..... listen..... can you hear the sound,  
where did it go?  
WHERE DID THE LONE LOST LOVE GO?  
Who is the thief that stole it?

Tired..... Tired..... tired of searching, tired of  
hurting,  
It's time.....It's time..... time too...time too  
Let it go, let the lost, non-existent love go,  
Return to the place of its origin, hidden in the  
tunnel of stagnation,

Empty your heart of the old, empty your heart of  
the old.  
to be replaced to be replaced with the new  
Let it Go, Let.....It Go.....!  
LET.... IT.... GO!



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# + POLITICS



FAY MIRA

## World watches *historic* inauguration of Joe Biden Kamala Harris

By MB STAFF

On January 20, 2021, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Kamala Harris as the 49<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the United States.

The inaugural ceremony took place on the West Front of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. and was the 59<sup>th</sup> presidential inauguration. Biden took the presidential oath of office, before which Harris took the vice presidential oath of office.

The inauguration marked several historic firsts. Biden becomes the oldest

president in U.S. history. And in a signal of the shifting demographics across the U.S., Harris becomes the country's first female vice president, as well as the first Jamaican American and American of South Asian descent voted into the office.

The inauguration took place amidst extraordinary political, public health, economic, and national security crises, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

President Biden pleaded for national unity in his inaugural address.

"As we look ahead in our uniquely American way: restless, bold, optimistic,

and set our sights on the nation we can be and we must be... this is our historic moment of crisis and challenge," Biden said.



FAY MIRA

## POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

By **JIMMY E. GREENE**



JIMMY E. GREENE

Not only does President Joe Biden's inauguration marks not only a new administration's beginning but also a new chapter for the loyal opposition. What's next for the Republican Party will be an autopsy for the next

2 years while they try to figure out who they are. They lost the White House while picking up U.S. House seats, holding half the Senate, and adding to its numbers in state legislative chambers. To rebuild, Republicans must decide what their party stands for. Lord help them there. Who are these Republicans; Trump followers? Conservatives? The old guard of Reagan Republicans or those "republicans" that stormed the nation's Capitol? While they might not say they're Republicans, let's face it; they didn't vote for President Biden. How these Republicans no matter what fraction they come from will leave them vulnerable to losses in the mid terms. It's not popular to shout into the still persistent winds of Trump Republicans that his brand won't carry candidates in contentious races over the finish line. The next few years won't be easy. I can tell them what they should do like; increase efforts to recruit candidates who are female, Hispanic, Asian-American, black and younger. More diverse candidates were key to the GOP's surprise gains in the House and the states. They should also disavow QAnon, the conspiracy freaks, completely disengage with anything remotely close to white supremacy groups and the Proud Boys.

My prediction is that they won't keep their eye on that bouncing ball but instead run the same strategy that they unused against Former President Obama; the practice of obstruction. Why? Because behind all of this will be a shadow government being run by..you guessed it; Mr. Trump. And that alone will cost Republicans in races because either they embrace him or he opposes them. See what I'm saying here? They're damned if they do and damned if they do. Well this should be an interesting few years watching this reinvention of a party steep in dysfunction.

# Stage is bigger in O'Neal's new venue

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Amos O'Neal now is beginning to serve on a legislative body of 110 members as Saginaw's new 95th District member of the Michigan House of Representatives.

That's a big change from his tenure on a governing group that is one-tenth the size, the 11-member County Board of Commissioners.

He says he's ready for the challenge on the larger playing field.

In the capitol building, he notes, "The way the Legislature is set up, Democrats are on one side, Republicans are on the other. We all have our places."

Indeed, but his fellow Dems were the majority on the county board at the courthouse, while GOP'ers dominate in Lansing, not only in the House, but in the 38-member Senate.

O'Neal will aim to follow President Biden's model of cross-the-aisle unity.

"Before we enter our sessions, we have 15 to 20 minutes in which we have time to move about," he explains. "I take that time to introduce myself, to try to build relationships. My goal is to be a consensus builder."

He notes his experience on the county board, where he served as vice-chairman of the Appropriations Committee in a teamwork relationship with Frankenmuth Republican Dennis Krafft.

O'Neal is pleased with the Lansing committee assignments that he has gained as a freshman. They include joint capital outlay (Democratic vice-chair), appropriations, workforce talent and trades, along with subcommittees for general

government (linking the legislature with cities and townships and villages), school aid and education. He's also the Democratic caucus vice-chairman and treasurer of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus.

He believes his wide-ranging work career back near the turn of the millennium, prior to his appointment to the City Council in October 2003, provides a balanced background for seeking common ground. Among his tasks were Saginaw County United Way director of resources and development and First Ward Community Center director of operations.

Among Michigan Democratic leaders, he says, "Obviously, they were impressed with my experience."

Even so, O'Neal at first did not envision a full-time career in elected office.

He says his role models became his Board of Commissioners predecessor, Robert "Moe" Woods, Chairman Carl Ruth and former councilman and state rep Carl "Mac" Williams.

"It became a sort of natural trajectory," O'Neal reflects. "I've always had aspirations to serve the people."



AMOS O'NEAL

## + POLITICS

# New role for county's youthful clerk

By MIKE THOMPSON

During her term-limited six years as Saginaw's 95th District state representative, Vanessa Guerra aimed to help craft the Lansing laws and public services that govern all of us.

Part of her new job is to oversee the elections of those who engage in her former policy-making functions.

And that's fine with her.

"I may no longer legislate; however, I now have the ability to educate people on the role that those legislators play in our lives and why elections matter so much" Guerra says. "I will still keep up on major policy changes, but my focus is more geared towards voter rights and civic education now."

When she says "educate," she means keeping voters informed, even though in a more neutral form than when she pushed policy proposals in the Legislature.

For example, she already has hosted a virtual town hall that allowed Saginaw County residents to discuss their experiences as voters during the 2020 election cycle.

She also intends to take a lead in organizing mock elections in county schools.

She even has taken the extra step of personally serving as clerk at the County Board of Commissioners meetings, which



VANESSA GUERRA

she feels deserve more public attention on account of the important decisions that are made at the courthouse.

"I feel passionately about civic education being a tool of the county clerk because if I am not doing that work, who else is?" says Guerra, whose great-great grandfather, Ruben Garcia, was a pioneering local community activist.

Another one of her goals is to provide county clerk services through each local clerk's office, and another is to expand her own office hours. But the first order of business is to restore public access that has been curtailed by covid precautions. She is appealing to the county board to begin by re-opening the doors for visitation by appointment.

"People need their birth certificates and other vital records," Guerra notes. "Their lives cannot be put on hold just

because we are only utilizing the postal mail right now."

She was 22 years old when she was first elected to her hometown Bridgeport Township Board of Trustees, and three years later she began as one of Lansing's youngest state legislators. She did not anticipate an early and possibly lifelong occupation as a full-time public servant, which is why she worked to achieve a 2016 degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law.

Guerra does not regret that effort, even as life plans turned in a different direction from a legal career.

"The law (degree) still assists me every day as I work to interpret legislation or the countless number of court documents that our office oversees," she summarizes. "I'm simply fortunate to have been bit by the bug of public service."

## + POLITICS



BRENDA MOORE, SAGINAW MAYOR

## Mayor Moore, Chairman Ruth review agendas for Saginaw city and county

By MIKE THOMPSON

We have the State of the Union, which President Biden is scheduled to deliver on Tuesday, Feb. 23. It will be broadcast on all the TV networks.

Our State of the State already has been presented in late January by Governor Whitmer. It was shown on PBS stations

such as Delta College's QTV, Channel 19.

Did you know we also have State of the County and State of the City speeches? They are combined under the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce. They will not be televised, but we can watch on the Facebook page, beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4. Chamber leaders ask only that we pre-register if possible.

Presenters will be County Board of Commission Chairman Carl Ruth and Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore. Both are retirees who grew up in the Houghton School/Clinic and Mershon Pool neighborhood, with Carl slightly ahead of Brenda, and both now are devoting their time and

energies for hopefully a better Saginaw.

Mayor Moore sort of chuckles modestly when she jokes that President Biden has "stolen" her unity message during recent weeks, but she plans to steer her State of the City talk in the same direction.

"We need to work together, and we need to go beyond that with love," she says. "We need not only to love our families, our friends and our neighbors, but also our city, our state and our country. We must end all of this division -- not that it has not existed in the past, but nowadays it has become more severe than ever."

A main way to accomplish this goal, she adds, is for people to take part in events and worthy causes, anything from a community cleanup to a local festival, especially when Covid-19 begins to recede.

Moore has achieved history as the first

African American female president of the Michigan Municipal League, which has represented the state's cities and villages and townships since late in the 19th century. She also was second vice-president of Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. She is retired from the Service Employees International Union, SEIU Local 517-M, and she previously operated her own bail bond business.



BOARD OF COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CARL RUTH

Carl Ruth grew up on Seventh Street, Brenda Moore on Ninth. The County Health Department, not city government, is responsible for local public health, and so in his State of the County speech Ruth will identify Covid-19 as the top concern.

"People may speak of covid, covid," he says, "but from our end it's all about safety, safety."

Voters helped out last November by approving a 0.48-mill property tax to help support the federal funds received through the Health Department.

Ruth previously served as county board chair in 2017 and 2018. He is by far the most experienced county elected official, entering his 21st year on the Board of Commissioners. He is a retired Delta College student counseling administrator who also has served on an array of local boards, including Michigan Works, HealthSource, STARS, Convention and Business Bureau, Mosquito Abatement, and Land Bank Authority.

He modestly says that when he first was elected at the turn of the millennium, he had "no idea" he would stay on board for so long, into a third decade.

"You never know what will happen," he notes.

## + HEALTH

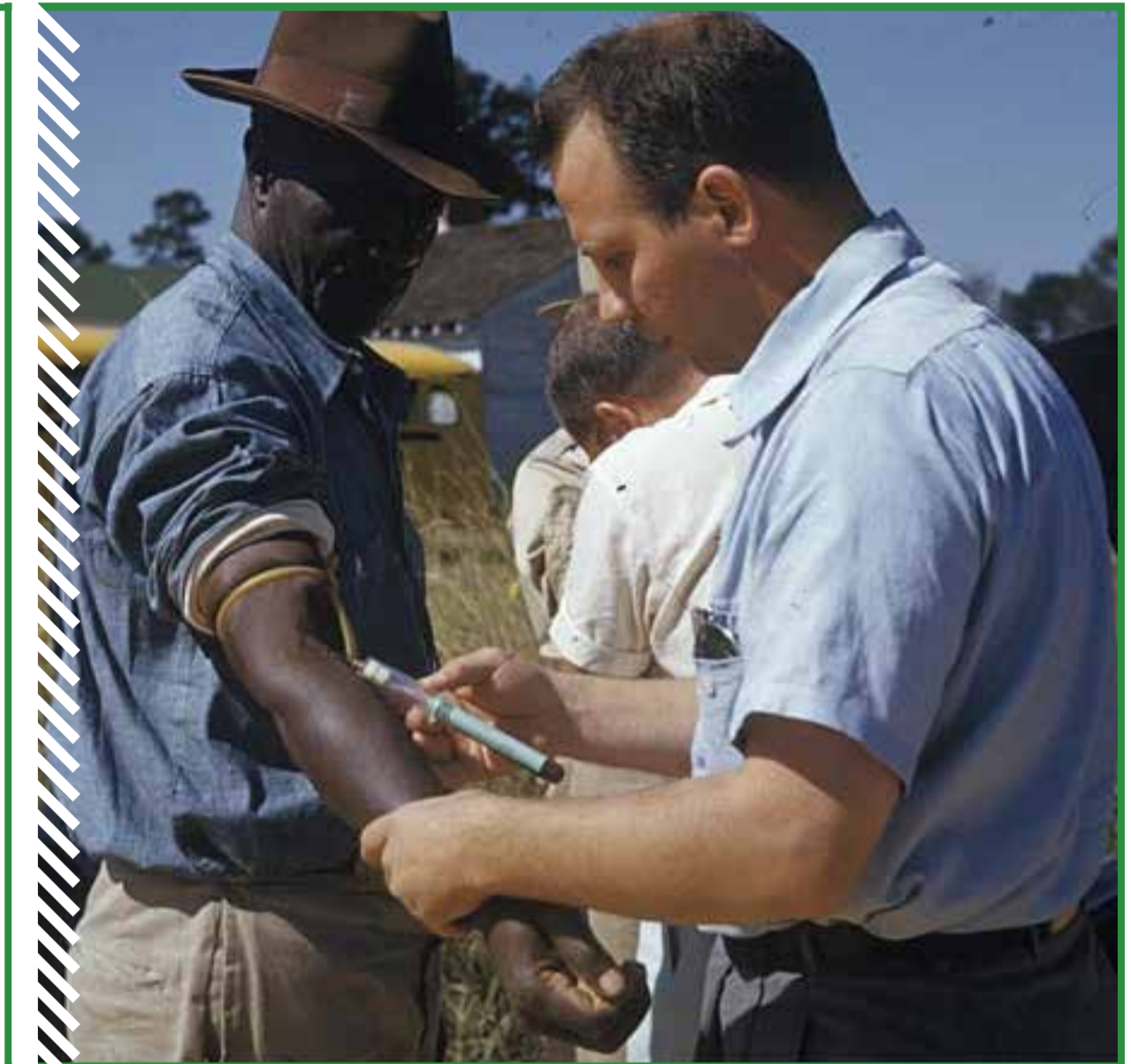
# DISTRUST: Not just about Tuskegee (1932-1972)

By SOFUS

**L**ike the Tuskegee Study, there are **l**other documented events that confirm the ongoing racism that African Americans experience when seeking and receiving health care in the U.S. It's been reported that this ethnic group has been used in other medical experiments without giving their informed consent to participate. They often lack equal access to quality health care services and when African Americans receive care, they've reported being treated with indignation and disrespect.

Few would argue that our health care system (HCS) needs to do a better job to assure that all patients understand their diagnosis, treatment plan, and side effects of medications. But the overabundance of evidence suggests that might not happen soon, because those in charge may not have a working knowledge of the core tenets of 'Patient-Centered Care', the foundation on which today's HCS was to be built on but falls short of; particularly for Black Americans and other historically marginalized groups.

Last year when reports surfaced about the disparate rates and consequences of coronavirus for African Americans compared to Whites, many Americans were shocked... much like when they learned about the unfair treatment of Blacks by law enforcement. Last summer, media covered the Black Lives Matter protests for the murder of George Floyd, a brutal and unnecessary killing. Public



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

protest erupted around the world when footage of the murder was leaked online and went viral.

More illness complications and deaths due to coronavirus in America's Black Population have been linked to having more underlying health conditions and chronic illnesses compared to Whites. A difference in illnesses and poor health that may not exist (or to a lesser degree) if not for the discrimination and systemic racism they experience in the U.S. in general and by the medical community in particular. In America. A nation that proclaims "life", "liberty", and "justice for all" in spite of systemic barriers that routinely prevent many people from reaching their 'full potential'.

In light of the current pandemic, hopefully the medical community will become more "woke" regarding the

Hippocratic Oath: *primum non nocere*; (first do no harm). And awake to the fact that harm is not always acute and immediate. It can be insidious with eroding consequences that manifest and take their toll over time. An example of eroding consequences can include personal beliefs such as faith, trust and confidence: [1] faith that you will receive competent and quality care. [2] trust that you will be treated equitably and not judged. [3] confidence that you can place your wellbeing into their hands.

The manifestation of harm (results of racism) can appear as; [1] patients avoiding primary care visits and refusing to see a doctor, [2] trying to self-manage illness because of no insurance or ability

**CONTINUES ON PG 47, DISTRUST**

## Continued from pg 46, distrust

to pay for treatment [3] relying on home remedies and ending up in the ER [4] advancing to end stage disease due to lack of professional care [5] reluctance to share pertinent information that the healthcare team needs to treat the patient [6] ignoring medical advice, or [7] not actively seeking preventive care. All of these manifestations are risk factors that have long-term effects on health. They are also linked to poorer health outcomes.

So, when looking at population health and the underlying conditions that lead to less than favorable outcomes for Blacks compared to Whites, the covert and overt racism embedded in institutional policies and practices must be taken into account. Because of the negative impact and the harm it causes to peoples' health over time. Racism that has been documented in books like: [1] *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* (Institute of Medicine, 2002); [2] *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*. (Washington, 2006). And in publications such as *New York Times Magazine*; "Myths about physical racial differences were used to justify slavery- and are still believed by doctors today" (Villarosa, 2019).

A study by National Academy of Sciences that found 222 medical students



SEAL OF TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

(our 'future physicians of America') held at least one racist belief about there being physiological differences between black people and white people. The most common was "that black people's nerve endings are less sensitive than the nerve endings of Whites" And this supports the fact that [1] black patients are undertreated for pain not only relative to white patients, but relative to World Health Organization guidelines. [2] Black Americans are systematically undertreated for pain, likely due to both the over-prescription and over-use of pain medications among white patients and the under-prescription of pain medications for black patients (Samarrai, 2016).

Last year, a national survey (by The Undeclared and Kaiser Family Foundation) showed that 70% of African Americans believe they are treated unfairly based on race and ethnicity when they seek medical care (Fletcher, 2020). This study also concluded that "By and large, Black patients face medical racism that impacts their trust in medicine and this may have contributed to racial health disparities."

With that said, a primary concern is whether (and how) levels of distrust in various communities of color might be shaping perceptions about the coronavirus vaccine?

The impact of coronavirus has prompted the CDC, National Institutes of Health, Health and Human Services, American Medical Association, National

Medical Association, and others to express concern about the health of black people; in a manner rarely publicly seen before. Now, after centuries of silent systemic medical neglect.

Are these efforts out of genuine concern for the health of Black Americans? Is this being done because they realization that not to do so places white communities at greater risks? Although concerns expressed by people who speak on behalf of 'the system' may be sincere, sometimes it comes across as pandering, patronizing, disingenuous, and pretentious. When this coronavirus is finally under control, will representatives from these same health organizations and institutions retreat, silence their voices, and express little concern like they did before? Will the pattern be continued where people of color and marginalized communities feel forgotten, become less hopeful, while experiencing the same historical neglect as before?

**A Call to Action:** The medical community is directly responsible for maintaining the health of all Americans. To confront and dispel the racist beliefs among medical students and in medical practice is obviously needed. Learn more about the lived experiences of black people and other historically marginalized groups. And let that inform you of better ways to care for the underserved.

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Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported us. You are all extraordinary.





## + EDUCATION

# SVSU sponsors 2021 First Ward Leadership Fellowship Program

*Eleven Saginaw County residents between the ages of 18 and 30 have been selected as 2021 First Ward Leadership Fellows and will participate in a 14-week leadership training program hosted by Saginaw Valley State University.*

SAGINAW, Mi. — First Ward Leadership Fellows will join SVSU students who are in the 2020-2021 Vitito Global Leadership Institute in the Scott L. Carmona College of Business. The focus of the training is to highlight opportunities to become community leaders through board memberships. Workshops led by local civic and community leaders will emphasize the importance of service on boards.

“We welcome the opportunity to further the partnership between SVSU and First Ward Community Center with the creation



FIRST WARD COMMUNITY CENTER, 1410 N 12TH ST, SAGINAW MI

of this fellowship program,” said Dawn Hinton, director of SVSU’s Center for Academic Innovation & Online Learning. “This program is designed to assist young community members in developing the leadership skills that will allow them to make significant contributions to their community.”

Hinton said students in SVSU’s Vitito Global Leadership Program each year are required to select a community engagement project; this year, the choice is a peer-to-peer leadership mentoring program with First Ward Community Center. The weekly training sessions will be held online from January through March, 2021.

The following individuals, all from Saginaw, have been selected to participate in the First Ward Leadership Fellowship Program:

- **Amaya Bradley**, an SVSU marketing major
- **Daeveon Clemons**, an SVSU biology major
- **Indigo Dudley**, an SVSU general studies major
- **Bria Gregory**, a self-employed financial professional
- **Airiana Hamilton**, an SVSU health science major
- **Jalen Latimore**, a staff member at Francis Reh Academy
- **Tess Martin**, an SVSU social work major
- **Jesse Sanchez**, a mechanic serving in the military
- **Alissiana Scott**, a Kroger employee

- **Demetria Simmons**, a Federal Express employee
- **Simone Vaughn**, an SVSU communication major

The goal of the program is to fill a gap that exists within the Saginaw County community and address the large number of vacancies on boards and commissions. Those who are selected to participate must submit to an application process that outlines their previous participation in First Ward programming. The SVSU Foundation is providing funding support for the fellowship.

“This project will culminate in a ‘Signing Day’ event, where the First Ward Leadership Fellows will publicly announce the board on which they want to serve and sign their completed application for board consideration,” Hinton said.

Hinton will provide guidance for First Ward Leadership Fellows and Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, SVSU’s Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Professor, and Dominic Monastiere, Boutell Executive-In-Residence, are responsible for developing the leadership skills training. Michael Mosher, SVSU professor of art, will introduce the First Ward Leadership Fellows to students enrolled in his Art 390 course to develop an illustrated comic book that will creatively tell the stories of each of the fellows.

For more information on the First Ward Leadership Fellowship Program, contact Hinton at (989) 906-1400, or [hinton@svsu.edu](mailto:hinton@svsu.edu). For more information on the Vitito Global Leadership Program, contact Ofori-Dankwa at (989) 284-0684, or [oforidan@svsu.edu](mailto:oforidan@svsu.edu).

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Application Deadline: **February 15, 2021**

# Saginaw schools millage plan is not all cobblestone

By MIKE THOMPSON

New and remodeled schools are coming to the Saginaw city district, thanks to voters in November approving a \$99.95 million plan that will cost each homeowner at least several hundred dollars per year.

Millage approvals were difficult during the historic past, but in a new era this one passed with a 60 percent landslide amid record voter turnout.

And so what do parents and students say they desire in the final product that will emerge in 2023, two years from now?

Answer: More outdoor education space.

That's hardly an expected bricks-and-mortar response, but don't laugh.

The purpose of the millage plan isn't simply to build buildings for the sake of building, school leaders say. The ultimate aim is to improve education. And the Board of Education, along with Superintendent Ramon Roberts and his staff, wouldn't know unless they ask.

If more education outside the new walls and windows will help to do the trick, so be it.

## The final four

Four main millage highlights remain:

- Combine Saginaw High and Arthur Hill into a unified high school at the existing site of SASA, the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, along North Niagara on the riverside.



SASA (SAGINAW ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY)

- Move SASA, geared to gifted and talented students, into a renovated Arthur Hill facility.
- Close Handley School at the 110-year-old former South School location and build new on Arthur Hill's wide expanse of open land. This combines K-12 gifted/talented at one location for the first time.
- Remodel Saginaw High as an East Side middle school to pair with Thompson Middle on the west side.

Arthur Hill and Saginaw High both were built for 2,000 students after World War II, when city high schools also were home to suburban and rural students before they had their own facilities. As urban flight and isolation grew, AHHS and SHS gradually fell well below half capacity, leading to the upcoming scale-down that local educators now say is long overdue.

The unified high school, with a name and colors and mascot yet to be chosen, will be four or five stories high, built for 1,200 pupils. SASA will hold 800, the new Handley 500, and "Saginaw High Middle" up to 800.

At all locations, gyms and auditoriums will be retained, with construction designed to encompass them. The new high school will have a track and ball fields adjacent and behind, and a football stadium south in the direction of the Bean Bunny grain elevator.

## Let the sun shine

Parents and students in the late-

January online "Visioning" talks, in addition to speaking of outdoor learning, also asked for more fresh sunlight. Planners responded that new buildings and the made-over Arthur Hill and Saginaw High will contain plenty of glass and windows, especially compared to the former SASA and South structures.

Parents noted that summer school will increase during and after Covid-19 times. They were happy to learn that HVAC will be a project priority. Also, some wings at the AHHS and SHS buildings still will meet the wrecking ball, but apparently not as many as previously expected.

Another point of emphasis is to provide larger and safer spaces for parents to drop off and pick up their book bag-burdened children. The kids, for obvious reasons, would appreciate larger locker spaces.

Desks of varying heights are desired as an example of accommodations that should steer away from one-size-fits-all strictures.

And getting down to true nitty-gritty, one SASA student from the location that will become the new high school asked why the band room is on a different floor than the auditorium's stage entrance.

School trustees, Roberts and his staff emphasize that suggestions, both big and small, are welcome at any time, not only during the periodic public hearings that will occur prior to a scheduled fall 2023 grand opening. The district's website, spsd.net, includes overall plans, the latest updates, and a citizens' feedback device.



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Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

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pregnant women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

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Claytor Administrative Building  
3200 Perkins Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Phone 989.752.2193  
Fax 989.921.7146

**Office Hours**  
Monday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Tuesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Wednesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Thursday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
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Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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**Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.**

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## + BUSINESS

# A childhood dream for beautician Louise McKinnie

By MIKE THOMPSON

Mostly all little girls love their childhood dolls, but not all little girls give their dolls hairstyles.

That was the first sign that Louise McKinnie one day would operate her own beauty salon.

"As a child, I used to burn all my dolls' hair out, trying to straighten it," she recalls, "I always wanted to be a beautician."

Those were the conking styles during the late 1950s and early '60s, when Louise was starting out at Houghton Elementary School, then Arthur Eddy Junior High, then Saginaw High, Class of 1967.

Nowadays, things are different as she enters her fourth decade as owner and operator of Reflections of "U", 2103 Sheridan Ave. No more hot-combs.

"My customers tell me that they like how I make their hair look and feel healthy," she notes.

### Work for love, work for pay

After high school, she married Willie McKinnie, now a Grey Iron retiree. As she raised their two daughters, she worked as a secretary at Dow Chemical, Delta College, Baker Perkins.

Those jobs were for the family income. On the side, she volunteered to perform hair care for family members and friends.

As the girls grew older, she informed her husband of her hopes to enroll in M.J. Murphy Beauty School. Willie was supportive and not surprised.

"He told me, 'That's what you have been doing all along, anyhow,'" Louise recalls, with a chuckle.

She graduated M.J.'s in 1983 and began as a licensed cosmetologist, paid on commission, at JC Penney in Fashion Square Mall, and then at Vera-Unique's on Dixie Highway with a booth rental.

By 1987, she was ready to open Reflections of "U" at 2619 East Genesee, overcoming traditional established bank bias with the help of her cousin, John Pugh, and a modest \$10,000 in startup financing.

### Same place, 30 years

Her final move to Sheridan at Webber was in 1991.

"Cosmetology is my God-given talent," says Louise, a lifelong member of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church. "I feel I never worked a day in my life, because I could do hair without being paid. It is my passion."

In more simple words, "I like making them look good."



LOUISE MCKINNIE

She has volunteered for the American Cancer Society, donating wigs for women in radiation treatment and serving as a facilitator for the "Look Good, Feel Better" program. She also serves as a member of Top Ladies of Distinction.

She employs four beauticians and two barbers and has entered semi-retirement, styling only on Fridays and Saturdays. This allows her time to dote on five grandchildren and one great-grand.

"I believe that success is never-ending and failure is never final," she says. "The Lord is my strength and my salvation."



REFLECTIONS OF "U", 2103 SHERIDAN AVE., SAGINAW

## + BUSINESS

# \$1.8 Million in 'Going Pro Talent Fund' grants awarded to local employers

GREAT LAKES BAY, Mi. - Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! was awarded \$1.8 million in Going Pro Talent Fund grants for 48 employers in Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties. These funds will provide crucial opportunities to train new and existing employees in areas like leaning manufacturing, inventory management, blueprint reading, advanced safety, welding, and accounting. This year, these funds will provide training for over 1,400 employees, including 91 apprentices, resulting in more than 1,990 certifications.

"These are incredible numbers, and we couldn't be more pleased with this year's award," says Chris Rishko, CEO of Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!. "Coming off a year like 2020, our employers and our region are looking for a win, and news of this magnitude is just what we needed. We will build on this foundation and make 2021 a phenomenal year for growth for our region's employers. It's Go Time in the Great Lakes Bay Region!"

Access to Going Pro Talent Funds in this area is possible only through a proprietary grant process spearheaded by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!. The organization partners with local economic developers as well as regional training providers and chambers of commerce to refer employers



Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! is an Equal Opportunity/Employer Program. Auxiliary aide services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Michigan Relay Services dial 711. Supported by the State of Michigan. A proud partner of the American Job Center Network.

MICHIGAN WORKS

to the application process. Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! holds employer information sessions each summer and fall to help them successfully apply for Going Pro Talent funds.

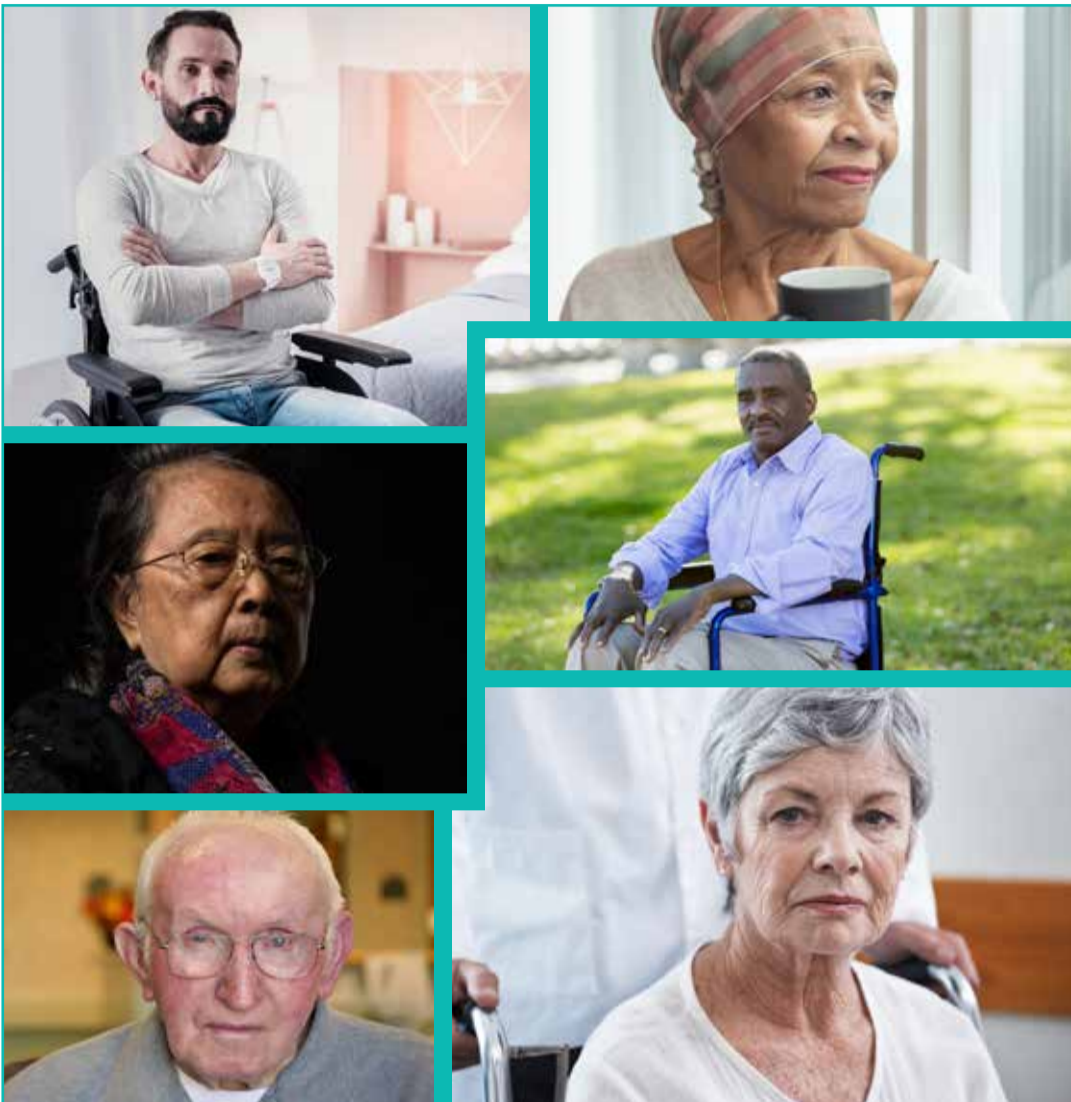
Sheril Tarrant, Director of Business Services and Community Relations, notes, "We've have had to provide all our services virtually including information sessions, trainings and one-on-one meetings with employer applicants. This is a great example of how the team at Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! can quickly pivot to meet the needs in our community and provide the same level of service our employers have come to expect from us."

Going Pro Talent Fund grant dollars come from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. In total, \$39 million was awarded statewide. Of the

applications submitted by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! on behalf of employers, grants awarded ranged in amount from \$1,064 to \$207,794.

Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! is a consortium of Saginaw, Midland, Bay, Gratiot, and Isabella counties, established to operate workforce development programs for this region. It is one of 16 separate and independent Michigan Works! agencies and one of about 550 similar agencies nationwide.

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**+ BUSINESS**

# Amazon brings jobs to Buena Vista warehouse

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

If you are looking for warehouse employment with Amazon, you need not move to one of their headquarters cities in Seattle or in Arlington, Va.

In fact, the mail-order giant is setting up shop in Buena Vista Charter Township.

February is the month to apply at Michigan Works for one of more than 100 full- and part-time jobs, each paying at least \$15 plus benefits, at an Amazon distribution center based in BV's industrial park, located in the township's northern section along M-81 (North Washington) at I-75.

The Amazon connection reflects Buena Vista's main economic gain during the opening four years of Torrie M. McAfee's tenure as Township Superintendent. This is combined with openings of three family restaurants, Baldwin's Smokehouse, Taqueria La Michoacana and Tia's Soul Food which will open in April of this year,



BUENA VISTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP SIGN

a pair of Dollar Tree franchises, and five new medical marijuana dispensaries. Combined, those initiatives will create 50 to 75 more jobs in addition to the 100-plus from Amazon.

In addition to helping to increase tax income, boost job growth and discretionary income in the community, McAfee says there are other benefits. For example, each dispensary will pay a \$5,000 registration fee yearly, and they will each contribute \$30,000 to Buena Vista's parks and recreation fund.

She notes that the township just purchased the former Buena Vista High School property from Saginaw Public Schools which they plan to turn into a Farmer's Market in order to help with the food desert in the Township. They will also use the space to add some other business opportunities to the community. The old Fort Saginaw Mall site which offers 33 acres for potential investors is still available and is a very desirable location. Several developers have inquired, she says, but nothing major so far has come forward.



TORRIE L. MCAFEE, B.V. TOWNSHIP SUPERINTENDENT

A listed Amazon job requirement is ability to lift or push packages up to 50 pounds. Job-seekers may explore the Michigan Work website, call 752-3145 or visit the downtown office at 312 East Genesee any weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# Three ways to jumpstart your fundraising for 2021



By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

**Ready or not 2021 is here! Most of us had no idea what 2020 would bring and we are fairly confident no one can predict 2021. But we can still plan. And that is what fundraising is all about: planning. And action. With this column we share three ways to jumpstart your fundraising. Each is a combination of planning and action.**

**First, its time to redefine.** Take a moment to re-affirm and if needed redefine your mission, goals, and priorities. These are at the heart of fundraising, so time spent on this will focus your fundraising for the year. 2020 was full of change: some organizations found new strengths, took advantage of opportunities, and rose to the many demands made by those they serve. Others had to pivot, operate differently, and create new partnerships. The changes you went through may fundamentally change how your nonprofit operates; they may be temporary; or you may find your organization on a new and more impactful journey.

This is also time to review your fundraising plan against results. Take a look to see what you were able to

implement. Who are your new donors and supporters? Which weren't able to give in 2020? Did your sources of revenue change? For many, fee for service income fell as people restricted their activities. Others received gifts and grants they did not anticipate.

**Action steps:** update your case for support, social media messaging, talking points, and fundraising appeals based on your mission, vision, priorities and fundraising plan. For each of your anticipated revenue sources, define a fundraising goal and determine how many donors you need to engage and solicit, and at what amount.

**Second, review your fundraising capacity and infrastructure before you get "too busy."** Do you have the right people engaged as staff, volunteers, and board members? How is your donor management system? Is the information accurate and up-to-date? Are there

features you've intended to use but haven't yet implemented.

**Action steps:** Host an orientation session and share your fundraising goals for the year with staff, volunteers, and board. Learn how each wants to be involved. Set individual and group fundraising goals. Record these in your donor management system and use your technology more fully. Get a fresh look for newsletters, videos, and progress reports and share them using all available media channels.

**Third, make it personal.** While COVID-19 restrictions mean that in person fundraising events and conversations are still in the future, it remains important to infuse your fundraising with a personal touch. That means thank you notes and emails are more important than ever, and phone calls are back in vogue. Video messages can also help retain the personal touch; but keep them short

**Action steps:** Send a short note or email or make a call to each of your top 10 donors to say thank you and update them on your plans. Call and thank a few donors you don't know. Create a short video on your plans for 2021 and share with your donors and supporters.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.

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**G**

**Glimpse Of Hope Ministries**  
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**Grace Chapel Church**  
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**Greater Renaissance**  
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**J**



**Jacob's Ladder**  
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**L**

**Life in Christ Ministries**  
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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

**M**

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
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Fax: 989-777-2640  
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messiahsag.org



**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Pastor Marvin T. Smith  
1114 N. 6th Street  
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**N**



**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin  
2609 E. Genesee  
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989-777-8272  
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net

**New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries**  
Pastor Otis Dickens  
2312 S. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3650



**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
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Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
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989-752-8485



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600

**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
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**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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**New Way Ministries**  
Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins  
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Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 987-2434  
thenewwayministry.org

**P**

**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.  
825 North 24th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2841

**R**



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
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Saginaw, MI 48601  
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**S**



**Saginaw Valley Community Church**  
Pastor Richard Sayad  
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Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769



**Saint Paul Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



**Second Baptist Church**  
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith  
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**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Carl Ballard  
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**T**



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
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**True Vine Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
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989-752-0751

**V**



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
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**W**



**World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries**  
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

**Z**



**Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rodrick Smith  
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 + SPORTS

# Macon, Reed pay tribute to Coach Chaney

By MIKE THOMPSON

**S**trong Saginaw ties are linked to John Chaney, the Hall of Fame basketball coach who established his legend at Philadelphia's Temple University. Tributes are flowing upon his death at age 89.

Chaney awarded Temple scholarships to Buena Vista High's Mark Macon and Shoun Randolph after the Knights had landed a pair of state finals appearances, winning the crown in 1986. Coach Norwaine Reed took the lead in making arrangements.

"John Chaney was a sincere individual, very honest and extremely loyal to his players and to his school community," Reed recalled in a Jan 30 Michigan Banner interview, the day after Chaney passed away. "He would stick with a player, even if they needed extra years to finish their degrees. He was true to his word."

For example, Macon completed an NBA pro career with a wrap-up Detroit Pistons' stint into the middle 1990s. His retirement goal was to go into coaching, and Chaney came through to hire him as an assistant. Macon has returned as current assistant head coach at Temple under his former college teammate, Chaney successor Aaron McKie.

"When we talked, we didn't talk so much about basketball," says Macon, who remains Temple's all-time leading point scorer. "We talked about life, everything



H. RUMPH JR. - AP

necessary for survival -- food, clothing and shelter, so to speak. Basketball was only a Microcosm of this, another part of life."

In coaching, he remains inspired by Chaney, a man known for imposing discipline with 6 a.m. mid-winter practice sessions.

"As an instructor or teacher, when you see your message returning to you through the player, coming back to you, that's the ultimate reward," Macon explains.

Reed grew up a Detroitier and is a former Saginaw Valley State University star (1969-72, back when it still was SVC), who always placed his career as a Saginaw County juvenile probation officer ahead of his coaching, and who therefore stressed personal development over wins and losses. He first approached Chaney in 1982 on behalf of St. Mary's Cathedral standout Brian Booker, the future local police officer and chief, but Chaney had run out of scholarships and so Booker took his talents instead to North Carolina A&T University.

Then, several years later, Reed advanced to BV and along came Macon and Randolph, who has remained in Philly and works at Temple in campus security.

He also guided Johnnie Conic from Buena Vista's 1989 repeat state champs, who now resides in Southfield, to play for Chaney at Temple.

"I was looking for a coach who would follow the same sorts of principles that we had set at Buena Vista for the three of them," says Reed, who also spoke in D.C. with Georgetown's John Thompson, who died in late August, five months ahead of Chaney, at age 78.

"Coach Chaney was the nicest man," Reed concludes. "The way people would see him in the games on TV, he was a fierce competitor, but he was beloved at home in Philadelphia."

John Chaney, a product of Bethune-Cookman University, began during the segregated era of the 1950s and was a pioneer who overcame racial bias. He eventually coached 24 years at Temple with a record of 516-and-253, and average of more than 21 wins per season. His teams achieved the NCAA tournament 17 times, with a highest finish the Elite Eight in 1988, when Macon and Randolph were freshmen. He twice was named national Coach of the Year.

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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 3



SCHOLASTIC



By **GREGORY ONEIL BAUGH II**

**B**lack History is really American History. The contribution of the Africans and African Americans were tremendous to

say the least and still rings loud with the power of productivity. Black History does not start with slavery nor does it ends with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The vastness of the Black History has a start that not many would agree and some would have denied, but never the less its true. The subject of Black History is made of the men and women, kings and queens, rulers and warriors and even the school age children that were denied access to an education or even a book, less they be beaten. Yet it has been dwindled down to the shortest month of the year to a few African American leaders. To just be brief the Hero's in Black history are the known and the unknown. Those that were lynch, murder, raped and burned alive and worst. Still after all the hardship these were bless with a strength and creativity and a will to live and become

part of the dream that other American's sung about and wrote about in the U.S. Constitution. The endless inventions that were stolen and credit given to the other but yet somehow they were able to remain strong and encouraged. I wonder if they read Joshua 1:6 To be strong and courageous. Many people of color thrived because of Gods power! They refuse to be bitter and began to fight the good fight of faith. To love their enemies to war with hope and to rest in Jesus. The rewards are on their way, some now others in glory. So I'm ask Black History, I say American history that leaves a wound on a country that still has not heal but seeps with a foul smell of injustice and fear. May God heal our hearts and save our souls as a nation and as a human race globally!



SAGINAW YOUTH  
**SPOTLIGHT**

# Trevaundre Rochaad Evans

By MB STAFF

Trevaundre Rochaad Evans, son of Terrilyn Evans and grandson of Ernestein Evans started as a drum major at Ruben Daniels Middle School when band director, Ms. Jeanine Coughlin, first asked Trevaundre to lead the band.

Later, he lead his highschool band for two years and after graduating in 2017 from Saginaw High School, continued his education at the illustrious Clark Atlanta University. In the midst of the semester and marching season, band director Dr. Tomisha Brock extended him an invitation to try out for drum major for the following season.

In May of 2018, Trevaundre was appointed as one of the assistant drum majors for the marching band. Following the 2018 fall marching season, he was then appointed as the head and only drum major for the 2019 fall marching season. During this time Trevaundre finished the season ranked by ESPN Undeafated as November's #1 Drum-Major for Div. 2 HBCU Marching Bands, as well as having several cameos in music videos.

He is a Business and Accounting major at the School of Business and plans to graduate Spring 2022.

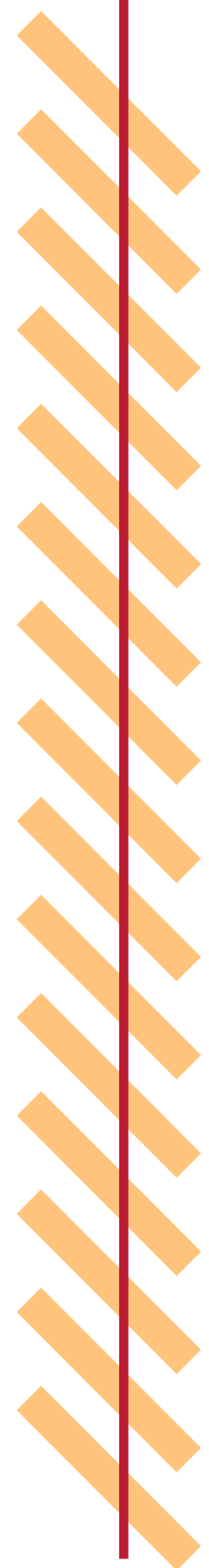


COURTESY PHOTOS



## PICS OF THE WEEK SAGINAW CITIZENS UNITED VISIT JAIL

On January 30, a group of members from **Saginaw Citizens United for Equity & Justice** toured the Saginaw County Jail to view jail conditions amid the rise of Covid in jails and prisons.



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*Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.***



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