



Volume 30, No. 5 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." October 29, 2014

The Candidates - 2014

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Black Womanhood: Pain and Possibilities II

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

I think black women have learned, more successfully than black men, to absorb the pain of their predicament, and to keep stepping

— Michael Eric Dyson



Valorie Burton is a bestselling author, speaker, and life coach – dedicated to helping individuals navigate life challenges. She is a regular guest on the TODAY show and has also appeared on the Dr. Oz Show, CNN, HLN and hundreds of other radio and television shows.

Burton recently appeared in Toledo on behalf of United Way's Women's Initiative to support a literacy effort in the city's most economically challenged neighborhoods. This week's column includes Burton's responses to the unique life challenges faced by African-American women and girls.

Perryman: I would like to talk with you a bit about the plight of black girls, and women, in America. I am particularly interested in your thoughts on the particular challenges where gender intersects with race, or class and how African Americans can effectively deal with the pain that often results from the collision of those elements.

Burton: I think as black females, we're not celebrated very much in our culture. And when we are it's often for the wrong reasons. And I like to look at it in this way: I think that we collectively have a lot of emotional – how would I say it? –

Perryman: Baggage?

Burton: Baggage is so negative. A lot of it is baggage, but it's even deeper than that. It is just what you deal with on an everyday basis, the consciousness of caring how people perceive you or whether you were treated fairly. It's being able to get over all of that. For example, like many women of color, especially black women, my parents taught me I needed to be two or three times better if I was to compete. And also, to not ever really expect to be judged on the same playing field, that it wasn't level, and that's just what it is. So, if you want to compete, and to succeed, you need to be two or three times better. And I accepted that at a very young age. That's a lot of pressure to take on as a child - to accept that you're not going to be accepted in the same way that your peers will. And so, emotionally, what that does to you, the pressure that that puts on you to know that somehow your very being isn't enough, that you constantly must prove yourself at a different level is a lot.

Now, those who don't get that message face even greater challenges, because then you don't even have the level of awareness of the issues you need to be concerned with. I think you can find stuff in a situation that's unfair, and you don't even necessarily understand why. I realize that in the environment that we're in, it is what it is. As African Americans we have to say, "Okay, this is what it is, now, how are we going to deal with it, overcome it?" And I think a lot of that has to do with helping young women get clear about their fears, as well as their vision; letting go of excuses, and blame, and recognizing that you have a

great opportunity in front of you. There might be a lot of work that needs to be done. But what can you do with what you have? And so that's a message that I don't think always gets said loudly enough, because of the frustration that we have that that's unfair, but can we change that it's unfair? I hate to say that it's unfair. On an individual level, we can change our response to it. And I think as a community, letting go of that blame in favor of, "Okay, so what can we do?" I think a lot of people don't like to talk about that. Those are some of my



... continued on page 13

Community Calendar

October 29

United Church of God Trunk-A-Thon: Hallelujah Night; 5 to 8 pm; Food and games: 419-810-6335

October 31

St. Philip Lutheran Church Trunk or Treat: 5:30 to 6:30 pm: 419-475-2835
Greater Faith Fellowship Church: Trunk or Treats: 6 to 8 pm
Braden United Methodist Church All Saints' Trick or Trunk: 6 to 8 pm; Activities
The Armory Church Harvest Festival: 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Games, crafts, food, pumpkin giveaway for the kids

November 1

New Hope MBC Youth Ministry "Youth Praise Extravaganza:" 4 pm; Singing, dancing, mime, spoken word, etc

November 2

New Hope MBC Open Door Quarter Musical Celebration: 4 pm; A Multitude of singing groups
Mt. Nebo 84 Church Anniversary: 4 pm; Guests Walk the Word Church and Pastor Tim Pettaway: 419-246-8561

November 14

United Church of God Church Celebration: 7 pm; Guest Pastor David Lunn of Detroit

November 15

Keys to the Kingdom Christian Fellowship: Missionary activists: 419-787-6031 or email@Avgin7@aol.com

November 16

United Church of God Celebration of Church Dedication: 10 am guest Levi Cyrus of Shreveport; 4 pm guest Rev. Robert Culp of First Church of Christ

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor
Marticia Hurst – Office Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter
Carla Leonard – Social Editor
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster
Kathy Sweeny – Graphic Designer
Jessica Crans – Layout

A Certified MBE

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The Sojourner's Truth Endorses These Local Candidates ...

State Senator Edna Brown, State Rep. Michael Ashford and State Rep Teresa Fedor, all Democrats, for re-election.

Sen. Brown is completing her first term as a senator from District 11; prior to that she spent 10 years in the state House. Rep. Ashford serves House District 44 and Rep. Fedor represents District 45.



Brown recently started the ball rolling on a bill that would limit the use of fertilizers that have contributed to the high levels of algae toxicity in Lake Erie. She has also been a staunch advocate for such causes as limiting the death penalty, healthcare and the wellbeing of children, worker' rights and criminal justice reform. She is the Senate's minority whip.

Fedor has been in the General Assembly since 2002. A former educator, she has led successful efforts in her advocacy against human trafficking and cyberbullying of schoolchildren.



Ashford, who is the minority whip in his chamber, is competing his second term in the House. He had served on Toledo City Council since 2002 during which time he was elected president by his colleagues.

Ashford has hit the ground running in Columbus, landing a seat on the very important House Finance Committee and getting elected to a leadership position.

These three experienced, well-connected Democrats have served this area well for years and deserve to be re-elected.

Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez

For the past eight years, Democrat Anita Lopez has been the Lucas County Auditor, after having served as Recorder and on the Toledo Board of Education.



During her tenure, she has successfully created a new department of Education and Outreach to serve as the public's initial point of contact for per-

sonal assistance and information; adjusted thousands of real estate parcels to more accurately reflect trends in Lucas County and to save home owners millions of dollars in taxes; greatly reduced staffing and costs in her office; increased the number of minority employees in her department and is set to unveil the next generation of AREIS, the online application that allows citizens to research their property information via the Internet.

Lopez deserves to remain in office in order to continue the outstanding service she has rendered to Lucas County citizens.

Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada

Democrat Carol Contrada is running for re-election. Currently the president of the Board of Commissioners, Contrada has been an advocate for economic development and job growth in the area, particularly through working with the entire northwest Ohio region cooperatively.



She has proven to be a reliable partner to her fellow commissioners, Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak, after years of turmoil within the board.

Jay Feldstein and Ian English for Judgeships

Not too many voters pay particular attention to the judges' races. Often, in fact, there is no race - incumbents are often not challenged in their re-election efforts.

This year, two seats on the bench are open: Common Pleas Judge Domestic Relations Division and Common Pleas Judge General Trial Division. For the first seat we recommend that voters elect **Jay Feldstein** and for the second, **Ian English**.

Feldstein, who has a diverse litigation practice, has a wide

range of experience in federal, state and appellate courts. His rating from the Toledo Bar Association is a total of 91 percent in the highly recommended and recommended ratings by his fellow attorneys. Lisa McGowan, his opponent, has a combined recommended rating of 82 percent from her colleagues.



English has been a Lucas County Prosecutor since 2001 and has served as an adjunct professor at The University of Toledo. He has prosecuted hundreds of cases involving every type of crime during his tenure as an assistant prosecutor. His colleagues at the Toledo Bar Association have recognized his abilities with a 88 percent highly recommend and recommend total rating. His opponent is the perennial candidate Mark Davis whose "not recommend" rating from fellow attorneys is a whopping 85 percent.



Carol Contrada

Lucas County Commissioner

Re-elect

- JOBS**
 - Coordinating Regional Economic Development plan for a strong economic future
 - Ensuring that our workforce is certified for business needs
- SUSTAINABILITY**
 - Fighting to restore Lake Erie and protect our local water supply
 - Established Northwest Ohio Food Council to support local producers and fight against hunger
- SAFETY**
 - Leading total review of Lucas County's criminal justice system to keep neighborhoods safe
 - Funded the Lucas County Sheriff's Addiction Resource Unit to fight heroin abuse

ENDORSED BY THE BLADE, LABOR, FIRST RESPONDERS, EDUCATORS & BUSINESS

- The Blade
- Greater Northwest Ohio AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, AFSCME, Northwest Ohio Building Trades, Teamsters, UAW
- Toledo Firefighters Local 92, Toledo Police Command Officers Association
- Toledo Federation of Teachers
- Leadership Fund of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Paid for by Friends of Carol Contrada, 6641 Sylvania Ave., Suite 8, Sylvania, OH 43560
Karen Poore, Treasurer

Election Day is November 4th

The Truth Endorses Issues 1, 7, 8, 9

Issue 1 is the Toledo City School District request for a 5.8 mills additional tax levy over a five year period. The district is seeking additional funding from home owners to restore transportation for students to the pre-crisis level of several years ago, to increase pay for teachers and principals, to increase services for gifted and special education students and to expand early childhood education offerings.

We have great faith in Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D, and his staff. We like the direction the district headed with such offerings as early childhood education, the Jones Leadership Academy, the elimination of middle schools (both from an academic and cost standpoint), for example.

While the most recent state report card did not show the district to its best advantage in either the "performance index" or "indicators met ratings," what was encouraging were the marks received for achievement in adding value and the fact that student population decline seems to have ended.

Vote FOR Issue 1

Issue 7 is a request from Lucas County Children Services for a 1.4 mill renewal and a 0.35 mill additional levy for a seven year period.

On any given day LCCS is ensuring the safety of 1,300 children – 80 percent of whom are under age 12; 55 percent under age five, 30 percent under age one and 20 percent preparing for adulthood.

For years LCCS has rendered stellar service to the citizens of Lucas County while faced with ever-dwindling financial resources – as are most public agencies.

The agency oversees foster families, facilitates adoption, case manage and collaborate with a host of other service providers in order to support its mission of protecting children and promoting families.

Vote FOR Issue 7

Issue 8 is a request by Lucas County Mental Health & Recovery Services for a 0.5 mill renewal tax levy for 10 years. It's a renewal of a levy originally passed in 1985. The agency's clientele is comprised of a disproportionately high number of African Americans.

Let's face it, there is no controversy about the size of the levy and it is a renewal, not a request for additional funds. The controversy with this levy is the 10-year length of the request and whether the agency will or can continue to be accountable over such a period of time. However, the MHRSB has always operated with 10 year levies, according to the agency, in order to effectively plan for the long-term stability of consumers and agencies.

Moreover, the three separate levies – which total 2.5 mills – are not concurrent. Every four years, the voters have an opportunity to reject one of the levies if the agency is seen not to be accountable.

The agency currently funds a number of community groups that are either African-American led or have a large African-American clientele such as TASC, New Concepts and UMADAOP (all led by African Americans).

Vote FOR Issue 8

Issue 9 is a Lucas County Senior Citizens request for a 0.45 renewal and a 0.15 additional, five year additional tax levy. The smallest request of the four is sought in order to maintain and expand services to the fastest growing segment of the population – senior citizens.

This levy will help agencies such as the Area Office on Aging to provide home-bound meal delivery, adult care, senior center services and transportation services

Vote FOR Issue 9

The Truth Endorses These State Wide Candidates ...

Vote Democratic!

The Democratic statewide candidates are Ed FitzGerald for governor, David Pepper for attorney general, John Patrick Carney for auditor, Nina Turner for secretary of state and Connie Pillich for treasurer. Their incumbent, Republican opponents are, respectively, John Kasich, Mike Dewine, Dave Yost, Jon Husted and Josh Mandel.

Collectively, the Republican administration has brought Ohio nothing but grief during this very long four-year period. We have seen budget cuts that have rendered



Nina Turner

local governments and agencies helpless to maintain services, opposition to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), opposition to gay marriage and restrictions on access to voting.

We could overlook some of this if Kasich had shown some semblance of being an effective job creator – sadly, he has not.

We are particularly distressed by the performance of Secretary of State Husted who has led the effort to restrict voting rights and Treasurer Josh Mandel, who has displayed nothing but contempt for the idea that government service should be for the benefit of all not just a small coterie of friends.

Ordinarily we would be loathe to ask readers to vote a straight party line but these Republican office holders leave us no choice.

Vote Democratic ... please!

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The Durant Factor

By Steve Flagg,
Guest Column

There are many of us in Toledo who admire and respect TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D. He along with his predecessor – Jerome Pecko, Ed.D - have done an excellent job of repairing TPS' reputation by re-establishing trust, integrity and honesty to TPS operations after a battering from overinflated and unfilled promises as well as efforts to manipulate district and school report card results through attendance scrubbing.

In Durant, TPS has an enthusiastic superintendent. He has arguably the best pedigree with a local flavor since Crystal Ellis. He was in my opinion the single most influential factor in the 2013 TPS renewal levy that passed with almost 64 percent of the vote. In the last decade, only the 2008 renewal levy has come close to garnering that type of support.

He is the best marketing tool TPS has to "sell" the upcoming \$66.5 M levy (\$13.3 M per year for five years). TPS officials know that from the polling and market research conducted and he is the centerpiece of this fall's levy marketing campaign tirelessly going wherever to deliver his sermon even though the Board handed him a very weak case.

Many will vote for the TPS levy this fall because of the relationships Durant has created and his demonstrated commitment to Toledo. Toledo is better because of his efforts and especially his work with minority youth.

But – and you knew one was coming – is the admiration, passion, energy and pride he brings to TPS and the superintendency reason enough to vote for a rather large new levy whose funds will be used for two primary purposes: restoring student bus transportation to pre-2008 levels and providing for teacher and administrator salary increases?

If all you had to do was bank on the goodwill, passion and energy of Durant, this would be an easy choice.

Before we vote based upon the "Durant Factor" we all have to ask if he can deliver on the promise of better student outcomes through passage of this levy.

The ability of the superintendent to affect change is hamstrung by two groups: the Toledo Board of Education and the Toledo Federation of Teachers.

The Board is a five member elected body. This board is responsible for all contracts and policies under state law. The superintendent has no vote and can only influence policy and implement board directives. Three of the current five members have already sought office beyond the Board. To win office in Toledo both funds and endorsements are critical and a major TPS union – the TFT – has been active on both fronts.

The Board is heavily influenced by the local Democratic Party in which the TFT has been a major player for years. In the last election, two past and still involved presidents of the TFT were on the screening committee for school board endorsements. The TFT has also been a major source of funds and volunteers for school board candidates. In last year's election, two TFT backed candidates received over \$18K (about 70 percent of funds raised) through the TFT and much of the remaining campaign funds came from individuals and organizations affiliated with the TFT.

Because of political ambitions and the dominance of the TFT in school board politics, the Board for the last 40 years has for all practical purposes ceded control of the district to the teachers union. It's so bad today that the superintendent has very little control over the most valuable asset a school district has – teacher quality in the classroom. Assignment of teachers is controlled by a seniority driven process in the TFT contract. Teachers have control over how students are assigned to classrooms. Further the contract inhibits the professional development process – a critical component in improving teacher quality and capacity – which contributes to a costly and ineffective system for improving TPS' most important resource.

The coup de grace is a past practices clause in the TFT contract that states, "The Board agrees not to adopt any other policies that would in any way negate or change the policies set forth herein. Past policies not amended or altered remain in effect. The

Board's Policies, Laws, and By-laws will be revised to conform with these negotiations." Anything ever agreed to by any past or current Board is policy and practice and any change requires union approval.

Durant's role is severely handcuffed by the unions and board in any effort to truly effect student outcomes through deployment of his greatest resource – quality teachers.

Can Durant effect change? Does he have a supportive board ready to take the hard steps necessary to move forward? Can he expect to win over union officials and implement suggestions such as those in the recent performance audit? Will the intended purposes of the levy proceeds actually result in better student outcomes?

Before you vote, think about those questions and don't let emotions overtake logic. We all want to support Durant but we all need to be active participants in supporting him rather than just stand on the sidelines if we ever hope to achieve superior student outcomes.

Steven Flagg is a community activist with more than 20 years of experience in education advocacy including monitoring Toledo Public Schools' policies, practices and operations. You can find more information on this subject and more at TPSinfo.com com or on Twitter @sgflagg.

FOR TPS
ISSUE 1

On November 4, 2014, please join these community leaders and organizations in supporting ISSUE 1 to keep the momentum going at TPS.

Anthony Outreach Ministries	Friendship Baptist Church Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir	Saint Mary's Baptist Church
Baptist Ministers Conference	Grace Community Center	Salvation Army, Northwest Ohio Area Services
Bethlehem Baptist Church	Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) Toledo & Vicinity	Scott High School Booster Club
Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo	Jerusalem Baptist Church	Second Baptist Church
Center of Hope Community Baptist Church	L.I.U.N.A. Laborers Local 500	United Missionary Baptist Church
Ella P. Stewart PTO	Lucas County Democratic Party	United Way of Greater Toledo
Elder Martin L. Johnson	Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy PTO	Warren AME Church
Evangelical Church of God	Mt. Nebo Baptist Church	YWCA of Greater Toledo
Frederick Douglas Community Center	New Covenant Baptist Church	UAW Toledo Area CAP Council

VOTE FOR ISSUE 1

CONTINUE OUR MOMENTUM

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE FOR SCHOOLS, BOB CLARK, TREASURER; 425 JEFFERSON, SUITE 542; TOLEDO, OH 43604

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Sponsors City Levy Forum

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce challenged organizers and executive directors leading the charge for pending November 2014 levy votes to address the community on October 24, 2014 at The University of Toledo.

The auditorium at Scott Park Campus was filled with levy supporters, non-supporters, community residents and activists.

According to the Lucas County Board of Elections 2014 General Election Summary: Issue 1 – Toledo City School District Tax Levy, 5.8 million additional for five years for current operation expenses; Issue 7 – Lucas County Children Services Tax Levy, 1.4 million renewal plus 0.35 million additional for seven years; Issue 8 – Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Tax Levy 0.5 million renewal for 10 years and Issue 9 – Lucas County Senior Citizens Tax Levy for 0.45 million renewal plus 0.15 million additional for 5 years.

Francis Dumbuya, PhD, provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation and research document outlining the economic development impact of education-related expenses for youth. "Education is important in order to participate with basic skills in the workforce," said Dumbuya. "Voters are skeptical about this levy for a number of reasons, for example, funds being used for other reasons like teacher and administration raises. [Toledo Public Schools] pay teachers a higher wage than other districts in our area. On the other side, if our kids keep failing then City Council and Toledo's Mayor will have difficulty attracting businesses."

Issue 1 levy supporters TPS Board member Robert Vasquez and TPS Chief Business Manager James Gant answered concerns and questions addressed from audience members and event facilitator. "This levy will support transportation for our kids. They need transportation. Not vot-



Ray Wood and Rev. Donald Perryman

ing for the levy will not help the community. The levy will also support computers. The district has operated on the same levy funds since 2001," explained Vasquez.

Issue 7 levy supporter Lucas County Children Services Executive Director Dean Sparks provided statistic data to leverage levy support, and then Larry Skyes shared personal insight. "Issue 7 is about our children, 12,000 kids receive services. We address various needs of our kids including mental," explained Sparks.

"Vote for Issue 7. I believe in financial responsibility and Dean Sparks is responsible. We deal with children that are beaten, bruised, molested, and so many other horrors. We do what we can, support us," explained Skyes.

Issue 9 supporter Billie Johnson, Area Office on Area regional director, encouraged attendees to support that levy. "Thank you for this opportunity. Issue 9 is a renewal and due to expanding our services, we are asking for additional funds. If the issue passes we can provide home bound meal delivery, adult care, in home services like bathing and socialization, and senior center services. We have provided 323 home bound meals, and 45,000 hours of transportation services among other services. Please vote for issue 7, 8, and 9," explained Johnson.

Honorary Levy 8 Chairman Ray Wood addressed the audience first, in support for the levy. "I personally dealt with mental health and recovery. I stand in support for Issue 8. Our community is in need of this, we need to rise up to support this issue. Without passage of Issue 8, services will be terminated."

Executive Director of Mental Health and Recovery Services Board for Lucas County Scott Sylak explained the history of the board and services provided. "Since 1945 we have provided funding to direct service providers. The direct service providers must make a good faith effort to incorporate our minority inclusion policy."

"The clients learn skills to maintain sobriety, which makes them less likely to get arrested, more likely to care for their kids, and have fewer emergency room visits," explained Rev. Donald Perryman, levy supporter.

The discussion surrounding Issue 8 focused on the length of time of this levy, 10 years instead of five years. Ohio House of Representative Michael Ashford spoke in favor of funding Mental Health and Recovery Services but not for 10 years due to inability to document accountability. "You want tax payers to take this bill for 10 years, and that's unfair. The board doesn't have enough respect to have forums before they ask for your money. I understand the services, but there were so many inaccuracies stated by Scott Sylak. I support the services, but where is the accountability? If the levy fails, the board can ask for another five year levy and services will not be terminated if the levy fails."

After the issues discussion the forum continued and provided Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada and her opponent, Kevin Haddad, an opportunity to address November voters.



Forum Attendees



TPS Board Member Bob Vasquez, TPS Chief Business Manager James Gant



VOTE FOR ISSUE 8

Renewal Levy, Not A New Tax.

Mental Health and Recovery

Please join these community leaders and organizations in supporting ISSUE 8, a renewal levy for the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board.

- Ray Wood, Levy Co-Chair
- The Toledo NAACP
- The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
- Pastor Cordell A. Jenkins, Abundant Life Ministries
- Pastor Cedrick Brock, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church
- Lucas County Democratic Party
- United Auto Workers
- Laborers Local 500
- United Way of Greater Toledo

Paid for by Citizens for Mental Health, 701 Adams St., Suite 800, Toledo, OH 43604
David Schlaudecker, Treasurer.

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene

The Purple Event on the River: Two Women, One Passion

By *Carla Yvette*
Society Editor

The Purple Event on the River, a Fundraiser for Second Chance, was held Saturday, October 18 at Forrester's on the River. Donnetta Carter and Cheryl Leonard pooled their passion for helping others and their love for bringing people together in an effort to raise money for Second Chance, a non-profit agency that offers comprehensive services to women victimized by prostitution and to girls who have been victimized by sex trafficking.

Said Carter, "It is my passion to advocate for all mankind and to make a change in someone life." She adds, "If I can make a change in one individual's life, that makes me happy. God has led me to this task, to utilize my potential and expertise and skill set along with being resourceful in the community".

Guest dressed in purple enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment from C.J. Manning & Company featuring Marcia Bowen, a silent auction, and a variety of vendors.

Why Purple?

"Not only is purple both of our favorite color," said Leonard, "it's also the color scheme of Second Chance. But more importantly purple signifies royalty and we wanted to instill that sense of royalty for the survivors after the ordeal they've gone through."

Steve Reamy served as emcee for the evening and Program Director Kizzy Williams and Recovery Support Specialist CDCA Michelle Moore addressed the crowd.

"It was important to us to take the gifting, influence and abilities we have and make a difference," said Leonard. "We are thankful for Second Chance and the work they are doing and so proud & honored to be a part of this event and extremely thankful for friends and sponsors for their supported and we look forward to doing The Purple Event again next year.



Donnetta Carter, Celia Williamson PhD, Professor of Social Work and Second Chance Program Director Kizzy Williams



Michelle Moore, Donnetta Carter and Kizzy Williams



Father and daughter Frank and Fanell Williams



Alicia Early and Madeline Thomas



Event Hostesses, Donnetta Carter and Cheryl Leonard



Marcia Bowen

RE-ELECT

ANITA LOPEZ

LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR

RE-ELECT ANITA LOPEZ LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR



Dear Lucas County Citizens:

On November 4th, I am asking for your vote to continue to serve you as County Auditor.

In my first two terms, I've put the taxpayer first. I have worked hard to ensure that your property values are fair and equitable. I transformed the office to provide excellent customer service and I have been a good steward of taxpayer funds by providing the same service with fewer people since 2007.

With your support, I promise to build on this foundation and continue to make Lucas County taxpayers my number one priority!

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene

Coterie A Circle of Friends 60th Anniversary Celebration

Coterie A Circle of Friends, and a circle of their friends, celebrated the group's 60th Anniversary on Saturday, October 18 in the swank surroundings of The Toledo Club. The group took the occasion to honor its charter members – Dora Garner, Clementine Sherman, Laura Palmer, Lillian Spaulding and Thelma Adams.

Coterie member Jonie Greene Jackson welcomed members and guests; Rev. James Willis, Sr. offered grace before dinner.

After the meal, Angeline Murry presented the club history, Laura Palmer and Shirley Crockett offered remembrance and Diana Minor led the recognition of the club's charter members.

The celebration ended with entertainment and dancing.

The committee members for the celebration were: Chairman Wanda Brown, Co-chairman Crockett, Linda Garner, Jackson, Minor, Murry and Palmer.



Sallye Miyara and Marie Bush



Dora Garner, Clementine Sherman, Laura Palmer, Lillian Spaulding, Thelma Adams



Lenora and Earl Bary

Vote November 4th



Jay Democrat
Feldstein
for Judge

Feldstein for Families

Paid for by Feldstein for Judge Committee, Thomas Jaffee, Treasurer
3166 N. Republic Blvd., Toledo, OH 43615



Coterie members



Toledo City Councilwoman Theresa Gabriel and son, Robert Gabriel, Sr.

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene

AKA's Fall Back to the 70's, 80's & 90's

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. held its Fall Back to the 70's, 80's & 90's party in conjunction with UT Alumni Weekend, Saturday Oct 25 at Holland Gardens Reception Hall. The event is held each year to raise money for community service projects and scholarships. Music was provided by DJ J-Roc.

... continued on page 11



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure

Sonya Jones: A Survivors' Story

I would first like to give God honor and praise for allowing me to live to tell my story. I was 31 years old when a lump was detected in my left breast. I was devastated. I called to set up an appointment with the doctor who ordered a mammogram and biopsy and the results were positive for breast cancer. I then met with a surgeon who laid out a plan of action.



Team Sonya Jones

As he spoke, the only thing I could hear was BREAST CANCER the rest sounded like I was in a Charlie Brown class room, wonk, wonk, wonk. I cried many tears and prayed with family and friends and decided that I was going to win this battle. I made the decision to have a lumpectomy and the doctor ordered chemotherapy, however, I became so sick from the chemotherapy and stopped going.

One year later during a checkup, the doctor discovered a lump in my right breast; they had to do an ultra sound just to see it. I was devastated all over

... continued on page 11

African American Leadership Caucus (AALC)

Invites you to

Turn up "Your Vote" Be Heard

VOTE

Saturday, November 1, 2014

1946 13th st.
Lucas County Early Vote Center
(at the corner of Woodruff and 13th st.)

Join us at 10am
for

Food, Fellowship & Music

Please come join us and vote early. Enjoy free food and entertainment as we embrace making a positive difference in our community. Come VOTE – "OUR futures rely on it." There is no cost for this event.

For more information please email aalc419@gmail.com or call 419-309-7549.

November 1st VOTE from 8am – 4pm
Bring state issued ID or Utility Bill to vote
Food provided from 10am - 4pm
November 4th last day to vote 2014 Election

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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NOVEMBER 8, 2014
10:00am - Noon

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Glad Federated Sponsors Scholarship Fundraiser

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Fine dining, entertainment and service describe the fifth annual October Jazz Breeze scholarship fundraiser dinner sponsored by Glad Federation. The October 19, 2014 event was held at Ramada Hotel in Toledo.

Mary Caldwell-Simmons delivered a warm welcome to all event guests, Larry Jones served as master of ceremony and Barbara Campbell provided the invocation. Vocalist Deborah Gardner serenaded guests. Glad Federation members acknowledged the scholarship recipients: Alaina Durden, Celeste Wade, Tamara Young, Taylor Johnson and Lauren Poellnitz.

Durden graduated from St Ursula Academy and is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University. "The Glad scholarship

was a great experience, because it allowed me to pay for books in college. I didn't expect that expense. I'm grateful for this opportunity." Alaina's mother Yolanda Durden accompanied her daughter to the reception and was also appreciative of her daughter's scholarship. "I'm so proud of Alaina. Glad has its hands in the community and acknowledges students and organizations that are working to make a change."

Glad also awarded a \$250 donation to community partners Beach House Family Shelter, Bethany House, Family House, and MLK Kitchen for the Poor.

"We received a \$250 donation which allows us to feed the community. We need every donation, the majority of our funding comes from individuals and organizations like Glad. We cherish every nickel and dime," explained MLK Kitchen for the Poor Executive Director Harvey Savage. "We also received a \$250 donation. These donations are important because only one third is federal funding. We provided over 18,000 meals and personal hygiene items last year. These services won't be possible without partners like Glad," said Tammy Holder.

Music was provided by Calvin Hughes and the Toledo Jazz Coalition featuring James Coleman, Al Hartfield, Tony Miller, Mike Miller, and John Cunningham.

Glad Federated members are: Leslie Poellnitz, president; Paula Williams, vice president; Gail Johnson, second vice president; Constance Coleman, secretary; Thelma Osbourne, assistant secretary; Lillie Palmer, treasurer; Deborah Jackson, financial secretary; Barbara Campbell, chaplain; Opal Bacon, historian; and members Mary Caldwell-Simmons, June Cross, Clenastine Hamilton, Barbara McGee, Joyce Phenix, and Janice Foster.

"I would like to thank Glad members and the community for supporting this event, that's why it's a success and provides an opportunity to support community partners and award scholarships," said Glad Federated President Leslie Poellnitz.



Art Jones of Bethany House. Leslie Poellnitz of Glad Federated. Renee Palacios of Family House. Tammy Holder of Beach House Family Shelter. Harvey Savage of MLK Kitchen



Glad members



Glad executive board with scholarship winner Alaina Durden (center)

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Race For The Cure... continued from page 9

again. I started thinking of my mother who passed away at the age of thirty-six from breast cancer and I thought I was going to die as well.

I talked to one of the pastors at my church and what she said stayed with me, "Girl you can live without breasts, you still have your LIFE!" Once again I decided on another lumpectomy. After telling my friends and family, everyone including the doctor begged me to finish chemo and I did.

I had eight rounds of chemo and I have been cancer free for 17 years. My advice to everyone dealing with breast cancer is to take it one day at a time, find your inner strength, courage and a positive attitude to make it through.



Survivor Barb Hampton



Sonya Jones, 17 year Breast Cancer Survivor



Team Barbie



Scott High Freshman Volleyball Team

AKA's... continued from page 9



Alexus Grimes-Trotter and Dorian Munday - AKA Fall Back



Iris Page-Jones with Karen Carlisle - AKA Fall Back



Ian English and Vallie Bowman-English - AKA Fall Back



AKA Fall Back Committee seated, Margaret Huntley, President Katina Johnson, Patrice McClellan back row, Damita Ramsey, Felicia



Deborah Barnett and LaDonna Joplin - AKA Fall Back



Ana Howard, Debra Fulton, Kristina Johnson and Andrea Price AKA Fall Back

VOTE FOR ISSUE 8 - NOT A NEW TAX -

The United Pastors for Social Empowerment and the following pastors formally support Issue 8 in the November 4, 2014 election:



- Dr. Donald L. Perryman, Center of Hope Community Baptist Church
- Dr. Duane C. Tisdale, Friendship Baptist Church
- Dr. Derek A. Arnold, Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Bishop Rance C. Allen, New Bethel C.O.G.I.C.
- Bishop Edward T. Cook, New Life C.O.G.I.C.
- Pastor Willie L. Perryman, Jr., Jerusalem Baptist Church
- Rev. Jon Michael Talbert, New Bethel C.O.G.I.C.
- Pastor Robert Bass, United Missionary Baptist Church
- Pastor Benjamin Green, New Covenant Baptist Church
- Captain Kevin Zanders, the Salvation Army, Northwest Ohio Area Services
- Rev. Robert Lyons, St. Mary's Baptist Church
- Pastor Joel Schutte, YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo
- Pastor Jerry Boose, Second Baptist Church, Holland, OH
- Elder Martin L. Johnson



Mental Health and Recovery

Vote for Issue 8. Renewal levy, not a new tax.

Paid for by Citizens for Mental Health, 701 Adams St., Suite 800, Toledo, OH 43604 David Schlaudecker, Treasurer

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Women's Retreat... continued from page 15



Patrice Hunt WWM Fashion Show



Sharon Calhoun, Gail Kimble and Beverly Murray with Rochelle Kimble - WWM Retreat



Jennifer Lewis and First Lady Lydia Arnold - WWM Retreat



Robin Chong and Norma Lewis - WWM Retreat

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Cynthia Brock and Leona Denton - WWM Retreat

Perryman... continued from page 2

thoughts around some of our racial issues.

Perryman: How do young women deal with the misogynist culture pumped out by the entertainment media?

Burton: When I look in the entertainment world, sometimes when I look at the political world, I'm not so sure that our role models are doing very well by our black girls in terms of the images that they see as being positive. I've done quite a bit of television and, in fact, had opportunities that have opened my eyes as to what goes on in our media. I was up for a show a couple of years ago on one of the major networks, not a cable network, and they wanted a black female. They wanted her to be a professional; they preferred a PhD, but they would take an Ivy League master's degree, but they wanted the neck rolling, finger-snapping, loud. I'm like, "So, let me get this straight, 'Y'all want a combination of Michelle Obama, and –

Perryman: Rachet. [Laughter]

Burton: Ignorant, rude, loud and over sexualized! Yeah, and that's what I'm saying. I was sitting in a room with the president of the network; this is what they were looking for. But this is not what they were looking for in the white counterpart. The truth is the media has options, but they choose the options that perpetuate the stereotypes, and then when we have young women who don't have strong parents, that are leading them, those become their role models of what they need to do, and who they need to be. As a community, I think we need to be more aware of that, step up, and make a difference for those young women who don't have role models, and are looking to media to tell them who they are.

Perryman: I noticed on your Website an endorsement of your work from T.D. Jakes, and also in your spiritual but research-backed approach, that you're a person of faith. Black women seem to fight for, and support black men who don't seem to support them.

Burton: Yes.

Perryman: How do women deal with patriarchal structures to which they contribute, whether you're talking about the civil rights movement, or in the black church, where women disproportionately support the church with their money and unpaid labor, but are absent in leadership.

Burton: Well, I think within the church there's a lot of varying opinions on that. I think we do need to serve, and I think we need to lead. On a personal and relationship level, I think we are going to have to widen our scope of what a good man is. Black women have been very loyal to black men, and I love black men. However, the fact of the matter, is the reason that we have this marriage gap is because the number of eligible black men to black women is a very low. And so, you have a lot of women who are just waiting, and waiting, and they have narrowed their scope, and I'm like, "You need to open up your options, if marriage and family is what you want."

Although it's been normal for black men to date outside of their race, it hasn't been for black women. For black women, that is going to have to change, otherwise what you're going to have is a lot of black women who are good women, who are very spiritual, faith-filled, and who would make great mothers and wives, but who are never getting married and have children.

Perryman: Talk about intra-fighting among women that occurs, perhaps, as a result of the tremendous competition for the few available black males?

Burton: Most issues of fighting, being stuck, etc., among women, is about fear. I have so many strong, close friends so I don't really relate. But I will say a lot of women have had the experience I had very young - of being taunted, and talked about negatively for not being black enough, or getting good grades, blah, blah, blah. I'd like to think that that stopped when I was in the fifth grade. When I go talk to young people they're having the same issues today. And it's a self-hate issue, because really what we're saying is we don't have a right to be many different things. All we have a right to do is sit with some sort of stereotype, and sometimes it comes out in that way. However, when we begin to operate out of love, and begin to see our own beauty, and stop allowing culture to define what that looks like, which takes a lot of self-reflection, I think that it's very easy to disarm a hateful woman. I don't know how you do that outside of a relationship with God, and understanding who you really are, and that you have a purpose, and that purpose is to uplift, and not tear down. But I know you do that with love. You do that by not reacting negatively to other women, but by responding with truth, with kindness. It's kind of hard to keep being angry with somebody that's being loving to you, and really when people are lashing out like that it's out of their own fear that they're not good enough; it's the pain.

Perryman: Let's conclude with some of your thoughts on the issue of

domestic violence.

Burton: Wow. Yeah. That's really about boundaries, and what you learn at a very young age about what's acceptable, and not acceptable, and what your value is. Unfortunately, with the breakdown of the family, not just divorce, or people never getting married, I think the statistic is like 32-33 percent of black children ever live with both of their parents. But, particularly when you have abusive situations, sometimes it's not the abuse you see, but the neglect and what that tells someone about their worth. It tells them that the very people who bore them are not interested in being in their lives.

So, domestic violence from my perspective is really an issue of self-worth, and when you build your self-worth you're going to have very clear boundaries about what is acceptable, and what is not, and the first time you see any inkling that someone might not respect you, or value you, you're done. There is no second chance. That's what I was taught. There is, in our community, a history of not talking about domestic violence just like there's a history of not talking about depression, or about incest, and other things, so it tends to be underreported in our community.

But ultimately, those women who leave and get out of those situations are the women who finally decide that they are going to value themselves, ask for help. It's not easy. It takes a great deal of courage to exit out of those circumstances. So, if we could help women to value themselves, more, then they won't even attract, or allow men into their lives who don't also value them. And there are signs someone's controlling; you fly off the handle very quickly, and a lot of times it's not something specific, it's just you know in your spirit, and you don't follow your instincts. And I think that's the biggest mistake all of us make, not just when it comes to domestic violence, but in a lot of different scenarios.

Perryman: Right. About following the spirit within.

Burton: Yeah. You know. You know that something didn't feel right; it didn't feel comfortable. So you keep moving forward, or you otherwise let somebody subject you.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Paid for by Committee for Children, Gordon Barr, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2202, Toledo, OH 43604

CLASSIFIEDS

October 29, 2014

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Order My Steps: Women With a Mission Retreat

By Jennifer Lewis
Special to the Truth

The Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1430 W. Bancroft Toledo, Women with a Mission (WWM) Ministry's Retreat was held the weekend of October 17. The theme for the retreat was, "Order My Steps," Psalms 119:133.

Friday and Saturday Night's activities were held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Ohio. On Friday night the sisters enjoyed a sit down dinner, fashion show (clothing sponsored by Chico's at the Franklin Park Mall with make-up provided by Mary Kay Representative Kellie Watkins and music by D.J. Ann J/Ingrid Lewis) and an inspirational word from Oakland

County Assistant Prosecutor, Lisa Harris.

The sisters woke up early in the morning for prayer, meditation and yoga lead by instructor Connie Martin. After breakfast and Saturday morning's devotional the sisters were split into two groups and enjoyed workshops entitled: "Stepping to an Irregular Beat" facilitated by Rev. Rosetta Haynes, Pastor, of Mount Hope Church and "Harmonious Steps" facilitated by Sis. Tracee Perryman of the Center of Hope Baptist Church

Ethel Scurlock, D.Min, pastor of First United Baptist in Batesville, MS and Alvis Grove Bap-

tist in Oakland, MS delivered the Word of God at Saturday's luncheon and Sunday morning's worship service at Bethlehem Baptist Church.

The women of Bethlehem donated new and gently used shoes to be given to the Sparrows Nest. The WWM ministry gave a special thanks to all who allowed God to order their steps by participating in this wonderful weekend: the facilitators, instructors, speakers, Alvin Jones, Jr. and BBC music staff, BBC Women's Day Choir and Ushers, all of the women of Bethlehem Baptist Church, friends of BBC and their Pastor Derek Arnold, D.Min.



Dawn Chong, WWM Fashion Show



Dawn Chong and Vell Blanton, Fashion Coordinator - WWM Retreat



Coni Gore, Amber Frieson holding Tyler Price and Dawn Chong - WWM Retreat



Diana Minor, Dee Mabrey and Staci Sturdivant - WWM Retreat



Women with a Mission Committee members, Staci Sturdivant, Lora Blanton, Eddy Mabry, Lydia Arnold, Diana A[1]. Minor, Jenifer Lewi



Guest Speaker Dr. Ethel Scurlock



Pamela King and Jackie Pery with Isabelle Walker and Cheryl Bush - WWM Retreat



Guest Speaker Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor, Lisa Harris

... photos continued on page 12

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The Wedding of Shereece La'Shelle and Jaron Lamar Jackson

Special to The Truth

Shereece La'Shelle and Jaron Lamar Jackson exchanged vows Saturday, October 18 in an intimate ceremony held in the home of Sandra and Gregory Wimberly Sr with Pastor Tim Pettaway, officiant.

Shereece La'Shelle and Jaron Lamar Jackson believe the Lord brought them together at the perfect time in their lives. Shereece chose the colors of purple and white for her wedding to represent Lupus awareness a disease she was diagnosed with at the age of 19. She has overcome many obstacles in her

life including a kidney transplant on April 9, 2014.

Shereece feels that God has truly blessed her especially with meeting Jaron a true man of God. They would like to thank all their friends and family who shared in their special day. Special thanks to Imagine Me Designs for turning a house into a beautiful and elegant wedding and reception dinner.

Sisters Deidre Kelly, mother of the Bride and Sandra Wimberly, owner of Imagine Me Designs teamed up to make the occasional

beautiful for the couple.

Imagine Me Designs is about taking the customers imagination and making it a reality. They offer a variety of services which includes decorations and floral arrangements, gift baskets, sympathy arrangements, and decorative wreaths for weddings and all party events. Visit their website www.imagine-medesigns.com to see the services they offer. The bride chose to incorporate fresh and silk flowers which gave her wedding decorations an elegant look.



Wedding party, Bride and Groom Jaron and Shereece Jackson, flower girl Diamond Harris, Bridal Party from top to bottom, Corey C



Jaron and Shareece say I Do



Bridal Party, Garnett Cowell, Sherita Kelly, Diamond Harris, Bride and Groom, Shereece and Jaron Jackson, Pastor Frederick Coog



Bridesmaids, Sherita Kelly and Garnett Cowell



Mother of the Bride, Deidre Kelly and Bride, Shereece La'Shelle Jackson



Aunt and mother of the bride, Sandra Wimberly and Deidre Kelly



Teresa Deeboe sing The Lord's Prayer