



Local and National News

www.thetruthtoledo.com

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Mayoral Inauguration



The city's new chief of staff, Katy Crosby - far right - and her family members

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Water: Full and Complete

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

The Truth Contributor



Where do we go from here?

- Martin Luther King Jr.

It happened in Flint, Michigan where thousands of children and pregnant women were exposed to lead poisoning after a series of questionable decisions by various government entities caused lead to seep into their drinking water.

It happened in Detroit, where, in the past 10 years the water rate doubled, and during the summer of 2014 the city was performing 3,000 water shut-offs per week with children, elderly or those with a disability accounting for more than 50 percent of those affected; and in 2016, where 83,000 homes, more than one in six Detroit households, had their water cut off and many children were being raised in unsanitary dwellings without running water.

It happened in Toledo, when stores sold out, libraries and businesses were closed and 500,000 area residents were without water because of the toxic algae bloom, leaving us to rely on humanitarian efforts or out of town relatives to bring us water to drink, bathe, cook or clean with.

So, as the City of Toledo and its suburban leaders begin to finalize a regional water agreement (Toledo Area Water Authority), my primary concern is, pure and simple, the health of a community. And, what are the potentially dire consequences for low to moderate-income individuals and people of color who are most likely to suffer at higher rates from a water crisis than those living in our neighboring suburbs.

According to Eric Rothstein, a consultant working with the Toledo Chamber of Commerce, suburban municipalities will more than likely leave Toledo's water system and create their own separate authority without the regional water agreement now proposed. If that happens, the city will have to fund an additional \$500 million in infrastructure upgrades on their own without the revenues they stand to lose by the suburbanites' exit. This would be a financial disaster for the city and Toledo's own water rates are expected to skyrocket as a result.

What do we Stand to Lose?

According to version 12 of the actual TAWA Memorandum of Understanding, Toledo gives up owning and singularly controlling the water system. However, in return, the city also gives up the burden of financing and paying for a sizable infrastructure project, possibly with a lowered credit rating and therefore carrying an oppressive interest rate. Yet, the city will have two votes and Lucas County one, on a seven-member board that requires five votes to pass any major rate or capital changes.

The Benefits?

In addition to stable water rates as a result of the low cost financing of

capital projects and optimization of infrastructure investments by collaborating, Toledo residents should benefit disproportionately compared to others with the inclusion of the following in the MOU:

- Water Affordability Plan – while Percentage of Income Payments (PIP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) have been available for other utilities, this low-income assistance plan has not been available in the past for water service. Yet water is a human right, a right that Detroit's politicized emergency management team evidently did not recognize or respect. The TAWA regional MOU then, by correlating the payment of water to income and accounting for faulty plumbing and other factors, should de-politicize decisions affecting shutoffs, public health and providing service.

- Lead Water Lines Replacement – Lead has caused cancer. It has caused brain damage and affected our children. Toledo definitely does not want to become another Flint, Michigan, replacement of all lead service lines is a must, a process which is spelled out in the regional MOU.

- Employer of Choice – The agreement honors relations with organized labor and calls for competitive compensation, training and safety programs.

Where Do We Go From Here?

In my review of the latest version (12) of the MOU, I am not aware of anything which explicitly spells out workforce equity strategies that show a commitment to prepare, hire and develop workers of color in the new system. Should the new water system be a true partnership, the new water authority must implement systemic diversity and inclusion outcomes aimed at achieving equity within their vision for workforce development.

For, as Mos Def, the urban hip hop artist/activist, says:

The rich and poor, black and white got need for it (That's right)

And everybody in the world can agree with this (Let em know)

Consumption promotes health and easiness (That's right)

Go too long without it on this earth and you leavin it (Shout it out)

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

Community Calendar

February 10

Peep Game Comix and The Toledo Public Library are proud to present The Glass City Black Comix Arts Festival (#GCBC), Saturday, February 10, 2018 11 AM to 4 PM, at the Down Town Toledo Library. GCBC celebrates and supports black comic book creators from around the world in their effort to tell compelling, uplifting, and fantastic stories. The Festival aims to educate all comic book fans about the amazing work available by Black Comic Artists and spread the word that all audiences deserve representation and to be present as subjects in the comic arts and popular culture. Our expert team of Comic Artists will help kids learn how to: Draw, create and develop cool characters, and tell a story visually! FREE! OPEN to the Public.

February 15

Black Panther Viewing Party at Rave Cinemas Levis Commons. At 5pm, come join in the fun with movie trivia and other games before viewing the Marvel film starring Chadwick Boseman, Angela Bassett and Lupita Nyong'o. The viewing party is FREE. (Guests must purchase a movie ticket to participate!)

February 26

Natural haircare for African American children workshop will be held at the Holland Branch Library from 6-8pm. This workshop is open to parents, foster/adoptive families and other guardians. Learn the fundamentals of natural haircare, the proper tools, and basic styles to care for your child and promote a healthy self image. Workshop is FREE, presented by The Kitchen Salon. Registration is available at ToledoLibrary.org

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
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Megan Davis – Columnist

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Lucas County Commissioners Urges Ohio's Congressional Delegation to Support Passage of the Dream Act Now

Last week, the Lucas County Commissioners called on Ohio's Congressional delegation to protect Dreamers by supporting passage of the Dream Act now. Dreamers are a generation of nearly 800,000 young adults who came to the United States as children. They have grown up as Americans, pledging allegiance to our flag, and have worked side by side with all Americans to build a more vital nation. Dreamers are homeowners, teachers, nurses, scientists, valedictorians, and members of our armed forces; they are our neighbors.

"In Lucas County we make a compact with all of our children that if they work hard we will be their champion and support them in achieving the American Dream, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or country of origin," said Lucas County Board of Commissioner President Pete Gerken. "In Ohio, we have over 10,600 Dreamers. We have many right here in Lucas County. Today we are asking our entire Ohio Congressional delegation to help us keep our promise to our young people and pass the Dream Act once and for all."

"Ohio, including Lucas County's economic and demographic future is in embracing diversity in our community, including Dreamers, who contribute greatly to our economy," stated Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada. "We should not be breaking up families, deporting gainfully employed and law-abiding

lifelong residents who may not even remember their countries of origin or speak the language. We implore the Ohio Congressional delegation to do the right thing and pass the Dream Act."

"It is with a heavy heart that I know thousands of Ohio's children would lose their Dreamer parents and loved ones without the passing of the Dream Act," said Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. "The Board of Lucas County Commissioners implore the Ohio Congressional delegation to not break families apart and to keep families strong and together. Pass the Dream Act." -more-

If Congress does not pass the Dream Act and shield the hundreds of thousands of young people who came forward under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the effect on the U.S. economy will be devastating. Every day that Congress delays passage of the Dream Act, 122 young people lose their DACA status.

In Ohio, by not protecting Dreamers from deportation and allowing them to continue to contribute to the economy, it will result in a loss of nearly \$140 million in annual spending power. In Ohio, more than 91% of our Dreamers have employment and they pay \$28.8 million in overall taxes including \$14.7 million in state and local taxes.

As a Welcoming America member, Lucas County, through the Welcome Toledo-Lucas

County initiative, is part of a growing movement of communities becoming more prosperous by helping all residents be able to fully participate in economic, social, and civic opportunities, including immigrants and refugees. One in every eight Americans lives in a community in the Welcoming America network.

About the Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC) Initiative: Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC) is a cross-sector initiative working to build a welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants, refugees, and people of diverse cultures. Welcome TLC is housed in the Board of Lucas County Commissioners in partnership with Toledo LISC, and is governed by a Steering Committee of community partners. In addition to four working committees including the recently launched Workforce and Economic Development Committee, Welcome TLC hosts the annual Toledo International Film Festival (TIFF) with the historic neighborhood Ohio Theatre and Event Center and shares data and local success stories including the 2015 New American Economy report: New Americans in Toledo: A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants. Learn more at facebook.com/WelcomeTLC.

About Welcoming America: Welcoming America is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization leading efforts to make communities more vibrant places for all. Launched in 2009, Welcoming America provides the roadmap and support for communities to become more inclusive for immigrants and all residents. Learn more at .welcomingamerica.org.

House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn Says Right to Work Is Wrong for Working Families

Ohio House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) issued the following statement today in response to a Republican push for so-called "right to work" restrictions on working people in Ohio:

"Instead of restrictions to make working people poorer and less safe on the job, we should

prioritize commonsense ideas that grow our economy and create good-paying jobs that give working families the opportunity to get ahead. The Republican package of so-called "right to work" legislation is wrong for working families and wrong for Ohio."

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State Rep. Michael Ashford Receives the Ohio Urban Resource System Oscar Griffin Award

Toledo lawmaker honored for his leadership, advocacy for African Americans in Ohio

State Representative Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) last week received the Oscar Griffin Award from the Ohio Urban Resources System (OURS) for his work on House Bill 123 to reform payday lending and strengthen communities across the state. The award, named after Oscar Griffin, a longtime advocate for action agencies and member of OURS, is given to a legislator who has shown strong advocacy through legislation and promoting public policy to benefit black communities in Ohio.

"I am truly honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award," said Rep. Ashford. "I am determined to continue working with OURS, community advocates and faith leaders to reform predatory lending, create good paying jobs and ensure low-income communities have the same opportunities to get ahead as anyone else in Ohio. As long as there are families struggling to pay the rent and support their kids, there is more work to do."

OURS is one of Ohio's leading organizations combating the cycle of poverty, revitalizing neighborhoods and improving the economic security of low-income families in Ohio.

Ashford represents the 44th House district, which includes Toledo. He currently serves as a member of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and

Ranking Member on the House Public Utilities Committee.

**Editor's note: A picture with Rep. Ashford, Pathway Toledo CEO Cheryl Grice and her team is attached.*



Two-term County Commissioner Carol Contrada Will Not Seek Re-election in 2018

Two-term County Commissioner Carol Contrada announced last week that she will not seek re-election in 2018.

"It has truly been a privilege to serve as Lucas County Commissioner," Contrada said. "As I approach retirement from elected office, I look forward to new opportunities to serve my community, as well as continuing my law practice with Contrada and Associates. I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life. Serving the citizens of my community as an elected official for the past 15 years has been a great honor."



LC Commissioner Carol Contrada

Prior to serving as commissioner, Contrada was a two-term member of the Sylvania Township Board of Trustees. In addition to her time as an elected official, she has been active in the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, the Toledo Zoo, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Destination Toledo. She spearheaded county-wide criminal justice reform, chaired the regional water legal sub-committee, and chairs TMACOG's Water Quality Council.

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Toledo Police Provide Update on Violence Reduction Strategies

Toledo Police will begin the grassroots "Not In My House" program in February and continue to use a number of violence reduction strategies, including personnel changes, increased overtime, and additional intelligence briefings, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Police Chief George Kral said during a noon news conference Monday inside the Safety Building.

Chief Kral said the department will also continue to use ongoing proactive efforts, including diversion programs and special enforcement operations.

"We are intensifying efforts to enhance safety in our community and apprehend the perpetrators of all gun violence in the city, including the homicides that have occurred this year," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "We will continue this fight until we win it."

"Six homicides this month is simply unacceptable," Chief Kral said. "We need the community's help and support as officers continue to work hard and put themselves in harm's way to temper the violence Toledo is experiencing."

A detailed list of police department changes and initiatives follows:

- Toledo Police Department – Personnel Changes
 - o Two Detectives added to Vice/ Narcotics - effective February 1.
 - o Four Detectives added to Investigations Bureau - effective February 1.

- o Two Sergeants added to Special Operations, SWAT - effective February 1.
 - Toledo Police Department – Increased Overtime
 - o Authorized overtime for increased marked patrols.
 - o Authorized overtime for increased plain clothes and tactical operations.
 - Toledo Police Department – Additional Intelligence Briefings
 - o Field Operations, Special Operations, Investigations, Intelligence
 - Toledo Police Department – Increased Overtime
 - o Authorized overtime for increased marked patrols.
 - o Authorized overtime for increased plain clothes and tactical operations.
 - Toledo Police Department – Ongoing Proactive Efforts
 - o S.T.O.P., TCIRV - S.T.O.P, which stands for Strategic Tactical Operational Policing, combines crime data with community policing on a door-to-door level. Through T-CIRV, the police department targets chronic and violent offenders, as well as the active gang members in the city.
 - o Federal Task Forces, Gang Sweeps
 - o Community Services programs – STRIVE, Brains & Bodies, PAL

OLBC Concerned GOP Redistricting Plan Falls Short of Real Reform for Ohio Voters

Urge colleagues to support measures to eliminate partisan mapmaking

As state lawmakers debate Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 5, a Republican-led proposal to change the way Ohio draws its legislative districts, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus last urged state lawmakers to consider amending the bill to address concerns many voting rights and redistricting reform experts have regarding SJR 5.

"Gerrymandering has turned the idea of the ballot box being America's great equalizer on its head, allowing politicians to choose their voters rather than having voters choose their politicians," said OLBC President and state Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland). "SJR 5 only makes what's wrong with current law worse. SJR 5 keeps the authority to redraw districts within the state legislature and eliminates key controls that seek to end rigged districts and give Ohio voters fair representation."

Democrats and redistricting reform advocates have argued this plan allows for political manipulation of the redistricting process.

"Our goal isn't to limit ways a map can be gerrymandered," said State Sen. Vern Sykes (D-Akron). "Our goal is to end gerrymandering all together, and SJR 5 doesn't accomplish that." Sen. Sykes is a member of the Congressional Redistricting Workgroup, a bipartisan group of lawmakers charged with

finding ways to reform Ohio's congressional redistricting process. "Ohioans spoke loud and clear in 2015 when they overwhelmingly supported common sense reforms to the way we draw state districts and we want to replicate that effort."

Ohio voters submitted and overwhelmingly approved Issue 1, a 2015 ballot initiative to remove the state legislature from drawing its own seats, and instead placing that authority in the hands of the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

SJR 5 keeps the congressional map-drawing authority with legislators in the General Assembly. The plan would be approved with a three-fifths majority of lawmakers, including one third of the minority party. Should the body fail to approve the plan, the Ohio Redistricting Commission would create either a 10-year map with minority consent or a four-year map without. A four-year map could become a 10-year map if approved by the General Assembly.

If approved by the General Assembly, SJR 5 would head to a ballot to be considered by Ohio voters later this year.

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Fros, Fashions & Finds

Changing Faces: Reviving the Black Beauty and Business Industries

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

"We need to boycott the beauty supply store at Swayne Field." These are the words from celebrity stylist and Toledo native, Moira Frazier (also known as Fingaz) who was back home from Los Angeles, preparing for her Mane Event hair show this past fall.

She took to Facebook live to express her frustration with the Asian store owners who insulted her during a visit there. She had several packages of hair that she wanted to purchase for the upcoming show, and the clerk told her "you know you can't return those." Fuming, she went live to discuss her experience. The comments were rolling with support of her call to boycott the store. People began sharing their own statuses saying "Boycott the beauty supply store in Swayne Field!"

It is experiences like these that often cause us to stop patronizing and supporting a business. When an offense that is irreconcilable takes place, people will leave a restaurant, salon or church in a heartbeat. We tell ourselves we will never go through this again. That fed-up feeling is something that provokes people to act almost immediately so when we are over it, we are over it! In our anger, our resourcefulness takes over, and we begin looking for a replacement for that church, that restaurant or that hairdresser.

When we seek, we shall find. It is this same determination that provokes us to change a situation like homelessness or being in a bad relationship. We move on, striving to do and be better than before.

We see the theme of boycotting being played out across America right now. In Hollywood, comedian Mo'nique called for a boycott of Netflix because she was given a low-ball offer for a stand-up comedy show. She stated in several videos and interviews that other comedians were offered more money and that their resumes weren't all as long or as good as hers. She cited inequity because she is not only a woman, she is a black woman.

She decided to use her social media platforms to take a stand, and her position has people di-



Megan Davis

vided on whether or not to support her because, in part, her truth is what most of us have or are going through today.

The underlying issue is what black people have been facing – we work harder for less.

Other comedians and actors who have been in Mo'nique's situation have chosen a different route to move up on the pay scale. They have either negotiated deals behind closed doors, quietly said "no" to a bad deal, and sought other roles that would be rewarding; or they have made their own companies or films to highlight their quality of work, dedication and worthiness. Many more actors choose one of those routes as opposed to those who have spoken out who have yet to see the big screen again such as Terrence Howard who tried to get more money for the Iron Man films or Jada Pinkett Smith who is often found boycotting something. Poor Aunt Viv from Fresh Prince of Bel Air has yet to see a new script.

We are seeing product companies being boycotted it for their insensitive advertising methods such as H & M that recently featured a black boy with a hoodie that had a money on it and an offensive saying. People were outraged!

We saw the same outrage when a Dove soap campaign showed a lovely black woman transform from herself into a white woman after using their skin care products. Then we saw Shea moisture's company take a nose dive when they decided to run a marketing campaign that featured white women complaining about their too curly, "unmanageable" hair. When that video hit the Internet, it went viral and people reacted in disgust and immediately called for a boycott.

This was because the women who made Shea Moisture a household name were black with naturally nappy hair, Napturals! Just as quickly

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Groomed for Greatness is sponsoring a **Girlpreneur Expo** in collaboration with **Assets Toledo**. Girls from the Toledo and surrounding areas will be selling, pitching and marketing their products/business concepts to the public. This is a **FREE** family fun event so please come out and show your support.

The **Girlpreneur Expo** will be held at

Mercy Health
2200 Jefferson Ave. Toledo, Ohio
March 3rd 2018
From: 11am-4pm.

For more information, please contact Michelle at (313)623-9313 or Alisa at (419)360-0015.

... continued on page 7

The Soulcial Scene

Fros, Fashions & Finds... continued from page 6

as that happened and support for the company tanked, hundreds of other individual-owned small companies rose to the occasion saying "we are here, still black and still handmade." This is where we have come to know that no matter how many ways the industry tries to change the face of beauty we are still here, even if at a grass-roots level, growing our home-based businesses, one sale at a time.

It is the natural hair movement that has birthed so many businesses in the first place, from shop owners to product developers, to business coaches and event planners. Just like Madam CJ Walker, or Damon John who created FUBU, black men and women are using their hands to make any and everything with their own unique twist. Today, thanks to social media, black business owners can find customers just about anywhere as people who are disgruntled with corporations who don't care about us, who aren't paying attention to our needs, continue to disappoint us in some way.

No matter the many companies that will try to appropriate something that doesn't originate with them, we are still being found in our communities establishing businesses and organizations that do provide products and services that are specific to our own needs. Even if major corporations have millions of dollars to pour into campaigns targeting African-American women, there are still hundreds of small little-engine-that-could type businesses out there selling their products from the trunks of their cars, backpacks, social media and free websites they created themselves for free.

Inasmuch as we set trends that others borrow or steal, black consumers are now able to scour the Internet searching for local artisans. With websites like Etsy and the new Facebook marketplace; with small events in the community that feature vendors, people are seeking out local businesses to support. The demand is there, and so are the companies.

The engine behind the huge demand for clothing, products and services are black women – women who are mothers, students, professionals; wives who want the best for their husbands and children. They are women who want to connect with their roots, and the earth, to be more conscious of what they put in and on their bodies; women who won't settle for whatever they can find that is cheap. They are more aware of the labels and the sources from where they are purchasing items.

More women are growing their own herbs and vegetables. More women are taking sewing classes to make their own clothing. More women are going natural and learning how to care for their own hair, while finding what products work for them; and women are making products that are healthy and beneficial for their hair and body-some which are being sold.

Rather than spending time and energy on boycotts, we have our own beauty supply store in Toledo that is black-owned and operated. Powell's, located on Nebraska Ave. is that place where the family treats us like family. We take care of each other. That is something the other beauty supply stores can't do for the black community-they take care of their own families. The others just want our money, but a place that is for us by us, wants us to look and feel good; they value our support and they find ways to support us as well. A family like the Powell family has built their business from the ground up, and their hard work has established them in this community as valued leaders.

So, what if someone is standing with Mo'Nique in her boycott with Netflix? Toledo has a film company called Prim8 Vision that has released full feature films and multiple series on Youtube (for free). If you didn't like the Grammy results, we have a plethora of musicians and singers in Toledo from the Wall Music family to Glass City talent who do live shows weekly across the city. If you want goods and services that are made by us, it's as simple as an online search to locate many new companies to support.

In retrospect, having a business can be difficult for small companies because they may be operated by only one person, a person who may be married or have small children; it may be someone with a disability. Most of all, many small businesses don't have the resources to stay open long hours, or to price items at low costs such as Walmart. Small businesses also may create in small batches, if they make something by hand. For those

who are thinking about supporting local businesses or small businesses, here are a few tips to help make your experience a positive one:

1. To best support the business, find out their hours ahead of visiting them or calling them.
2. If they don't carry something you are looking for, ask if they can get it or suggest it as a new item in their store.
3. If you weren't wowed the first time, give them another chance to get it right.
4. If you weren't pleased with the customer service, let them know, respectfully and they can work on their customer service skills.
5. If you like them, tell others so they can support too!



What mainstream marketing cannot do is pretend to know the experiences of Madam CJ Walker, a woman who made something to fill a need for women in her own community. They cannot know how slavery left women without the fruit of the land to nourish their hair and scalp. They cannot know the struggle of trying to be presentable while working sun up to sun down in fields that baked their skin and fried their hair. Because of this, they cannot create something that speaks to the soul of a black woman. This is how the face of Black Beauty remains the standard that others seek after. Though they may appropriate it, we own it. Take that knowledge and power to the bank!

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The Soulcial Scene

Our City, Our Future – Mayoral Inauguration 2018

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz' inaugural celebration took place on Saturday, January 20 and Sunday, January 21. The weekend gala began with an inter-faith prayer service on Saturday morning at Warren A.M.E. Church with pastors, ministers and church leaders in attendance from around the city and from a variety of religious faiths.

In the evening the celebration moved to the Toledo Renaissance Hotel with a VIP reception in th Heights Restaurant on the top floor of

the hotel, followed by a widely attended reception on the first floor featuring live music and dancing. A reception for young professionals followed.

"Every citizen of Toledo – from every neighborhood, age group, faith, race, color, gender, ability and creed – has a role to play in building our city's future," wrote the new mayor in the program welcoming the inaugural celebration's program.



The city's new chief of staff, Katy Crosby - far right - and her family members



Tracee Perryman and Staci Perryman-Clark, both PhD's



Councilman Larry Sykes, Katy Crosby, Pete Silverman



I Dream – The Kick Off

The Toledo Opera will be presenting I Dream – a modern, rhythm and blues opera recounting the final 36 hours in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 6, 7 and 8 at the Valentine Theatre. This will be the world premiere of the opera by Douglas Tappin. On January 22,

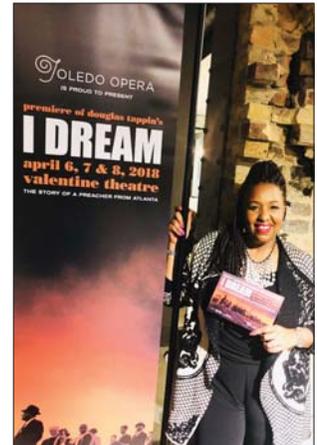
the Opera and the I Dream Community Team (area board members) held their first event at the ProMedica Steam Plant to promote the upcoming performance.



Front - Kelli Winston, Paris Coleman, Rhonda Sewell; Back - Thomas Winston, Dr. Traci Watkins, Ashey Bunn



Neema Bell, Dr. Traci Watkins, Adrienne Green, Kelli Winston, Rhonda Sewell



Rhonda Sewell

The Soulcial Scene

The Robert S. Rogers Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Announces Class of 2017

This year's inductees into the Rogers Athletic Hall of Fame were: Gary Stewart - Class of 1967; Ron Davis - Class of 1985; Matthew C. Smith - Class of 1987; William Taylor - Class of 1990; Raina Turner - Class of 1992; 1987 Boys 4 x 800 Relay (Pat Franklin, Tim Smith, Marvin Gilmore and Ray Miller)

The induction ceremony took place on January 20, 2018. A social hour from 5:15 - 6 pm was held in the cafeteria. The formal induction ceremony began at 6 pm in the theater with recognition after the junior varsity basketball game and preceded the varsity basketball game against St. Francis High School.



Inductees



Bruce Smith, Tim Smith, Pat Franklin



Marvin Gilmore's mother and sister accept award



Matt Smith



Raina Turner



Ray Miller



Tim Smith



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DR. ROMULES DURANT '98
Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools



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The Soulcial Scene

"I Got a Lust for Life:" The African-American Great Migration to Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan

By Annette Wright

The Truth Reporter

On Saturday, January 20, 2018 a very interesting and informative series of panel discussions took place in Detroit, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. "I Got A Lust For Life" sponsored by the University of Toledo, College of Arts and Letters presented an impressive host of panelists who discussed the African-American Great Migration from southern states to northern states, specifically to Toledo and Detroit.

While many individuals and families who were part of the migration obviously came north in search of a better life via working in the automotive industry, the wonderful residual impact of the migration included African-Americans' impact on the literary and music world during that same time period.

Among the panelists who spoke at the kick-off of the day's events at Wayne State University was Toledo's queen of song, Ramona Collins. Collins candidly shared with the audience her personal feelings of how and why African-American's were so inherently endowed with gifts and talents in the area of music.

"Jazz and blues are cousins" said Collins, as she reiterated the point that the authenticity of jazz and blues was embedded in southern blacks. Another panelist, Toledo-native John Gibbs Rockwood, reminisced about hearing great music and having good times at the Old Mud Hens Stadium in Maumee and in working with groups such as the Griswolds. "I was almost famous" exclaimed Rockwood, as he reflected on meeting many great artists such as BB King.

Other panelists who participated at the Wayne State University session included Oliver Ragsdale Jr., president of the Carr Center in Detroit and Ben Blackwell, co-founder of Third Man Records and official archivist for the White Stripes.

The morning session of the day's events in Detroit concluded with a very impressive performance by the Wayne State University Student Jazz Ensemble.

Back home in Toledo, part two of "I Got A Lust For Life" began at the McMaster Center of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library with opening remarks by Sara Lundquist, PhD, chair of the Department of English Language and Literature for the University of Toledo, followed by introductions from Kimberly Mack, PhD, assistant professor of African-American Literature for the University of Toledo.

Spearheading the literary portion of the day's events "Open Mic: A Drive to Write" featured poetry readings inspired by Toledo-area high school students. Storyteller and Performer Tyehimba Jess, a Detroit native and 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, read from "Olio" his award-winning collection of poetry that weaves together sonnet, song and narrative to examine the lives of mostly unrecorded, African-American performers directly before and after the Civil War up to World War One.

The exciting day of events concluded at the beautiful GlasSalon, Glass Pavilion at the Toledo Museum of Art. After opening remarks by Charlene D. Gilbert, MFA dean of the College of Arts and Letters at the University

... continued on page 11



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The Soulcial Scene

I Got A Lust For Life... continued from page 10

of Toledo, the enthusiastic crowd was treated to a dynamic and his well-attended round-table type of discussion featuring panelists Tyehimba Jess, noted Pulitzer Prize winning poet; M.L. Liebler Detroit-based award winning poet and editor of the anthology *Heaven was Detroit: From Jazz to Hip-Hop and Beyond*; Frances Brockington, classical vocalist and associate professor of Voice at Wayne State University; and Lee Ellen Martin, PhD, jazz vocalist.

Certainly, no meaningful discussion about the African-American Great Migration and the subsequent heavy influence this historical event had (and continues to have) in all musical genres, would be complete without mentioning Toledo's legendary music genius, Jon Hendricks, who passed away just three months ago, on November 21, 2017.

A musical tribute in honor of Hendricks, both highlighted and closed the



Five Creative Gift Ideas for Your Valentine

Looking to surprise your loved one this Valentine's Day with something a bit different? Check out these five creative gift ideas that will help make the day special.

1. Take a trip around the world with your taste buds. Cooking dinner for your partner on Valentine's Day is nothing new, but kick it up a notch with an "Around the World" theme. Pick some destinations you'd love to travel to and get into the kitchen together to create their signature dishes. For extra points, track down drinks specifically found in those regions to pair with your food. You'll have fun experiencing new cuisine, and it may even ignite a spark to book a trip!

2. Make more time together. Use some creativity to show your Valentine that you want to spend more time together. Pair a new timepiece with roses for a unique presentation. Consider classic fashion choices with Casio's Vintage timepieces, which feature stainless steel bands in different metallic color combinations, a daily alarm, hourly time signal and an auto-calendar, ensuring you are never late for a date.

3. Commission a custom family portrait. Whether you have kids, pets or it is just the two of you, a custom family portrait is a sweet gift and a great piece of artwork for your home. Find an independent portrait artist on a site like Etsy or put your own artistic abilities to the test and create the portrait yourself.

4. Create an at-home spa day. Get pampered without leaving the house. Book a travelling masseuse or create DIY bath products like bath bombs or scrubs with essential oils. Create a spa-like atmosphere with low lights, candles and flower arrangements. Order dinner in afterwards and enjoy the special time together as relaxed as can be.

5. Write a love song. Whether you write it yourself or pick a favorite that's personal to you, performing a love song is a touching way to show you cherish someone. Enhance your performance with a portable keyboard that makes learning easy, such as Casio's CTK-2550. It features 61 full-size keys, 400 high-quality tones and 150 built-in rhythms to ensure you have all the tools you need to create a beautiful musical number for the one you love. Or, connect to your iOS or Android device to use the free Chordana Play app, which uses the keyboard's display to show you how to play your favorite songs. Just download your favorite MIDI files, connect your device's headphone output to the keyboard's audio input, and explore an endless library of music.

full day of events. The musical ensemble was composed of Lauren Smith and Isabella Weik on vocals, Benjamin Maloney on piano, David Cerelli on bass, and Olman E. Piedra, PhD on drums.

A recommended reading list is provided for those of you who are interested in learning more about the influence of African-Americans in the literary and music arenas:

- *A Trouble Shooter's Voice Manual* by Frances Brockington (1997)
- *African American Music: An Introduction* edited by Mellonee V Burnim and Portia K. Maulsby (2006)
- *I'll Take You There: An Oral and Photographic History of the Hines Farm Blues Club* by Matthew A. Donahue (1999)
- *Olio* by Tyehimba Jess (2016)
- *The Music of Black Americans: A History* by Eileen Southern (1997)
- *Lost Toledo* by David Yonke (2015)
- *Dancing in the Street: Motown and the Cultural Politics of Detroit* by Suzanne E. Smith (2001)
- *Heaven was Detroit: From Jazz to Hip-Hop and Beyond* by M. L. Liebler (2016)
- *Leadbelly* by Tyehimba Jess (2005)xx



Autumn Gineen Trunk Show



Date: February 24, 2018

Cost: \$8

Time: 6pm

This year's debut of Autumn Gineen's collection will feature couture gowns for women of all sizes. As a bonus, the mini fashion show will be held in the beautiful Sojourner's Truth Art Gallery located on 1811 Adams St, Toledo OH @7:15 pm. Join us for an enriching evening of fine custom clothing & refreshments.

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The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope

Helping Families Break the Cycle of Poverty

Pathway of Hope is a national Salvation Army program that was started in 2011. Here in Toledo, we have been using the program since 2015. The mission of the Pathway of Hope is to provide enhanced services to families that are ready to take action to break the cycle of poverty for their children and generations to come. It is different than the other services offered by The Salvation Army because it's not a one-time appointment with assistance, but intentionally working with clients to move them from crisis and vulnerability to stability and sufficiency.

Youth who live in poverty for more than half of their childhood are 32 times more likely to be in poverty as an adult. A goal of Pathway of Hope is to solve this problem by addressing the root causes of chronic, intergenerational poverty in the United States. The Pathway of Hope is an approach to providing enhanced services to families with a desire to

take action to break the cycle of crisis.

The Pathway of Hope program is open to parents who are ready to take action to improve their future and their child's future. Pathway of Hope is an intensive program that can be challenging for families, but The Salvation Army team will walk alongside the family for the duration of the program. The program involves an initial meeting with the Pathway of Hope team to develop a personalized action plan followed by meeting with the team on a regular basis to chart your progress. At the six-month mark, you will see how far you have come, celebrate your success and figure out what's next on your journey. If The Pathway of Hope program is something you are interested in for you and your family contact The Salvation Army at 419-241-1138 for more information and to find out if you qualify.

Lanaya's 45th.. continued from page 16

McDonald, a licensed mental health and drug and alcohol counselor and



Robert Greenlee



Dance Floor

an Army Reservist, is also a unit management chief at Toledo Correctional.

The very busy birthday girl was pleased not only with the turnout, but also with the way the event was handled at the Peacock. As she noted later, "Most of the milestones in my life have been there."



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Alpha Phi Alpha.. continued from page 16

Drum Major for Justice Award, an annual honor presented by the fraternity to a community member who leads a campaign for justice, as inspired by the well-known speech of Martin Luther King Jr. The 2018 honoree was Timothy Pettaway, the pastor of Walk the Word Ministry. Pastor Pettaway was inspired in May 2010 to begin the journey which would lead to the creation of Walk the Word Ministry holding its first service on July 24, 2011.

This year's guest speaker was Jeff Johnson, University of Toledo graduate and radio and television personality.



Willie Garrett, and Michael Williams



Pastor Pettaway

Jefferson's Daughters by Catherine Kerrison

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Which one is your favorite?

c. 2018
Ballantine Books
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada
448 pages

That's a question heavy with danger, as any parent knows. You might be asked, but you can't choose one child over another. Parents are supposed to love each of their children differently but equally though, in the new book *Jefferson's Daughters* by Catherine Kerrison, history sometimes shows otherwise...

When young Thomas Jefferson married the widow Martha Wayles Skelton, their first nights were spent inside a promise: Monticello, on the grounds he'd received from his father, was only partially completed. Martha Jefferson would spend just "a little over half of her married life" and much heartbreak there.

After having birthed several children, most of whom didn't live, Martha sickened and died in the fall of 1782; perhaps compassionately, Thomas Jefferson was sent by the U.S. Congress to Europe. With him, he took his daughter, 11-year-old Martha; and James, the son of Elizabeth Hemings, Jefferson's late wife's slave and her half-sister. Jefferson sent his youngest two daughters, along with Elizabeth's youngest daughter, Sally, to his sister-in-law's home.

Known as a lively, intelligent girl, young Martha was quick with languages, could sing and dance, and had become her father's best support after her mother's death. Shortly after she arrived in Paris, she was sent to a convent school, and considered the idea of becoming a nun.

In 1787, Jefferson sent for his second daughter, then-nine-year-old Maria, who arrived in Paris with fo14-year-old "companion-maid" Sally Hemings. Maria must have been rather used to being

uprooted: over the years, her father had sent her to several homes to be raised and educated. Paris was just another in a long line. No record was made of Sally's feelings, although Kerrison imagines she was unhappy.

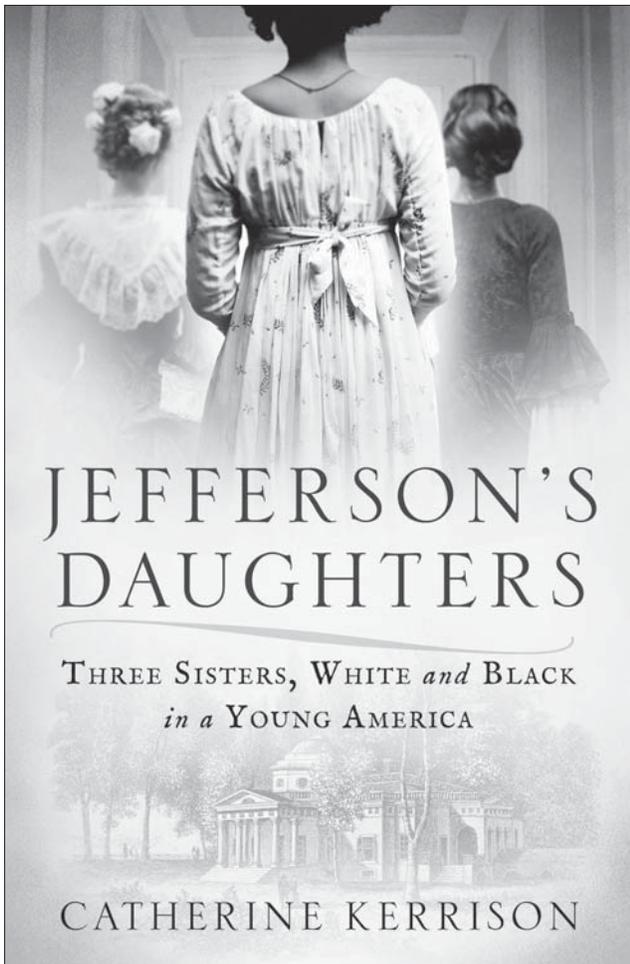
Just two years later, Thomas Jefferson, his daughters, and his slaves returned home to Virginia, reportedly to great fanfare. Seventeen-year-old Martha, wishing to avoid being suddenly "supervised," quickly became betrothed. Eleven-year-old Maria, a sweet child, was soon sent to Philadelphia, to boarding school. Sixteen-year-old Sally, pregnant with her master's child, didn't have to come home to Virginia at all; in France, she was legally free, but she chose to return after negotiating with Jefferson.

She'd be, after all, "a mother of children destined for freedom."

For the casual reader, *Jefferson's Daughters* may be a challenge but that's not author Catherine Kerrison's fault; it's because of naming habits of 18th century people. For instance, there are several Marthas in this book, so beware.

There's also a lot of back story here, too, but it's necessary. Kerrison reaches well back into time to explain several points that she makes later, especially when it comes to Sally Hemings, her actions, and her decisions that showed eye-popping strength. There – once we get more into Hemings' life and that of her eldest daughter, Harriet – is where this book becomes totally compelling and can't-put-down irresistible.

Of course, it's perfect for historians but anyone who's interested in women's issues and Black history will be happy reading this book, too. Once you settle into *Jefferson's Daughters*, it may become one of your favorites.



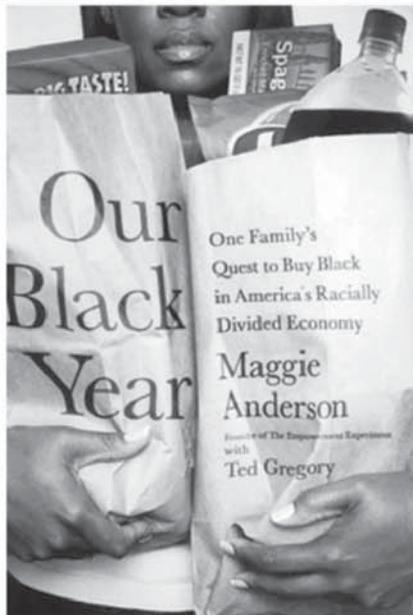
Scott High School Alumni Association (SHSAA) monthly meetings

The Scott High School Alumni Association (SHSAA) holds monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Jesup W. Scott High School in the conference room near the entrance of the school cafeteria. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Please join us as we plan activities for 2018. Contact us at ScottAlumni@gmail.com or dorisjj2000@yahoo.com. Memberships are available, contact Tara Ali at tyali60@gmail.com for membership information.

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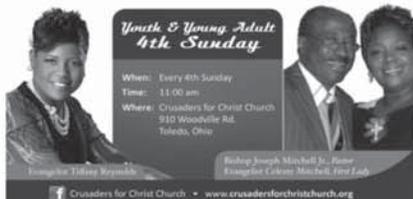
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CLASSIFIEDS

January 31, 2018

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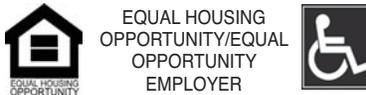


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The Lucas County Land Bank has issued separate Requests for Qualifications for two core service needs: (1) Field Maintenance and (2) Tree & Landscaping Services.

Field Maintenance work will be performed on vacant and abandoned properties owned or controlled by the Land Bank and includes clean-out services (removal of garbage and debris, tires, standing water, and mold) and board-up services to keep properties secure. Tree & Landscaping Services will be performed on properties owned by the Land Bank or part of community projects and includes tree and stump removal, brush clearing, tree planting, and general landscaping services.

Interested local and regional contractors must have a demonstrated track record of high-quality work. Contractors are eligible to apply for one or both of these RFQs. WBE/MBE contractors are encouraged to apply. Applications can be found at www.LucasCountyLandBank.org and are due on February 24, 2018. A mandatory meeting will be held on February 6, 2018. Full details can be found in each Request for Qualifications posted.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization with an \$8 million annual budget and a mission to help strengthen neighborhoods and preserve property values by returning vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use.

SPECIAL EVENT ASSISTANT

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening for a Special Events Assistant at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. Must be 18 or older with HS diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$8.51/hr. Some experience in customer service, special events, or maintenance preferred. Go to www.metroparkstolledo.com for complete job requirements and descriptions; must submit online application by February 13th. EOE

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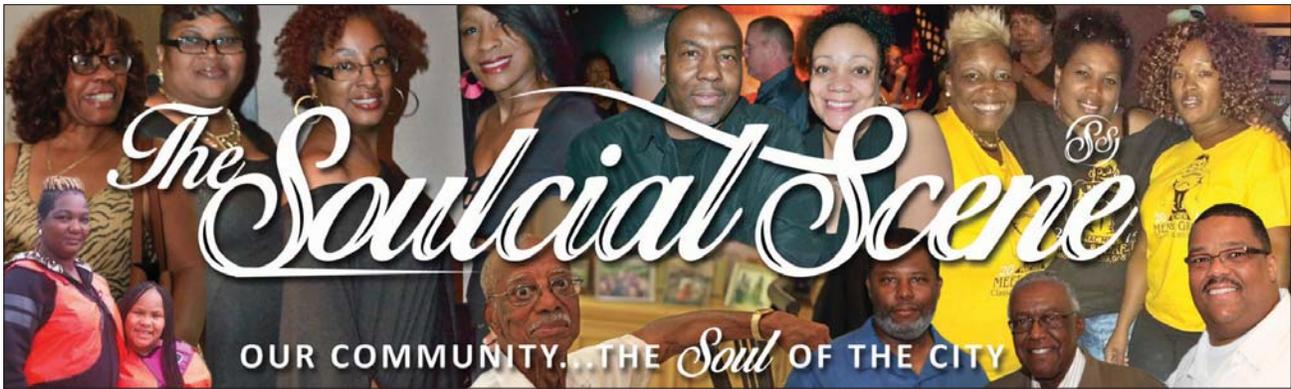
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Lanaya's 45th Brings Out Family and Friends on a Frosty Night

The bitter cold temps didn't prevent Lanaya McDonald's many friends and family members from joining her at the Peacock Café for a 45th birthday celebration on January 13. The celebration, "A Little Black Dress Affair," brought together more than 100 people, family members from out-of-town for example, despite the cold weather.

... continued on page 12



Amy Hayes, Lanaya McDonnell and Carla Fitzgerald



Amy Hayes



Janelle and Bernard Nelson



Lady K and Chris Down



Latonya Greenlee and Lanaya McDonnell



Dance Floor



Lanaya McDonnell (parents Robert and Latonya Greenlee) with family and friends



Darris Mosley - DJ

Annual Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Breakfast Features Drum Major for Justice Award

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated held their 26th annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio.

Over 500 individuals – comprised of fraternity members of Alpha Phi Alpha, honorees and Toledo-area residents – gathered for the event.

The key moment of the breakfast, as always, is the presentation of

... continued on page 12



Alpha member Johnny Hutton, Celeste Felix-Taylor and Rebecca Ransberger of TLCPL



Angela Bronson of TLCPL, Alexis Means of 13 action news, and Rhonda Sewell of TLCPL



Deborah and Ronald Rice



Judy Jones, Faith Hairston, and Brett Collins of Toledo Lucas County Public Library



Ralph Murphy II, PhD JeTahn Avery, Gregory Walker



Reginald Temple, Kellie Jones, Jewell Jones Jr, and Alan Bannister



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