



Volume 26, No. 4      *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*      January 29, 2014

# The Gammas' Fabulous First Friday



*Consuela Martin, Darnise St. Andrew, Jennifer Lewis, Mary Huddleston, Loretta McClain, Gloria Lewis, Stacey Blanton, Lashonda Horton*

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# Do The Right Thing

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
The Truth Contributor

*... The problem of ethical leadership is the failure of public leaders to resolve America's long history of shame and to address ... the human need for love, hope, and a sense of community.*

- Walter E. Fluker



I have a newfound admiration and respect for Al Stroucken, chairman & CEO of Owens-Illinois. Stroucken is also the newly elected chairman of the Board of Managers for Aspire, the community/business collaboration charged to support the success of every child in Lucas County from cradle to career by re-thinking how to best use limited resources to meet their needs.

Stroucken, last week speaking on behalf of the business community in particular and society in general, took responsibility for some of the social failures that plague our community. In an era where it is common to blame everyone outside of ourselves, not only was this the right thing to do, but Stroucken's comments also revealed authentic leadership at its finest.

Although the Aspire initiative is a challenging endeavor with the optimistic goal to transform long-term systemic failure, Stroucken's genius lies in recognizing the fact that it is impossible to legitimately talk about poverty or African-American social issues as if they are a one-dimensional phenomenon.

Indeed, the tendency to ignore the deeply embedded societal factors of race and inequality while simultaneously rationalizing bad public policy have helped to create a call for a new kind of authenticity to fill the leadership void in Toledo.

Who will do the right thing by dealing with the unresolved issues of the past and thereby set the tone

for authentic leadership?

Stroucken, through the Aspire initiative and courageous honesty, has made an ambitious beginning to use collaborative action, the strategic use of data and evidence based decision-making along with a shared community vision to hopefully achieve real outcomes that better the lives of all children in Lucas County.

I will be monitoring Aspire's processes and outcomes for inclusion and the ability to obtain meaningful results for our community.

The call to do the right thing and for authentic leadership also takes us to Lucas County government, which is without leadership at Lucas County Jobs and Family Services (JFS) due to the recent departure of former executive director, Deb Ortiz-Flores. The assistant director's position at JFS is also open, as is the comp administrator position at Lucas County Child Support Enforcement (CSEA).

The CEO position for the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is vacant as well. In addition, the contract for Dean Sparks, executive director for Lucas County Children's Services (CSB), is also up at a time when there is no current succession plan in place.

Will the Lucas County Commissioners show authentic leadership and do the "right thing" in the search to fill the vacant leadership positions?

The leadership void offers an opportunity for Lucas County to rethink

the way it delivers and conducts its social services responsibility to the community. Since CSB, CSEA and JFS share 66 percent in crossover clientele, one thought has been to consolidate these agencies under an administrator-led team rather than have a separate CEO and board for each agency.

In addition, the three separate fiscal offices, human resources departments and other infrastructure

such as three dissociated general legal counsels could save at least \$500,000 per year. Further efficiencies could also be obtained by consolidating the multiple tax levy requests that continually show up year to year under one combined health and human services levy.

How can this consolidation benefit the community?

First of all, the tremendous savings  
... continued on page 7

## Community Calendar

### January 29-31

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church: Prophet Walter Holmes of New York; 6 pm nightly: 419-246-1850 or [cozmtzionchurch.com](http://cozmtzionchurch.com)

### February 2-March 9

City of Zion, the Mt Zion Church: Sundays at 9 am; Life Institute Courses: Living Better, Fight Like a Man

### February 5

Forum Engaging Men: Breakfast and sign in - 8:30 am; Forum - 9 to 11:30 am; Educational Service Center; Guest speaker Rus Funk, founder and executive director of MensWork: Eliminating Violence Against Women, Inc - a Louisville, KY organization: 419-244-3053 ext 221 or Ohio Domestic Violence Network

### February 11

Glass City Toastmasters: 5:30 to 6:45 pm; United Way Greater Toledo: <http://glasscitytoastmastersclubs.org>

### February 12

Abundant Life Ministries: "Straight Talk;" From a woman's perspective; 7 pm; candid conversation on various topics - communication, finances, healing and the triumph of relationships: 419-382-1300

### February 19

Abundant Life Ministries: "Straight Talk;" From a man's perspective; 7 pm; candid conversation on various topics - communication, finances, healing and the triumph of relationships: 419-382-1300

### February 25

Glass City Toastmasters: 5:30 to 6:45 pm; United Way Greater Toledo: <http://glasscitytoastmastersclubs.org>

### March 7

Toledo District of FGBCF International "Fire on Friday;" City of Zion Campus; 7 pm; Guest speaker Bishop Joseph Walker III of Nashville: **419-246-1850**

### April 9-11

City of Zion, The Mt. Zion Church Conference 2014: "Let's Go Higher;" Toledo Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Intercessory Prayer Conference; 6:30 nightly; Guest - Bishop Duane Tisdale, Pastor Kim Davis, Bishop William Murphy: 419-246-1850

## The Sojourner's Truth

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Becky McQueen - Business Manager  
Folasade Oladokun - Office Manager

Artisha Lawson - Reporter  
Carla Leonard - Social Editor  
Michael Hayes - Entertainment Critic  
Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz - Webmaster  
Kathy Sweeny - Graphic Designer

### A Certified MBE

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# Rep. Ashford: Job Numbers Continue to Reflect Tale of Two Ohios

*Middle-class Ohioans still waiting on Kasich's 'Ohio miracle'*

Last week's state job numbers showed that 31,000 more Ohioans are out of work than at this time last year. House Democratic Whip Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) released the following statement in response to the update on Ohio's stalled economic recovery:

"While Gov. Kasich claims that 'Ohio is going in the right direction,' the jobs numbers continue to illustrate the

negative consequences of his misguided economic policies. Hundreds of thousands of unemployed Ohioans are not experiencing the 'Ohio miracle' that Gov. Kasich touts as he continues to cut taxes for the wealthy. It seems that Gov. Kasich and the GOP leadership are living in a different Ohio than the middle-class Ohioans that continue to wait for the economic recovery to come to our state."

# Rep. Ashford Announces Over \$2M for Local Public & Private Projects

*State funds awarded to University of Toledo & local minority-owned business*

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced this week that the state has released over \$2 million to The University of Toledo and Let's Play School Family Child Care, LLC, a minority-owned local business.

The University of Toledo's Campus Energy Cost Reduction project received an award of \$1.9 million. The project, which involves numerous buildings across all three campuses, will replace outdated energy systems with up-to-date, efficient lighting and temperature control measures. Current building energy systems were installed between 1970 and 1990 and are outdated by current standards.

"Frigid temperatures like we've had this winter are a reminder of how important it is to invest in energy-efficient projects," said Ashford. "Not only will these improve-

ments drastically reduce UT's energy consumption, but they will lower the university's overall utility costs, making the most of taxpayers' and students' money."

Additionally, a \$70,000 Minority Business Direct Loan was awarded to Let's Play School Family Child Care, LLC in Toledo. Let's Play School intends to purchase a former church building and transition from a home daycare to a full-service child care center. As a result of the project, Let's Play School will create four new full-time jobs with average hourly wages of \$9. The Minority Business Loan Program provides fixed, low-interest rate loans to certified minority-owned businesses that purchase or improve fixed assets and create or retain jobs.

"Studies show that minority business leaders are less likely to



Michael Ashford

receive small business loans from banks, so public support of certified minority-owned businesses, like Let's Play School, ensure that economic development opportunities are available to entrepreneurs from all backgrounds," said Ashford.

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# Aspiring Minority Youth Conference Speaker Empowers Audience

By Artisha Lawson  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Aspiring Minority Youth Conference has connected audiences comprised of parents, group leaders and local youth, with professional speakers who focus on the elements necessary to inspire minority youth of Toledo.

On January 25, 2014 the 30th annual conference, utilized the theme, "Social Justice: Understanding Its Past, Living Its Present, Creating Its Future" and was held at The University of Toledo Student Union. Over 300 individuals attended, in spite of serious weather conditions.

Office of Excellence and Multicultural Student Success Director David Young explained the theme's importance that was outlined in the conference booklet, "Our theme

this year ... focuses on how critical it is that young people begin to understand they are not the future, but our present and must expect the mantle of leadership in the area of social justice that elders pass to them."

Alexis Means of 13 ABC Action News served as mistress of ceremony. The conference opened with the National Anthem, a moment of silence to honor Nelson Mandela, official greetings from elected officials and community leaders, a musical selection Freedom Song that was performed by UT Gospel Choir and a keynote address by featured speaker Diane Nash.

Nash, a renowned civil rights and peace activist, outlined the path to create social change, and presented

a definition of demonstrations and non-violent resistance. "Demonstrations focus on community problems. Resistance, a more hardcore method, takes on an unjust system," said Nash. Resistance examples: non-payment of taxes, and work stoppage.

"Protests say I don't like or we don't like an action or activity. Non-violent protest means you start where you are and work through a process until you reach the objective. Realizing that action strategy could also be included to reach the objective," shared Nash.

Immediately following the featured speaker, Young opened the floor for audience questions and then presented Nash with an appreciation gift. "I accept this on the behalf of thousands. I couldn't have done this by myself, many were responsible for the movement, and many sacrifices were greater than mine," stated Nash.

"These students will never be the same," said Young while students and parents prepared for the second half of the conference. The second portion separated students from par-

ents and focused on empowerment exercises. The breakout sessions were moderated by volunteers and experts in their fields.

The Office of Excellence and Multicultural Student Success and UT Joint Committee collaborated with sponsoring organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.; the Coalition for Quality Education; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.; NAACP Youth Organization; the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; Toledo Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

In addition to the sponsoring organizations the 2014 conference sponsors were: The Andersons, Inc.; BASF Corporation; Buckeye Cablesystem and The Blade; Fifth Third Bank; Jack & Jill of America, Inc; Lathrop Corp, Paramount Advantage and Promedica Health System, Inc.

The 31st annual conference is scheduled for January 31, 2015.



Guest Speaker Diana Nash



Max McCormick asking guest speaker a question



UT Excel students



David Young and Diana Nash

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# YouthBuild Graduates Its First Cohort

Special to The Truth

Timothy Smith said he doesn't know what he'd be doing today if it weren't for the YouthBuild program that he completed and from which he received several certificates that can help him find a job.

Smith is one of 14 Toledo youth who sought assistance with employment skills training in the construction industry completed their requirements and graduated from the YouthBuild program on January 24. In fact, Smith was so inspired by his accomplishments in the program that he has applied to college and hopes to be enrolled by the fall.

Tobias Abernathy, Jasmine Crutchfield, Jayvon Emanuel, Chelsie Garrett, Danny Gray, Jessica Hines, Justin Jeko, David Mosher, Jerome Ramsey, Jimmie Ridley, Janiceann Rowlett, Smith, Chauncey Wilburn, and Jovon Williams received their certificates of completion together with several other certifications. Of the 14, seven earned their GEDs while the others are still working on achieving that milestone.

"The culture of the YouthBuild program is more a family environment than one of a workplace," said Jeffrey Bradish of First Merit Bank. "These adults are amazing. They have shown that they are taking steps to have a bright future. I have seen their growth."

First Merit Banks is one of the partners of the YouthBuild program.

The youth participants spent their time in the program learning about carpentry, plumbing, painting, facilities maintenance, and some masonry. They also participated in several community service projects as means of understanding how giving to the community enhances their individual growing process.

In addition to their certificate of completion, five special awards were presented. The Construction Award went to Danny Gray, Tim Smith received the Leadership Award while David Mosher earned the Most Improved Award and Jimmie Ridley earned the Community Service Award. The Education Award was presented to each of the seven par-



ticipants who earned their GEDs. A special staff award was presented to Justin Jeko for his effort to overcome all the obstacles he hurdled as he worked his way through to completion of the program.

"This program was a life-changing experience for me," Chelsie Garrett said. "I learned that you just have to have the determination to keep at it, and I did not have that before."

Garrett's mother, Elaine Garrett, and sister, Charise McGee, both said they were incredibly proud of Chelsie's accomplishments and her desire to change her life.

"She has come a long way," Elaine Garrett said. "I am so extremely proud of her."

Participants also received certificates in CPR/First Aid training, completed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour course, and a leadership certificate in the Six Pillars of Character leadership.

YouthBuild, a federally funded program, is operated in partnership with United North, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Northwest Ohio Construction Education Center, and 10 other local organizations.

Currently, a second class is in session. For more information on how to join a class, call John Page, Program Specialist at 419.243.8840.

## WGTE FM and TV Celebrate Black History Month with "Moments of the Movement," "Toledo Stories" and New Specials

WGTE Public Media marks Black History Month 2014 with a daily series on WGTE FM 91 and a new one-hour

radio documentary, as well as two acclaimed "Toledo Stories" documentaries and three new specials on WGTE TV.

**Black History Month Highlights on WGTE FM include:**

**MOMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT: "Civil Rights and Change in America"**

Weekdays at 7:35 a.m. during NPR's "Morning Edition" and weekend mornings at 8:35 a.m. during "Weekend Edition," February 1 through 28, 2014.

Each day, listeners will take a remarkable journey as foot soldiers and leaders from the Civil Rights Movement tell their consequential narratives and testimonials.

In October 2010, the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African History and Culture embarked on a mission to capture a rich and detailed history of our nation's Civil Rights Movement. They collected hundreds of hours of never-before-broadcast video and audio recordings of the personal histories and testimonials of individuals – many of whom are unheralded – who participated in the movement. The result is "Moments of the Movement" – 28 inspirational segments that help listeners better understand and appreciate the sacrifices made to raise our nation to new heights of equality.

**CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA: "Seneca Falls, Selma, Stonewall and Beyond"**

Friday, February 28, 2014, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Charles Dutton, this one-hour radio special examines the relevance and meaning of civil rights in the 21st century and the relationship between the Civil Rights Movement and the efforts of

women, other people of color and the LGBT community to expand our traditional definitions of equality. Like "Moments of the Movement" it features first-person narratives culled from hundreds of hours of never-before-broadcast video and audio footage to provide a rich, detailed history of the nation during an important and tumultuous period.

**Black History Month Highlights on WGTE TV include:**

**TOLEDO STORIES: "The African Americans"**

Thursday, February 6, 2014, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Viewers will learn about Ella P. Stewart, the first practicing black pharmacist in the country; LeMaxie Glover, a nationally-recognized sculptor who taught art in the Toledo Public Schools; and Art Tatum, the legendary jazz musician from Toledo. The program includes recollections from more contemporary African American leaders.

**TOLEDO STORIES: "Undeclared: The Chuck Ealey Story"**

Thursday, February 13, 2014, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

This Emmy Award-winning film profiles Chuck Ealey, the famed University of Toledo quarterback, whose record of victories still stands today. The documentary also captures the mood of a community and nation in the 1960s and 70s.

**POV: "American Promise"**

Monday, February 3, 2014, 10:00

... continued on page 7

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# Kent Branch Library Public @ccess Center and The Art Tatum African American Resource Center Celebrate Black History Month

The Kent Branch Library Public @ccess Center and The Art Tatum African American Resource Center observe **Black History Month** with several programs that are free and open to the public.

The annual observation of Black History Month was originated in 1926 by African American historian **Carter G. Woodson**, as "Negro History Week." Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, two

Americans who Carter believed greatly influenced the lives of black Americans.

Discover more about Black History Month at the Kent Branch/Tatum Center events below:

**Saturday, February 1**

2-3:30 p.m. - The Art Tatum African American Resource Center at Kent Branch presents **From Whence We Came ... Again**. Local History and Genealogy librarian/historian **Donna Christian** will conduct

a workshop that provides useful tools and strategies for African-Americans interested in tracing their roots. The program builds upon The Tatum Center's 2012 *Whence You Came* workshop. Registration is requested, please call 419.259.5340.

3:30pm – Kent Library & The Tatum Center are co-hosting a reception to kick off an art exhibit that will be displayed throughout the branch. This mixed media exhibit will include paintings, masks, ceramics and stencil drawings. It will feature the works of local African-

American artists **Novarro Gibson, Alice Grace, Ameldia Mays and Ron Jamison**. (The exhibit is scheduled on view in February and March).

**Saturday, February 15**

2 p.m. - The Tatum Center presents *Brother Outsider*, a film/documentary on civil rights hero and strategist **Bayard Rustin**. Rustin is credited with organizing the historic 1963 March on Washington. A discussion will follow the film lead by Tatum Board member **Eugene Washington**.



*Textured mix-media quilt by artist Alice Grace*

**Perryman... continued from page 2**

could be used to augment programming and invest resources more equitably in interventions that actually get positive and relevant community outcomes rather than merely documenting the number of clients served as in the past.

But also, this leadership void provides an opportunity for the County to do the right thing by bringing in leaders with fresh energy and a different perspective by placing the

**Black History... continued from page 6**

p.m.-12:00 a.m.

"American Promise" spans 13 years as Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, middle-class African American parents in Brooklyn, New York, turn their cameras on their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun, who make their way through Manhattan's Dalton School, one of the most prestigious private schools in the country. Chronicling the boys' divergent paths from kindergarten through high school graduation, this intimate documentary presents complicated truths about America's struggle to come of age on issues of race, class and opportunity. Winner, U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award, 2013 Sundance Film Festival

**AMERICAN MASTERS "Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth"**

Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00-10:30 p.m.

Most famous for her seminal novel *The Color Purple*, writer/activist Alice Walker was born February 9, 1944, into a family of sharecroppers in rural Georgia. She came of age during the violent racism and seismic social changes of mid-20th-century America. Her mother, poverty and participation in the Civil Rights Movement were the formative influences on her consciousness, becoming the inherent themes in her writing. The first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Walker continues to shine a

"right" candidates in leadership.

Seldom, do the "contestants of choice" for leadership in Toledo include qualified voices of historically marginalized communities. However, look for the County to bring in Alan Bannister to augment the trend in new leadership that began with the hiring of Lucas County Administrator Laura Lloyd-Jenkins.

Bannister, well connected statewide and nationally but underappreciated by the D. Michael Collins administration, is expected to lead

light on global human rights issues. Her dramatic life is told with poetry and lyricism,

and includes interviews with Steven Spielberg, Danny Glover, Quincy Jones, Howard Zinn, Gloria Steinem, Sapphire, and Walker herself.

**INDEPENDENT LENS "Spies of Mississippi"**

Monday, February 10, 2014, 10:00-11:00 p.m.

View the story of a secret spy agency formed during the 1950s and 60s by the state of Mississippi to preserve segregation and maintain white supremacy. Over a decade, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission employed a network of investigators and informants, including African Americans, to help infiltrate the NAACP, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). They were granted broad powers to investigate private citizens and organizations, keep secret files, make arrests and compel testimony. The program tracks the commission's hidden role in important chapters of the Civil Rights Movement, including the integration of the University of Mississippi, the trial of Medgar Evers and the KKK murders of three civil rights workers in 1964.

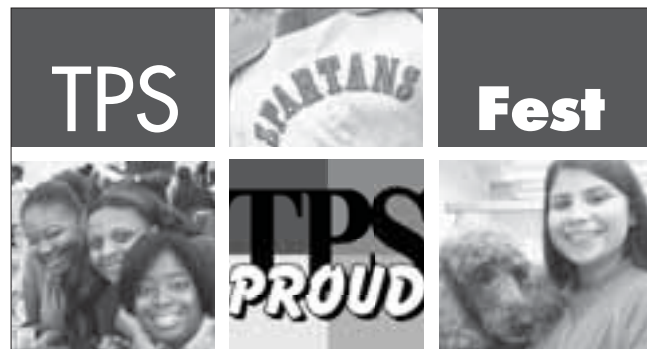
For more information: *Jamie A. Pierman, 419-380-4646 or jamie\_pierman@wgte.org*

Community Engagement and Outreach for Lucas County.

With all of the leadership roles to fill in Toledo, its time to acknowledge the absence of the African-American presence in local configurations of power and do the right

thing by filling leadership vacancies the right way rather than the same old, same old redundancy of the past.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman at [drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org).



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# Ford Revives Holiday Celebration

Toledo City Councilman Jack Ford's Holiday Celebration held December 29 at Club Evolution. The event was presented by Citizens with Ford and featured a live performance by the KGB Band.



Alan and Barbara Konop



City Councilmen Larry Sykes and Theresa M. Gabriel



Michelle and David Fleetwood



Darryl and Kenyetta Jones



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Helen Cooks, Ph.D, John Coble and Brenda Hill



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Talmadge Linkes and Lola Torres



Tina and Ivan Evans



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# Rev. Cecil Jerome Graham Installed as Pastor at True Vine

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

In September 2000 Cecil Jerome Graham accepted God's calling to the ministry. He spoke with his pastor, Rev. Cullian Hill, D.Min, of Detroit's Greater Concord Mis-



*Standing: Deacon Starks, Deaconess Cheers, Mother Bell, Sister Gaston, Mother Stinson, Deaconess Baker, Deaconess Frazier, Trustee Byrd, Deacon Frazier  
Seated: Rev. Graham and Deacon Frazier*



*Standing: Deacon John Baker, Sis. Bellzora Duhart, Bro. Jimmie Hart, Sis. Rosemary Dunn, Trustee Jeannette Byrd, Deacon Nathaniel Frazier  
Seated: Rev. Cecil Jerome Graham and Deacon Robert Bowie*



sionary Baptist Church, for advice and for confirmation of that calling.

"Everything I see has a sermon to it," Graham told Hill. "There's

a message in everything I see." That was exactly what Hill needed to hear and in June 2001, Graham delivered a trial sermon at Greater Concord after being named associate pastor of the church.

In July 2006, Graham accepted a position of associate minister in his Toledo hometown at Indiana Avenue MBC and worked with Rev. John E. Roberts, D.Min, for the next seven years until he was named pastor of True Vine MBC in November 2013.

This past Sunday, January 26, 2014, Graham was officially installed as True Vines pastor and his mentors, Hill and Roberts, were there to give the ceremony a boost. The installation's theme was "Feed My Sheep" from John 21:17.

Roberts delivered the service's statement of purpose and Hill delivered the afternoon's ser-

mon. A host of other church men and women also participated in the celebration. Rev. Roy McElya, associate minister at Indiana Avenue and Rev. Jerry Boose, pastor of Second Baptist, conducted the readings.

Rev. F. Alexander Sheares, pastor of First Baptist of Rossford, brought the Charge to Pastor; Rev. Sylvester Rome of Tabernacle MBC and president of the Baptist Ministers Conference brought the Charge to Church Membership; Rev. Bobby Welborn, pastor of Charity MBC led the prayer of installation and Rev. Willie Perryman, D.Min, pastor of Jerusalem MBC delivered the benediction.

Presentations were made by Sister Audrey Starks and Mother Mattie McCallister; felicitations by Sister Rosemary Dunn of True Vine, Deacon Leroy Bates of Indiana Avenue and Sister Renae Williams of Greater Concord.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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10:00am - Noon

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# AKA's Serve Community on MLK Day

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter members served the community by volunteering at the MLK Kitchen for the Poor where Harvey Savage is the executive director.

The Martin Luther King Jr. celebration was held at the Lo Salem

Baptist Church January 20, 2014 beginning with service at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker was the former president of the Toledo Chapter of the NACCP, Rev LeRoy A. Williams.

Following the service a full-course meal was prepared and served to community members from 12:00-

1:30 p.m. Over 160 individuals were served, 80 percent were males and 15 percent were females and five percent were children. The events were free and open to the public.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. ZAO Chapter volunteered to assist with this community service for the day to honor Martin Luther King

Jr. AKA members who participated were Katina Johnson, president; Margaret Huntley, vice president; Donnetta Carter, connection chairman; along with Deborah Washington, Ed.D; Na'Tasha Nunn; Zyisha Bailey; Sheila Brown; Frances Collins, Ed.D; Pamela Green-Jones; Jacky Brown; Morgannia Dawson; Leola Green Haynes and Mary Beal.



## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Morning Worship Service**  
Sunday, February 9, 2014  
11 a.m.

Historic Third Baptist Church  
402 Pinewood

**"Counting Our Blessings"**

**Yanick Rice Lamb, Professor**  
Howard University  
Interim Assistant Chair  
Department of Media, Journalism & Film  
Co-founder, [FierceforBlackWomen.com](http://FierceforBlackWomen.com)



Pastor Savage & AKA Pres. Katina Johnson



Sheila Brown & Katina Johnson



## “I AM” Series Part 2: MLK of Service

Norris 'Elevated Thinkin' Finley and Amelia Gibbon hosted part two of the I AM series January 20 at the Collingwood Arts Center. During part one, the adults discussed the complicated issue of the image of black women and how it has reached its current state.

Part two focused on youth and how our decisions as adults to support these negative images impact them. The event's dialog centered around questions such as: How the negative image of black women in music, pop culture and the media influences and affects our youth? How are the adults contributing to the negative portrayal of black women in music, pop culture and the media? What is the impact of fathers on their daughters.

The “I AM” series is a number of forums that were birthed from the “I AM” video created by Toledo's own neo-soul group IndiSoul REY ([www.indisoulrey.com](http://www.indisoulrey.com)). I AM is a tribute to black women, letting them know that they are beautiful in the state in which they were naturally created.



Norris Finley and Amelia Gibbon

## Ohio Department of Health Announces Flu Activity in Ohio is Now Widespread

### *ODH Stresses Still Time to Get Influenza Vaccine*

*Special to The Truth*

Influenza activity is now widespread in Ohio, meaning that there are increasing reports of influenza-like illness in more than half the regions in the state, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced today. During this flu season, which started in October and likely will continue into spring, 833 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported to ODH. The highest number of such hospitalizations has been reported in northeast and east central Ohio but activity in other parts of the state is quickly increasing. At this time during the 2012/2013 flu season, 1,922 hospitalizations had been reported. No pediatric fatalities have been reported this season in Ohio.

“Because the flu virus is now widespread throughout Ohio, immunization is all the more essential,” said ODH Director, Dr. Ted Wymyslo. “Immunization is the safest and most effective way to fight the flu so I encourage all Ohioans who have not already done so to get vaccinated today.”

Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Although most people fully recover from the flu, a small portion of people do experience severe illness (like pneu-

monia and respiratory failure), and sometimes the flu can be fatal. Anyone who becomes ill with the flu and is pregnant, is younger than five years of age or is elderly, has an underlying medical condition or experiences a particularly severe form of the illness should contact their healthcare provider immediately. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine experts recommend that everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year.

Most of the flu circulating in Ohio is the H1N1 strain from the 2009 influenza season, which is now considered a commonly circulating seasonal influenza strain. This strain disproportionately affects young and middle-aged adults. Fortunately, H1N1 is one of the flu strains included in this year's vaccine.

While vaccine provides the greatest protection against the flu, other effective ways to reduce the spread of illness include: washing hands frequently, or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer; covering coughs and sneezes with tissues, or coughing or sneezing into elbows; avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth; and staying home when sick and until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.

Flu vaccine is available at most healthcare providers' offices, local health departments and retail pharmacy chains. For more information on influenza, including where to find vaccine, visit [www.flu.ohio.gov](http://www.flu.ohio.gov).

Study Hour, Toledo Chapter of The Links Incorporated and  
The University of Toledo present

## KICKOFF CELEBRATION

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**Yanick Rice Lamb**

Howard University, Department of Media, Journalism & Film

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# Senator Brown Introduces Bill to Increase Calamity Days

Special to The Truth

This week, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) introduced legislation to increase the number of school calamity days in response to recent severe winter weather conditions across Ohio. Senate Bill 269 would add three calamity days to the current limit of five.

"Ohio has experienced particularly harsh weather this winter which has caused many schools

within my district and across Ohio, to use or exceed their five excused calamity days already this year," stated Senator Brown. "The need to make up multiple school days causes scheduling, budgetary, and other concerns for school administrators, teachers, and families alike."

Senate Bill 269 would provide similar additional options for community schools which are already

on a minimum hour scheduling structure.

"Although classroom hours remain important, it is crucial that we allow school administrators to focus on safety as districts across the state continue to deal with extreme winter conditions," added Brown.

The bill has an emergency clause to make it effective for the current school year.

# Ohioans Urged to Take Precaution Against Cold Weather

*Keeping Your Family & Your Neighbors Safe in Extreme Temperatures*

Special to The Truth

Ohioans are being urged to take preventive action against the upcoming extreme cold-weather conditions by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Department of Health. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency has already contacted all local partners and is ready to assist in the event of any power outages.

Since December 24, the Ohio Department of Health has learned of 37 emergency room visits related to cold exposures, hypothermia or frost bite. They will continue to closely monitor similar visits over the next several days as well as emergency room visits due to carbon monoxide exposure.

Although staying indoors as much as possible can help reduce the risk of car crashes and falls on the ice, you may also face indoor hazards. Many homes will be too cold—either due to a power failure or because the heating system isn't adequate for the weather. When people must use space heaters and fireplaces to stay warm, the risk of household fires increases, as well as the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### Check on your neighbor:

- Ohioans are urged to check on their neighbors

as temperatures across much of the state are expected to dip into the negative double-digits. Ohioans should get in touch with friends, family and loved ones, and help spread the word about how to stay safe in the extreme cold.

- Learn how to best help older Ohioans in your neighborhood with these tips from the Ohio Department of Aging.

#### Follow these important steps to protect yourself, your family and your neighbors:

- Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and do not leak flue gas into the indoor air space.
- Never use a charcoal or gas grill indoors—the fumes are deadly.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Keep as much heat as possible inside your home.
- Check the temperature in your home often during severely cold weather.
- Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
- Eat well-balanced meals to help you stay warmer

#### If you must go outside:

- Dress warmly and stay dry.
- Wear a hat, scarf, and mittens.
- Avoid frostbite.
- If you have to do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly.

- Avoid walking on ice or getting wet.
- Notify friends and family where you will be before you go hiking, camping, or skiing.
- Avoid traveling on ice-covered roads, overpasses, and bridges if at all possible.
- If you are stranded, it is safest to stay in your car.

#### Be cautious about travel:

- Listen for radio or television reports of travel advisories issued by the National Weather Service.
- Do not travel in low visibility conditions.
- Avoid traveling on ice-covered roads, overpasses, and bridges if at all possible.
- If you must travel by car, use tire chains and take a mobile phone with you.
- If you must travel, let someone know your destination and when you expect to arrive. Ask them to notify authorities if you are late.
- Check and restock the winter emergency supplies in your car before you leave.
- Never pour water on your windshield to remove ice or snow; shattering may occur.
- Don't rely on a car to provide sufficient heat; the car may break down.
- Always carry additional warm clothing appropriate for the winter conditions.

#### Know the risks of extremely cold temperatures:

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body's stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

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# The Death Class: A True Story About Life by Erika Hayasaki

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Last year, you went to too many funerals.

There were too many days taken off work to attend wakes. Too much sitting Shiva, too many casseroles eaten in church basements, too much grief and too many friends lost. Even if it only happened once, it was too much.

Tragedies always make you think about your own mortality. Someday, yes, you're going to die. But as you'll see in *The Death Class: A True Story About Life* by Erika Hayasaki, you need to learn to live first.

As a journalist for several larger newspapers, Erika Hayasaki had seen plenty of death. She was at Virginia Tech after the shootings, had been on New York City's streets, had seen corpses, interviewed survivors; she'd even been close friends with a victim of domestic violence. And it began to bother her – a lot.

"I had become a journalist to try to explain... the world and its stories," she says. "But death's mercilessness and meaning, I could not fig-

c. 2014  
Simon & Schuster  
\$25.00 / \$28.99 Canada  
265 pages

class.

Dr. Norma Bowe agreed – but Hayasaki couldn't be just a journalist in the back row. She had to participate.

So Hayasaki spent a semester following The Death Class to morgues, autopsies, and a funeral home where the "sacred" happened. She took "field trips" to prisons, visited hospices, examined her own mortality and, as the one-semester project turned into a several-years-long friendship, Hayasaki got to know Bowe and her students.

She learned that Bowe, who is a consummate caregiver, wasn't just a teacher. Formerly a nurse, she was a mentor, advice-dispenser, calm presence, and advocate, seemingly always on the lookout for opportunities to make a difference. Bowe taught in prisons, redecorated hospices, supported a homeless girls' shelter, and helped found an organization that fosters change. She taught that life is good, especially if you can make it better for someone else.

ure out..." So when she heard about a college course taught by a popular, much-loved teacher in New Jersey, Hayasaki begged to be allowed to sit in on the

that might make you think it would be dark, depressing, or even a little bit maudlin, *The Death Class* is really anything but.

That journalism background is apparent in author Erika Hayasaki's writing, which is excellent: Hayasaki has a reporter's way of winnowing out the facts, the interesting stuff, small details, and tiny secrets that make us want to know more. She immerses us so well into the story of the class, students, and the professor that it's almost easy to forget we're reading. We become part of what's happening, complete with triumphs, gasps, and life-affirming inspiration.

This book is fascinating, a true pleasure to read, and I think that if you want

Something that puts life's purpose into perspective, this is it. For you, *The Death Class* is too good to miss.



Above all, she encouraged her students (old and new) to call her anytime, and she came flying when they needed her. She was there for them – and vice versa, when tragedy struck too close to home.

Though it has a title

**THIS IS A CALL TO THE COMMUNITY  
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Reverend LA Johnson has been the Pastor for the past 59 years of St. Mark Baptist Church. He along with the members lost their 111 year old historic church building in a devastating fire.

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Dr. Reverend John E. Roberts, Pastor

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# CLASSIFIEDS

January 29, 2014

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## INSTRUCTOR NEEDED

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Email: [hr@unisonbhg.org](mailto:hr@unisonbhg.org)

EOE

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY14-54, (Project # 5003-14-1799) for Health and Safety: Health Education Building - Fire Sprinkler Upgrade for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2014 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$65.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Dennis Costlow of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$135,000.00; Breakdown: Fire Protection: \$135,000.00.

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Send resume or apply to:

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1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Email: [hr@unisonbhg.org](mailto:hr@unisonbhg.org)

EOE



# Gamma Sorors Greet the New Year

The U.N.I.Q.U.E ladies of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Beta Phi Chapter, brought in the New Year with a "Fabulous First Friday" networking event, Jan 3 at Our Brothers' Place.

President Jennifer Lewis says the social networking event is their first of many and was an opportunity to come together to connect and socialize.

Gamma Phi Delta Inc. was founded in Detroit MI in 1943. February 20 by two sisters, Dr. Violet T. Lewis and Elizabeth Garner. Membership is open to women in all professions, including business-related positions, vocational occupations and young women who are still pursuing their educational goals as undergraduates.

Each year the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority gives away two \$1000 scholarships.



*Ladies of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Front row: Consuela Martin, Darnise St. Andrew, Jennifer Lewis, Mary Huddleston. Back row: Loretta McClain, Gloria Lewis, Stacey Blanton, Lashonda Horton*



*Brook Ware and Kia Wiggins*



*Joy Norwood with Maxine Crawford and Monique Rochelle Gayle*



*Clara Petty with Darnise St. Andrew*



*Loretta McClain, Susan Durant and LaShonda*



*Maurice Calhoun and Darnise St. Andrew*



*Stacey Blanton and Patrice Hutt*