

Children Services Levy Request

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Robin Reese, Executive Director, Lucas County Children Services

Solidarity

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

The Truth Contributor

I am of the common herd.

- Oscar De Priest, 1871-1951 U.S. Congressman



Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken is perfectly at home in the black community. In fact, he is the type of friend who, rather than knocking on the front door, instead, walks directly in and announces, "I'm home." He then, without waiting for an offer, goes straight to the kitchen to "fix a plate," kicks back and "keeps it 100." Yet, he is embraced with open arms at black cultural institutions such as festivals and churches because you know that "he always has your back," said one community leader.

Commissioner Gerken is running for re-election on the November 8 ballot. I spoke with him about his accomplishments and the County's agenda for the African-American community. This is part one of our two-part conversation.

Perryman: Let's begin with your history and how you profile as a candidate. How did you arrive where you are today?

Pete Gerken: Everything I learned as a politician I learned on the shop floor at Jeep. I spent 20 years in an environment where I had to listen to people and help them navigate their problems. I may only have a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo, but I got a PhD in life from the shop floor of the Jeep plant. It was the most diverse environment that anybody could spend his or her time in. Young, old, black, white, Hispanic, Muslim, Baptist, I learned a lot about all kind of cultures and how to listen and react to people. My mentor, as you know, through this whole process was a guy named George Davis, Jr. He not only gave me the chance, this great man mentored me through my political career. He got me a job at Jeep, helped me and asked me to get in the political world. So I look to my heroes in life, and there are guys like Baldemar Velasquez and George Davis, Jr.

I was appointed to City Council as kind of the working man's candidate in '96, got elected twice after that, then saw a need for a different viewpoint from the Lucas County Commissioners, and was elected in 2004 against the suburban guy named Harry Barlos. I've been in the office for the last 12 years.

Perryman: So let's first talk about the Gerken economic agenda as it relates to the African-American community. How would you describe Lucas County's economic investment in the African-American community since you were elected commissioner?

Gerken: Well, let's start with the biggest project that we ever did in the county's history which was the \$105 million dollar Huntington Center. We set a high bar for minority participation at 15 percent, which we hit. Now that 15 percent wasn't like others. The County's was real boots on the ground, and actual people working were being counted. We looked

at payrolls and paystubs; hours worked and collectively came up with the fact that there was enough of the share that the community asked us to hit. And we did hit it. The 15 percent is higher than any other project in Toledo, either the City of Toledo's or TPS.

So when we have projects that put people to work we make sure that proportionally, minorities get that share. We continue to do that today as we work hard to create new living wage and life changing jobs back at some of our old traditional worksites that always had a large proportionate share of minority communities. We're recreating that. Now with almost 1,000 jobs coming to Jeep Industrial Park, our outreach is right now to the community and we're targeting the neighborhoods around that plant in the central city to come in and train and get ready for these jobs. We know the jobs aren't like when Pete was there and George Davis said he should get a job. What we have to do as those jobs come in the next 18 months per my economic platform for our minority participants is to make sure targeting those specific training programs to get in the door. We make sure that we employ people of diversity and even up to our senior offices. So we have a pretty diverse...we start at the top, we find opportunities for people for life changing jobs and some projects that we have created. We've kept our promise to the community for jobs.

Perryman: Your opponent, when he was Mayor of Toledo, had a very diverse cabinet and executive staff. Talk more about your diversity. Who are those people and what do they do?

Gerken: James Meadows is the Director of HR, Human Resources for the entire county.

Perryman: An African-American male, right?

Gerken: Correct. And, obviously, Laura Jenkins is the county administrator. We also have Jessica Ford as senior project manager of Administration and Theo Foreman is senior project manager over at Work Force

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The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 * Fax 419-255-7700

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Community Calendar

September 24

St. Mark Baptist Pre-Women's Day Workshop: "I Am Confident in Christ;" 8:30 am registration; 9 am to 2 pm - workshop: 419-937-4411 or 567-298-2019

September 25

Warren AME Annual Unity Day: 10:30 am service; "Unity Begins at the Cross;" Guest speaker Rev. Gregory Thomas of St Paul AME of Cleveland; Unity Dinner after: 419-243-2237

Calvary MBC Hosts Holy Cross Church of Detroit: Guest Pastor Lorenzo Edwards

Greater St. Mary's MBC Women's Day: 5 pm; "Women of Faith in a Changing World, Holding to God's Unchanging Hand;" Guest speaker First Lady Teresa McBee of Family Baptist: 419-973-4157

New Hope MBC First Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Andrew Maize III; 4 pm speaker Rev. Maurice Rudds of Greater Mt. Tabor MBC of Detroit: 419-244-2964

St Paul AME Honoring Deceased Members: 5 pm

October 1

Indiana Avenue MBC Kick Off Celebration for Annual Youth and Young Adult Day: Noon to 2 pm; "What to do when stopped by police;" Live demonstration

October 2

Owens Community College Fall Band Concert: 2:30 pm; Center for Fine & Performing Arts; Free to the public; Marimba solo, music of the Beach Boys, medley of marches and more: 567-661-7081

October 16

Indiana Avenue MBC Youth and Young Adult Day Service: 10:50 am; "Watch M Worship Him in Praise;" Speaker Rev. Michel Wilpon of Indianapolis

I Double Dare You!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Remember the childhood game of, "I double dare you!?" That is when you were dared or asked to do or say something so outrageous that your wide eyed unbelieving companions would egg you on with the follow up words of, "I double dare you!"

They were fightin' words! You were challenged to throw down and prove yourself or, if not, you were a coward or a lesser mortal because you could not produce the results of the presented challenge.

Normally, this whole idea of being challenged was a gradual build up to a greater dare like eating a mud pie, soaping someone's window, crossing the street against the light or stealing a kiss from an unsuspecting girl classmate.

Anything out of the ordinary to prove or to show others that you have the mettle, the class, courage or sometimes, the bold brazenness to show out and have your friends or "crew" give you your props because you were "bad."

Now, take that same concept and apply it to the world of politics. Can you think of situations that need someone to think big or to dare big and not be worried about the fallout from the timid crowd of onlookers or those who are so sissified that doing challenges or dares is beyond their intellectual capacity to accomplish or even think about doing.

Think about Toledo politics. Think about African Americans in Toledo. Think about African Americans in politics in Toledo.

Tell me, who do you now know who can lead and demand change since the late J.B. Simmons Jr., who was a vice mayor of Toledo and who led what was called the Mass Movement League. The League was able to stir the political pot and cause people of color to rally and obtain city jobs and employment at the now defunct Rossford Ordnance Depot?

There have been others who have tried to rally the troops to enlarge their capacity for progressive political and economical thinking (Floyd Rose, for example) but their names and numbers are few because Toledo is not kind to black politicians who ruffle the feathers of the "powers that be." (Note: the late attorney J.B. Simmons Jr. was accused of being a communist and had to answer to the same before government committees).

Can you think of five names (in Toledo) within the next two minutes who can speak and have hundreds respond and rally at a specified location or donate thousands of dollars to fund a movement for political, social or economic change?

Times up. Didn't think so! Why is that? What cultural sharpshooters are in place in the black community who will take aim and shoot if someone, or a group of "someones," decides to rock the boat and decides to demand change and will not back off of those demands until the change comes?

Let's name some of those sharpshooters that will take aim if too many black people get off of the plantation and agitate for real and substantial change in their lot in life in Toledo:

One: Apathy. Unless and until people of color collectively decide that enough is enough, life in Toledo will continue as is with no appreciable change and the youth who can leave will leave for greener pastures-be it Columbus, Atlanta, Phoenix, Chicago or any city where people of color are not in a fog of indifference.

Two: Fear. That's a real boogeyman! If someone challenges you to do more or tells you that more is achievable, the first probable response is, "Yes, but what if I/we fail?" Nothing ventured, nothing accomplished!

The fear factor can express itself in the following ways: a denunciation of your plans by your elders or a threat that if you continue, you could risk losing your plum job or if you continue, you could lose the support of well-intentioned white folks who understand your cause but for whom you are moving too quickly.

Three: Financial Support. Every cause or following needs ongoing financial support to pay its way to success. Without money, you have pipe dreams but with no smoke coming from the pipe! When people are hesitant to give a \$20 or a \$50 to a cause that will make their lives or their children's lives better, they may balk at it because they do not like who is in group or they have a personal grudge against him or her and thus lose focus that it is not about the person but about the success of the group.

Four: People Support. This is toughie! Just when you got your mission statement in order and are ready to move out and take the mountain, someone in the group lets out a loud "political fart" and things go downhill. Infighting and bickering and factions grappling for power...all are movement killers including those whose hidden agenda is to tattletale on the group so that it is slimed to death by rumor and lies.

Here is my challenge. We got five, count them...five minority councilmen and a black mayor.

This in a town wherein the stats show that black people, numbers wise, are in a clear minority but our numbers on city council say otherwise.

I would throw down a challenge to those council members and the Mayor; and I both dare and double dare them to do the following:

(1) On their own, get together for a private two-day summit (with others in the community) to hash out a political and economic development plan for people of color in this town. No, you do not have to tell white folks about the meeting! If suspicions arise, tell them you are having a birthday party or a private Bar-b-Q!

(2) Draw up plans to redo the famed Dorr Street Corridor or another intersection of streets on which people of color can develop a strong economic center by which to fund projects that benefit families and scholarships.

Issue position papers on the evils of illicit drug usage, out of wedlock pregnancies, educational illiteracy, black on black crime and craft plans to attack those problems.

(3) Formulate financial stratagems that will benefit black people that are not contingent on handouts from white corporate America. Aren't you tired of someone else funding your aspirations and dreams?

Don't you see that given the plethora of black churches in Toledo that if each church simply "tithing" a mere 10 percent of their weekly plate intake on Sundays and midday services to a common fund, we could finance our own development within five-to-10 years!

I know...I know. Sadly, too many of the pulpits in the black churches, in my humble opinion, are populated by nervous pastors who have a bone-fingered death grip on the offering plate; and for them not to give back to the very people who allow them to draw a salary or a stipend is an embarrassing travesty that needs to be directly confronted.

(4) Protect your gains by having in place a crackerjack communications team that can use both social media and the phone systems to both

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“Educators for Hillary” Tout Candidate’s Credentials, Declare Trump Unfit to Handle Education

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On a school bus tour of Ohio on September 13 and 14, educators from Ohio and beyond campaigned for Hillary Clinton with their “Our Children Are Watching Tour,” emphasizing her commitment to ensuring a high-quality education for every child and declaring Donald Trump an unacceptable role model for Ohio children.

“Hillary Clinton cares as much about our children as teachers do,” said Becky Higgins, president of the Ohio Education Association, during the group’s Toledo visit on Wednesday. “Donald Trump is teaching our children all the wrong lessons.”

Taking a lesson from the Broadway musical South Pacific, Wiggins quoted the lyrics from the song about prejudice and hate – “You Have to Be Carefully Taught” – and observed that Trump “embraces stereotypes.”

The educators here and around the state discussed their support for Clinton and her plans to make the economy work for everyone by making sure that every child have access to high-quality education. As president, said the educators, Clinton will launch a national campaign to modernize and elevate the profession of teaching, will rebuild the nation’s schools and will dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

Trump, on the other hand, said the educators, has proven to be temperamentally unfit – calling women “fat pigs,” launching racially-charged attacks on a Latino federal judge and a Gold Star family, mocking a reporter with a disability, refusing to disavow the support of the KKK and insulting American prisoners of war. His only experience in education was with Trump University, which has been accused of bilking students out of thousands of dollars in return for worthless education.

George Sheridan, a retired California teacher, praised the American college system and applauded Clinton for her plans to deal with the debt so many students incur on the higher education level. He noted that Clinton’s plans will positively affect students in four ways: college will be debt free; current college debt can be re-financed; there will be loan forgiveness for those in public service and loan repayment can be postponed for budding entrepreneurs.

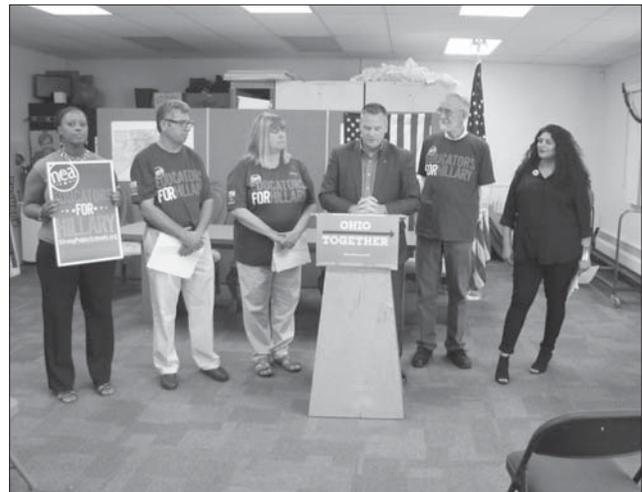
“She is a real friend of working people, of children and their families,” said Sheridan. “We are with her because she is with us.”

Dan Greenberg, a teacher with Sylvania Public Schools added that: “Hillary has been tearing down barriers for her entire life, as educators we know we have a partner and advocate in [her].”

Kevin Dalton, president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers, took the Republican candidate to task for his plans to cut funding for public education. “Our children deserve better,” said Dalton. “Trump’s plan will slash funding to public schools.”

Trump’s plan, said the educators will jeopardize funding for more than 2,100 Ohio public schools that currently serve more than 825,000 students.

The “Ohio’s Children Are Watching” tour visited six cities – Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown.



Kevin Dalton, president of TFT, praises Clinton, trashes Trump

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Lucas County Children Service's Levy Campaign Gets Big Jump Start

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"This is a do or die levy for children services," said Robin Reese, executive director of Lucas County Children Services, explaining the dire circumstances the agency, and by extension the children and families of Lucas County, will face if the November levy is rejected by voters.

Reese made that pitch at a fundraiser on Tuesday at Our Brothers Place organized by Tina Butts and attorney Richard Mitchell. Reese had the opportunity to further explain why passing this particular levy is so important during a Thursday gathering at Pam's Corner - 100 Women for Children Services - organized by Deborah Barnett.

"If you don't invest in your children, then the future is bleak," she said on Thursday morning to those in attendance - an attendance that exceeded the 100 benchmark. "Abuse and neglect are problems that can be solved. We need this levy."

Children Services' ballot issue - Number 20 - is a request for the renewal of the current 1.4 mill levy in addition to a 0.4 mill increase. If the levy is not renewed LCCS stands to lose \$10 annually from the funds it allocates for the care and placement of abused and neglected children.

The new portion of the levy - which will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home a little over \$1 per month - will help LCCS provide additional services to address the increased burden the agency is facing, in large part due to the opiate and heroin epidemic - 55 percent of cases opened by LCCS involve substance abuse.

During the first quarter of this year, LCCS experienced a 54 percent increase in children entering agency custody, an unprecedented occurrence.

Laura Wilson, chairman of the LCCS board of trustees also addressed both gatherings and noted that the agency, as do all agencies in the state of Ohio, starts at such a disadvantage from a funding standpoint.

"Ohio is 50th in the nation in providing funding for local child protection," said Wilson on Thursday morning. "If they doubled it, we would still be last."

The LCCS levy campaign will have the support of a number of local Democratic office holders. Lucas County Commissioners Pete Gerken, Tina Skeldon Wozniak and Carol Contrada were present at one or more of the past week's events. Also lending their support will be City Councilmembers Theresa M. Gabriel and Yvonne Harper; State Reps Teresa Fedor and Michael Ashford; Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez, Toledo Board of Education members Cecelia Adams, PhD. And Polly Taylor Gerken, State Senator Edna Brown, Toledo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English and Washington Local School Board member Lisa Canales.

If the LCCS levy does not pass this November, the agency will lose about one quarter of its operating budget. Layoffs and furloughs will

follow along with a massive reduction of services available to families and children.

"If we don't pass this levy, we are missing the boat in helping kids in our community," said Skeldon Wozniak as she opened the remarks at the Thursday morning 100 Women event.

"There are lots of issues out there," said Gerken during the Tuesday event. "You've got to vote for this one first."



Commissioner Pete Gerken urges a yes vote



Levy supporters



Robin Reese, State Rep. Teresa Fedor, LC Commissioner Carol Contrada, Councilwoman Yvonne Harper, LC Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak

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Buying a Home? Don't Underestimate 'Location, Location, Location'

Special to The Truth

If you are in the market for a home, you are probably weighing a range of factors, including size, amenities and architectural style. But experts say that the old adage "location, location, location" should never stray from one's thoughts.

"Location not only affects your daily life in countless ways, but it also has an unquestionable influence on the current and future value of your home," says Charlie Young, president and chief executive officer for Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

Young points to The Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report, billed as the most extensive home price comparison tool in the US, as a good place to begin your research. The report, which can be found by visiting bit.ly/coldwellbanker2016HLR, analyzes the average listing price of more than 50,000 four-bedroom, two bathroom homes on ColdwellBanker.com between January 2016 and June 2016 in more than 2,000 markets.

The findings reveal that while the national average listing price for a sample size home of \$320,120 can buy a similar home in nearly 1,300 markets across the country, there are some major outliers on both ends of the price spectrum. In Detroit, the country's most affordable market, the average listing price of a sample size home is less than \$65,000. However, in Saratoga, California -- the most expensive market -- that same size home costs nearly \$2.5 million, fueled by the region's high-tech enterprise.

But Young says not to view home prices as a yardstick for quality of life, "You can find a great place to live in most markets. In fact,

Detroit has been experiencing a renaissance in the last few years. An invigorated community, culture and a resurgence of young professionals, is making it an affordable, viable city in which to settle down and build roots."

Another major location factor homebuyers should take into consideration is the local school system. Even if you don't have a child in the family, schools can play a major role in home value.

But remember, location matters beyond pure finances and can affect every aspect of your life, like the length of your commute, the presence of parks, the walkability of the surrounding area, and the relative safety of the neighborhood.

Other factors to consider may include doing a bit of research. How large is the community and does it fit with the type of place in which you want to raise your family? Will your new home be situated near key shopping destinations for daily staples like groceries, dry cleaning and other necessary services? Will your new community wind up costing you more in local taxes or other municipal fees? A bit of advance checking can help you make the best choice for your needs.

So while you are counting bathrooms, admiring a newly shingled roof or imagining yourself enjoying a prospective property's pool, don't forget location and its potential impact on your lifestyle and your wallet.

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Economy Section • Economy Section

Black College Greek Organizations Host Campus Black Business Expo

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated, Lambda Epsilon chapter and women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Alpha Pi chapter, both from the University of Toledo organized a black business expo for Toledo-area businesses on Thursday, September 15. The two-and-a-half-hour expo was held in the Student Union, and students were encouraged to purchase goods and services.

Expo feature speaker and business owner Albert Earl focused on encouraging students to consider collective investing and consider saving finances for future ideas. "The best feeling is not to owe money and pay cash if possible," said Earl. "While you're in college, save money. Work with like-minded people and start an investment group. Someone on this campus is following that plan right now and it will pay off in 10-15 years."

Local businesses were on site to answer questions, provide samples and products for sale including: Ohio Unity Black Voter Empowerment, Albert Earl's Moments Captured, Powell's Beauty Supply, Dedi's Hart Photography, Ruby's Kitchen and The Sojourner's Truth newspaper.

"I wanted to raise awareness of black businesses in the area. We're a great consumer pool and we do spend money. I asked my peers where do they shop and most named big companies. They weren't aware of local black businesses. Even though we didn't get the response from businesses that we wanted, we're planning our next expo fall semester 2017," explained Lambda Epsilon chapter President David Swain.



Attendees



Dedi Hart photography



Albert Earl



Ohio unity black voter empowerment campaign



Organizing committee



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Voter Campaign



Powell's Beauty Supply



Ruby's



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Universal New Beginnings Celebrates 16th Pastoral Anniversary

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Crossing Over into the Promise," from Mark 4:35, was the theme of this year's pastoral appreciation service at Universal New Beginning Church of God in Christ as the congregation celebrated 16 years of leadership by Pastors Robert and Rhonda Wittly on Sunday, September 18.

"If it's not working, you've got go another way," Elder Preston, speaker from the men, told the congregation during his address. "We've got to cross over – change is good. You've got to do something different."

Mother Matthews, speaker from the women, also emphasized the importance of being open to change and moving in a different direction when the current direction is not working in one's life.

"In the Bible, when they crossed over, they didn't look back," Matthews said. "Cross over into the blessing of God," she urged the congregants.

Pastor Robert Wittly and Co-Pastor Rhonda Wittly founded UNB in July 2000 in a store-front building on Lewis Avenue. The church has grown and relocated over the years to a multipurpose facility at 20 S. Reynolds that includes an educational wing, fellowship hall and a soul food restaurant.

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Congregation



Pastors Robert and Rhonda Wittly



Anniversary Committee - Roderick and Mary Wright, Keyana Smith, Lashawndra Matthews, Michelle and Brandon Waites

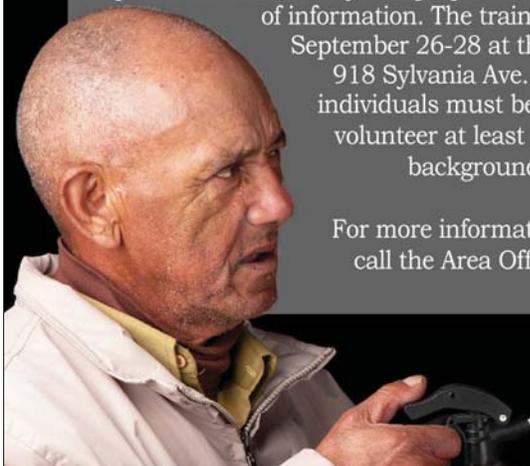
Toledo Fire Department Needs Volunteers to Help Keep Seniors Safe

Older adults face the greatest risk of dying in a fire, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Older adults have a 2.5 times greater risk of dying in a fire than the total population, while those age 85+ are over 3.6 times more likely to die in a fire than the total population.

The Area Office on Aging and the Toledo Fire Department are taking steps to prevent older adult fire deaths. Those age 55 and over interested in being trained by the Toledo Fire Department to help keep older adults and their homes safe from fire risks can register to volunteer. The Senior Advocates for Fire Education (SAFE) Program is designed to educate seniors in teaching their peers about fire safety and preparedness through demonstrations and distribution

of information. The training of SAFE volunteers will take place September 26-28 at the Toledo Firefighters Museum, 918 Sylvania Ave. To volunteer for this program, individuals must be age 55 or over and be willing to volunteer at least three hours a week. No special background or experience is required.

For more information or to register for the training, call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.



Annual Celebration Unifies Women of St. Paul MBC

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Pink, white and fellowship describe the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church's Women's Day celebration on Sunday, August 18.

"This is my 12th year as pastor here, and I'm excited to hear from our first lady today," said Rev. James Willis, St. Paul pastor. "In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Paul commands Christians to stand firm. In today's society women play a large role, however many times they are faced with opposition. As long as these women follow God's direction and stand firm behind their beliefs, then we will see the change that God has for this world."

The 10:45am service featured St Paul's First Lady Linnie B. Willis as guest speaker. The celebration opened with a vibrant praise and worship and spiritual devotion led by Deborah Gardner, Lynnell Jones, Deaconess Marelen Cook, and Deaconess Marvine Brown.

"This is my fourth year as chairperson," said Sharon Hubbard. "We actually opened the celebration with a fellowship luncheon yesterday and continue with worship today. I want to thank all of the women for their dedication to this ministry, especially the two co-chairs, Katie Davis and J'Vann Winfield."

Evangelist Teresa Allen served as worship leader, and various members of the women's day committee served in different leadership roles within the celebration. May Liggins warmly welcomed guests, while Veda Winfield explained the purpose of Women's Day at the church.



Women's Day Praise and Worship Choir



Rev. James Willis, St Paul MBC pastor, and First Lady Linnie Willis



Co chairmen J'Vann Winfield and Katie Davis and Chairman Sharon Hubbard with collected donations

... continued on page 11

O BUS, WHERE ART THOU?



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Economy Section • Economy Section

Social Security – General Questions

Question:

What can I do at www.socialsecurity.gov?

Answer:

There are many things you can do on Social Security's website. You can conduct most of your Social Security business with us online at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. You can get an estimate of future benefits, find out if you qualify for benefits now, and even apply for benefits. You can complete a number of other tasks online, too, including replacing your Social Security card in some states. You can estimate your retirement benefit using our Retirement Estimator, which allows you to get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefit based on different retirement ages and scenarios. You can even open your own my Social Security account to plan for and manage your benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Question:

Can I refuse to give my Social Security number to a private business?

Answer:

Yes, you can refuse to disclose your Social Security number, and you should be careful about giving out your number. But, be aware, the person requesting your number can refuse services if you don't give it. Businesses, banks, schools, private agencies, etc., are free to request someone's number and use it for any purpose that doesn't violate a federal or state law. To learn more about your Social Security number, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question:

I'm 17 and eager to start my first summer job, but my mother misplaced my Social Security card. How can I get another?

Answer:

If you know your Social Security number, you may not need to get

a replacement card to obtain employment. However, if a prospective employer requests it, you can get a replacement Social Security card by following the steps below. There is no charge for a Social Security card, but you are limited to three per calendar year and 10 replacement cards during your lifetime.

You will need to:

- Show the required documents. We need to see different documents depending on your citizenship and the type of card you are requesting. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber to find out what documents you will have to show;
- Fill out an *Application for a Social Security Card*; and
- Take or mail your application and original or certified copies of the original documents to your local Social Security office.

For more information, read our pamphlet, *Your Social Security Number and Card* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:

Why should I sign up for a my Social Security online account?

Answer:

my Social Security gives you a personal online account you can securely use to check your Social Security information and do business with us. With a *my Social Security* account you can:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
 - Get an estimate of your future benefits if you are still working;
 - Get a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain criteria and reside in these locations;
 - Get a letter with proof of your benefits if you currently receive them; and
 - Manage your benefits:
 - Change your address or telephone number;
 - Start or change your direct deposit;
 - Get a replacement Medicare card; and
 - Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.
- To find all of the services available and set up an account, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Question:

I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

Answer:

Yes, we do. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include *What You Can Do Online*, *How Social Security Can Help You When a Family Member Dies*, *Apply Online for Social Security Benefits*, and *Your Social Security Card and Number*. You can listen now at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:

I am receiving Social Security retirement benefits and I recently went back to work. Do I have to pay Social Security (FICA) taxes on my income?

Answer:

Yes. By law, your employer must withhold FICA taxes from your paycheck. Although you are retired, you do receive credit for those new earnings. Each year Social Security automatically credits the new earnings and, if your new earnings are higher than in any earlier year used to calculate your current benefit, your monthly benefit could increase. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question:

Do Members of Congress have to pay into Social Security?

Answer:

Yes, they do. Members of Congress, the President and Vice President, federal judges, and most political appointees, have paid taxes into the Social Security program since January 1984. They pay into the system just like everyone else, no matter how long they have been in office. Learn more about Social Security benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov.



FESTIVAL OF LIFE
Celebrating Seniors

What: "Festival of Life"
When: September 23rd
Where: Warren AME Church, 545 Indian Ave. Toledo, Oh 43604
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Festival Activities Include:
Corn Hole Toss, Horse Shoe, Live DJ, Rummage/Bake Sale, Healthy Food Demonstrations, Cholesterol Screenings, Tai Chi & Zumba Gold Demos, Fruit/Vegetable Market, Festival Food & more.

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Economy Section • Economy Section

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority Nominated as Affordable Housing Finance 12th Annual Readers' Choice Finalist

Special to The Truth

Affordable Housing Finance (AHF) nominated Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) Collingwood Green II as a 2016 Readers' Choice Finalist for Best Affordable Housing Developments. LMHA's 68-unit family housing development, Collingwood Green II, was named one out of 34 finalists in affordable housing developments throughout the country in AHF's 12th Annual Readers' Choice Awards Competition. Changing the face of public housing, Collingwood Green II replaced one of the oldest housing sites in the nation — Brand Whitlock and Albertus Brown Homes — a group of more than 400 public housing units built approximately 85 years ago and demolished in 2011.

The \$15.7 million development offers 34 public housing and 34 low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) apartments. Approximately \$10 million in LIHTC equity was provided by Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.

Finalists for the Readers' Choice Awards were selected between July 1 and August 1, from a pool of 87 nominees from across the country with criteria which included community impact, creative problem solving and innovation. Other finalists from northwest Ohio include Commons at Garden Lake, nominated in the category of Special-Needs, for their excellence in Ending Veteran Homelessness in Toledo, OH.

Winners were selected by AHF subscribers and will be honored at

AHF Live: The 2016 Affordable Housing Developers Summit, November 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. For more information contact Martin H. LaMar, president and CEO of LMHA, at 419-259-9400 or mlamar@lucasmha.org.

St. Paul MBC... continued from page 9

"I want to get the attention of Christians, who may be falling by the waste-side or not taking a stance. If Christians don't stand, who will? We have to remain steadfast, focused, stand on faith, and allow love to create the foundation. This is necessary to take back our world," explained Linnie Willis.

The 2016 theme: "God is calling Christian women to stand firm," was taken from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. The 2016 women's day committee: Hubbard, chairperson; Davis and Winfield, co-chairpersons; Mary Liggins, program chair; Linda Gardner, publicity chair; Berene Miller, ushers chair; Lucyetta Price, nurses chair; Deborah Gardner, devotion chair; Vernice Foreman, hospitality and hostesses of worship hour chair; Carol Adams, finance chair; Marilyn Watson, music chair; and Barbara Ifeduba, decorations chair.

The Women's Day committee also collected donations for Bethany House and YWCA, the project was organized by Yvonne Gayle.

WHY OHIO PICKS THE PRESIDENT

WITH AUTHOR KYLE KONDIK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 - 7 P.M.
TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PERISTYLE
2445 MONROE ST., TOLEDO, OH

Since 1896, Ohio voters have failed to favor the next president only twice (in 1944 and 1960). What about the Buckeye State makes it so special? In this lecture, Kyle Kondik, author of *The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President* and managing editor for the political forecasting newsletter *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, blends data-driven research and historical documentation to explain Ohio's remarkable record as a predictor of presidential results.

★★★★★★

A book signing and reception will follow in Libbey Court at 8:15 p.m.

This lecture is presented by the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Toledo Museum of Art. Reception hosted by the Literati and funded by the Library Legacy Foundation.

Call 419.255.8000 for more information.



Tolliver... continued from page 3

inform and rouse their membership when the need arises.

Also, a trained cadre of two person teams going door-to-door in the community to inform and educate the population as to why this is needed and the time to do so is long overdue.

Toledo's black community will remain stunted and an underachiever unless and until there is both a progressive economic and political movement that takes the word, "No"! as a prisoner and releases the, "Yes!" as its motto.

I call on Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson and Council Members Tyrone Riley, Yvonne Harper, Cecelia Adams, Theresa Gabriel and Larry Sykes to sound the clarion call to action and leave the nay sayers in their self imposed grave clothes.

To those named members of council and the mayor, is the time now or when? Will there be opposition? As sure as water is wet and ice is cold...but so what? What is the alternative?

Stop playing it politically safe and come out of the shadows! You were black before you were a Democrat, or a Republican or an independent.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

New Beginnings... continued from page 8

Married for 24 years, they are the parents of three sons (Michael, Robert, Jr. and Damion) and two daughters (Keyana and Alisha) and seven grandchildren.

Sunday's service included an opening prayer by Mother Wright, scripture readings by Sister Leslie and Brother Reggie, two praise team performances, a music selection from Sunshine Band along with a youth song selection.

The service concluded with the pastors paying tribute to each other for the lives they lead and the lives they have touched.

"My pastor lives the life he preaches," said Rhonda Witty of her husband. "He makes the ultimate sacrifice."



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Perryman... continued from page 2

Development. I think we've looked at our ratio of diversity and minority hiring and across the whole employment number and we're about 18-20 percent. We have a good representation of African Americans at the top, at the bottom and in the middle.

Perryman: So let's keep on specifics. In describing your MBE agenda since 2004, you talked about the Huntington. Can you talk dollars? Can you provide metrics for other investments?

Gerken: The Huntington share alone would've been \$15 million dollars. We continue to do outreach for minority business partners on all of our contracts. I can do as much as the law allows us to contract with minority partners. Every major contract that we've let out from Fifth Third Field to Huntington Center to the new jail piece that we may build always has a minority component on the team. We will continue to do that.

Perryman: So your economic agenda going forward is focused on minority inclusion and at least 15 percent participation in MBE economic projects?

Gerken: It's not only been the mark that we have, but we always hit it, too. Some political organizations will talk about a percentage and most of them don't make it work, but we do on our side. In addition, when you look at our community investment, we put a million dollars into community funding. I would say at least half, if not 3/4 of those dollars have been to support projects in the central city for minority communities.

We've invested in the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union to the tune of \$100,000 to close the financing gap necessary to get their new building built and opened. They know that they need some sustainable partnerships as they grow and we've committed to help them keep growing over the next three years also.

We've invested two years in a row in the African American Festival. We have also invested as prime sponsors for Dorr Street Live. So we are committed to providing community funding, and if there is a legitimate project that the minority community brings to us, we will use our tax dollars to invest back into those projects.

In addition, we invested to get the Warren AME/J. Frank Troy Senior Services Center rebuilt and thereby brought a \$3 million building to the central city at 545 Indiana Avenue.

(Next week we talk with Commissioner Gerken about his agenda for Strengthening Black Families)

Contact D.L. Perryman, D.Min, at drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



Conversations on Race and Our Call to Reflect God's Unconditional Love

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Commission on Racial Understanding-
West Mission Area Chapter

"How will we finally overcome the cultural psychosis we call racism? The many tragic deaths that have been hitting us like electrical shocks should unite us in striving to answer that question."
The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, 7/8/16

Monthly films followed by conversation from 4:00 to 6:00 PM
Refreshments will be served.

9/18/16 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2770 West Central Ave, Toledo
"Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North"

Episcopal priest Katrina Browne discovered that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in the U.S. She and her family retraced the Triangle Trade and gained new perspectives on the black/white divide.

10/16/16 Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St, Toledo
"Fifty Years Later: the State of Racism in America"

Excerpts from a forum by the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Mississippi held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and other important milestones in the civil rights movement.

11/20/16 St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 871 E Boundary St, Perrysburg
Where Do We Go From Here?

Discussion on how to respond to the challenges of racism in our society today.

Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World.
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.diohio.org

Crossing the Thinnest Line by Lauren Leader-Chivée

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your business is doing well. It could do better.

Just like every other business in America, you have good weeks and bad. Sales go up and they flatten. You have financial feast-or-famine and you'd like more of the former than the latter. Author **Lauren Leader-Chivée** says she knows how you can achieve that and in *Crossing the Thinnest Line*, she explains.

c. 2016
Center Street
\$27.00 / \$35.00 Canada
336 pages

Open the door to your office and look around. What does your staff look like? Many managers, as Leader-Chivée learned at a conference, tend to surround themselves with people who look like them. That might feel most comfortable, she indicates, but to do so is to miss out.

While some may find it awkward to actively, purposefully seek diversity, Leader-Chivée says it's important to remember that most of us have ancestors who were outsiders once. It's also rare in today's world for anyone to live in a bubble: you probably already know, are related to, or come in regular contact with someone who is different than you, and you think nothing of it - which is to say that while humans generally resist change, you may already have "acquired diversity."

Many folks find acquired diversity through family relation-

ships and personal discoveries. Others simply jump in and get to know people who don't look like them.

Insisting on diversity in the workplace not only "sparks creativity," but it's also forward-thinking: within the next 25-to-30 years, the U.S. will "become a majority-minority." Diversity makes it easier to tap into new markets with impressive buying power, it allows your company to gain a foothold on other continents, and it will help to avoid the embarrassment of miscommunication. By utilizing new experiences from divergent people, you and your employees will benefit from a fresh point-of-view, taking "full advantage of... talents, insights, and creative energies" and a much larger scope of knowledge.

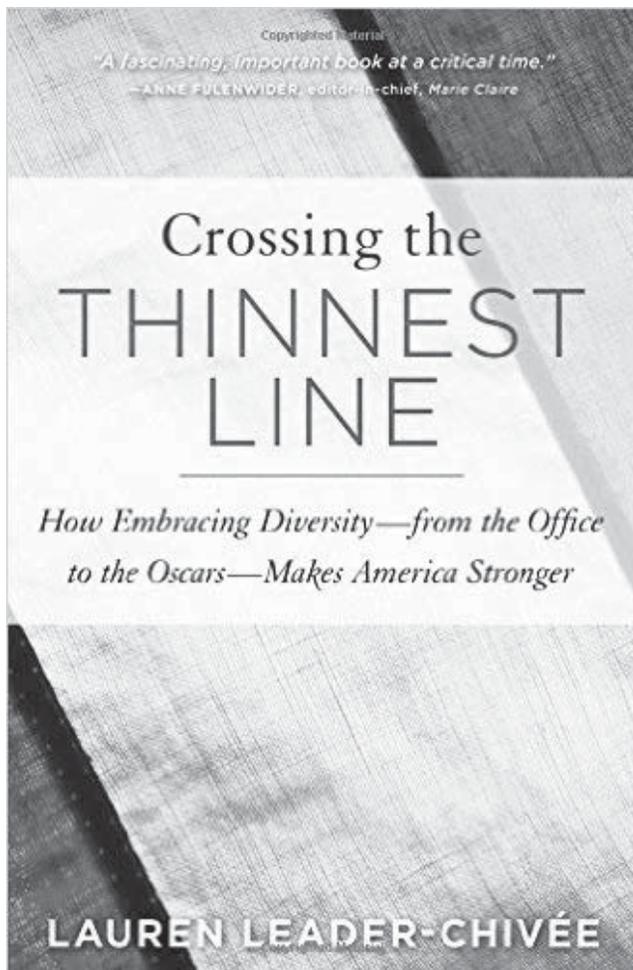
Without diversity, says Leader-Chivée, "we'll suffer as a nation..."

"It's a mistake we can't afford to make."

I cannot deny that what's inside *Crossing the Thinnest Line* could be helpful. It's filled with statistics, surprising solutions, and illustrative stories that show what world leaders and Big Business are doing. But that richness of info can also be a downfall: there's just too much to take in here.

I really found myself wishing that author Lauren Leader-Chivée had made this into two books, or even three; that might have eased the overwhelmed feeling. As it is, the needs for large corporations are covered well, but not so much those of small-business owners or Mom-and-Pops who are miles from the Fortune 500. Leaders looking to hire more women will need to trek through information on diversity in race, sexuality, and religion. Non-business-minded readers get a little of everything, and may lose interest long before finding what they really need.

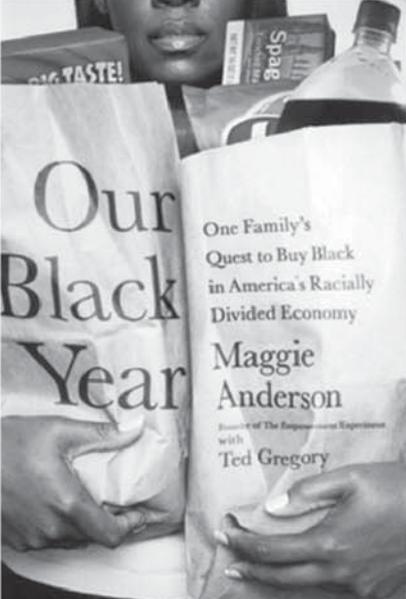
This isn't a bad book - it's just *too much* of a book and reading it for its full benefit will take considerable time. If you've got that time, though, dive into *Crossing the Thinnest Line*. It may do your business well.



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Maggie Anderson
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Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-entitled and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

When: Every 4th Sunday
 Time: 11:00 am
 Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
 310 Woodville Rd.
 Toledo, Ohio



Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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CLASSIFIEDS

September 21, 2016

Page 15

BREAKFAST COOK

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Equal Housing Opportunity.

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Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening for seasonal Lead Natural Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18 or older with HS equivalent and driver's license. \$9.92/hr. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management and outdoor work experience with natural systems management, forestry or horticulture preferred. Apply online at www.MetroparksToledo.com EOE.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GLASS REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT SERVICES RFP#16-R016

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Glass Repair and Replacement Services/RFP#16-R016**. Received in accordance with law until **October 7, 2016, 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9474 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



LUCAS COUNTY FACILITIES

The Lucas County Facilities Department has an opening for a Project Manager.

For more details, please visit our website at www.co.lucas.oh.us and click on the "Apply for a Job" link to review the job description, minimum requirements, salary and to apply online.

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Voice/TTY 1-800-553-0300.

Equal Housing Opportunity.

Notice of Public Hearing

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) Board of Commissioners is preparing to submit its 2017 Annual Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017. The 2017 Annual Plan is available for review at LMHA's website (www.lucasmha.org). LMHA invites you to submit comments during the next 45 days. Please forward to: ctetterton-williams@lucasmha.org. **You are invited to a public hearing, Tues., October 4 2016, 4:00 p.m. ET, McClinton Nunn Community Bldg., 425 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604.** Interested citizens will be provided pertinent LMHA information regarding strategic goals and program activities. Citizens are encouraged to attend and provide additional comments on the 2017 Annual Plan. Please contact LMHA at 419-259-9457 or TRS 711, at least one week prior to hearing date, if attendees require auxiliary aids due to disability.



William J. Brennan, Chairman
Martin H. LaMar, President/CEO



The Toledo Zoo is gearing up for the Lights Before Christmas Season and is currently looking to fill the following part-time vacancies:

- PT Front of House Catering Crew, Supervisor, Bartender
- PT Back of House Catering Crew, Supervisor and Chef's Assistant
- PT Horticulture Crew
- PT Grounds Crew
- PT Café Crew
- PT Membership Office and Sales Associates
- Merchandise Crew

Interested applicants can view all job descriptions and application instructions at www.toledozoo.org/jobs. The Toledo Zoo is an equal opportunity employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace. resume@toledozoo.org. Come be a part of the fun!

NHA Seeks a Few Good People

The Neighborhood Health Association is hoping to acknowledge the contributions of past board members and volunteers. If you were a board member or volunteer in the past with NHA, the Cordelia Martin Clinic or the Mexican-Americans United for Health, give us a call. 419-720-7883, ext 216.

Call to place your ad

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

United Missionary Baptist Church Completes Building Renovation

Special to The Truth



Pastor Robert Bass, Julia Holt, Pamela Wilson, Adrienne Earle, Sylvester Gould, Jodi Moughamian, Reginald Temple

The historic United Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1892 so it's only natural that from time to time a facelift is required. Sometimes a major facelift.

Pastor Robert Bass and the congregation of United MBC recently embarked upon an extensive exterior and interior renovation of the building. The church retained the services of Sylvester Gould, president and CEO of Gould Development Co, LLC to lead the project. Gould Development secured a \$200,000 line of credit from First Federal Bank, Toledo to finance the project.

Gabriel Construction Co of Toledo and Midwest Rehab 7, LLC of Southfield, MI were the construction companies on the job which was recently completed. The church now has a new roof on the oldest part of the building and the steeple, ceiling tile in the interior, new doors all around and new plaster in the sanctuary.

Bass, a native of Detroit, has led the congregation for 13 years. During his pastorate, he has implemented an aggressive Youth Ministry and conducted leadership workshops for officers and interested members, conducted Watch Night Service, activated the Transportation Ministry, implemented My Brother's Keeper Ministry (ministering to sick and shut-ins), encouraged the development of a children's choir (Joyful Voices of United), implemented the MIT Ministry (Ministers-in-Training) and has continued to stress and strengthen God's principle of tithing.

The Church Development Committee consisted of Bass, Deacon John Hawkins, chairman of the Deacon Board; Julia Holt, chairman of the Trustee Board; trustees Pamela R. Wilson and Edgar Parks.

Ed Blankenship, vice president of Gabriel Construction and Adrienne Earle, president of Midwest Rehab, led the construction effort. First Federal's Jodi Moughamian, vice president, and Reginald Temple, business development officer, led the financing effort.



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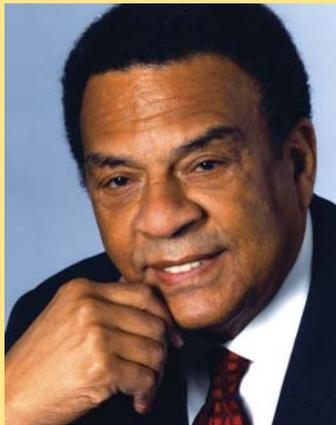


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ANDREW YOUNG**
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
7 P.M.
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
JOHN F. SAVAGE ARENA

THE 2016 EDWARD SHAPIRO DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Andrew Young has spent his lifetime heeding a call to service. He was instrumental in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in organizing desegregation efforts throughout the South, including the historic 1963 march through Birmingham, Ala. The first African-American from the Deep South to be elected to U.S. Congress after Reconstruction, he was later the first U.S. African-American Ambassador to the United Nations and Mayor of Atlanta. Young is the recipient of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the French Legion D'Honneur, the NAACP's Springarn Medal and the Olympic Order Award.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO