

The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 60, No. 4

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

February 26, 2020

Weldon Douthitt: A Toledo Icon



Helen Cooks, PhD; Judge Jack Puffenberger; Weldon Douthitt; Ruth Ashford; Michael Ashford; Mike Craig

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Smooth Transitions

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

The Truth Contributor

The old order changeth yielding place to new And God fulfills himself in many ways Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

- Alfred Tennyson



They are here!

The Millennials – those born between 1981 and 1996, now are the largest living generation and the majority of the workforce. Soon, this group, more diverse, digitally savvy and socially progressive than any time in history, will also comprise the largest voting bloc, surpassing their parents, according to journalist Charlotte Alter.

Although many (especially Baby Boomers) complain that they are “entitled, demanding, naïve, and overly sensitive to microaggressions,” today’s youth are once again beginning to inspire grassroots social unrest in communities and on college campuses such as Ball State University, Syracuse University and Western Michigan University.

I understand the young people’s need to step up.

“People have to decide to get involved,” said one young activist. “If the power of the current administration continues totally unchecked for another four years, there will be generations before the harm can be repaired. To roll back women’s rights, Civil Rights, severely roll back on environmental rights and protections, if we don’t take action now it’s hard to get back what you lose. So now, this is [for us] the pivotal election since 1968,” he added.

All Politics is local:

Yet, locally, there is also an “energy” and excitement among this latest generation of “disrupters.” Long time Lucas County politicians Pete Gerken, Tina Skeldon-Wozniak, Bernie Quilter and Phil Copeland are entering what is likely their last term of public service. A political power vacuum is likely to result.

A Few Shining Stars:

There are many promising potential successors to those departing politicians whose waning perspective, in the words of Alter, are located “closer to the past than they are to the future.”

Newly-elected Toledo Board of Education Member Sheena Barnes brings a fresh perspective, a vibrant presence and is the first on the scene. “She understands the community; she’s got a story that people can relate to. Sheena brings new ideas and has a brighter political future than just a school board in the future if she chooses,” one Democratic Party insider described. “I’ve seen her connect with lots and lots of folks in a concise time, and I think she’s great.”

Elgin Rogers, expected to ascend shortly to interim CEO at Pathway after serving as board chair, is another luminous figure with a bright future in our community.

There are many other exciting younger leaders also primed to go to the next level including Northwest Ohio Young Black Democrats leader Brittany Moore. There is also Reem Subei, the first Muslim woman ever to run for the Ohio Senate.

Other names such as Precious Tate, Keith Jordan, Brandon Tucker, Blair Johnson are also a few of many young people who are highly electable should they decided to run for public office.

Can we pass the leadership baton without botching the exchange?

While organizations such as the Perry Burroughs Women’s Democratic Club, Democratic Women in Action and the African American Leadership Caucus are engaged with young people, gone are the George Davis type power-brokers and the infrastructure to prepare for the transition of power from one generation to another.

What is necessary is for the Lucas County Democratic Party (currently in turmoil) to “get some direction and vision and go back to what the core responsibility of the Party is, which is developing neighborhood leaders, skill-sets and leadership so that folks are in positions when opportunities present,” a county level politician explained.

That means convincing real power brokers to make it possible for young people to become engaged in clubs and rotating into presidential positions so that they have a seat on executive committees. This will “enable them to be in the room when hard conversations are had and building a network and connections and get them involved in issues that are close to their hearts so that they can automatically lead on those issues and create a natural platform. When there’s events, conversations, and round tables, we need to plug people in as learning partners, not just as people sitting in the back row.

... continued on page 3

Community Calendar

February 25-March 1

Imagination Station Space Week: Space ... the final frontier ... for exciting science exploration

February 27

A Community Meeting – “Changing Minds, Changing Lives: Combating Racism:” Warren AME Church; 6 to 8 pm; Sponsored by the Multifaith Council of NW Ohio, YWCA, ABLE, NAACP, Fair Housing, First Church, Warren, Buckeye Health Plan: 419-255-0098 ext 204

February 28

Braden UMC’s Annual Black History Month Soul Food Potluck: 6 pm; “African Americans and the Vote:” 419-386-2700

February 29

Calvary Baptist Church Planning for the Expected and Unexpected Forum: 11:am-1:pm; Topics of Discussion are: Insurance, Hospice Care, Living Wills, Wills, Medical Power of Attorney and Preplanning Funeral Arrangements Warren AME Church “Let’s Talk About Cancer:” 11am to 1 pm; Free lunch to discuss the impact of breast, colon and prostate cancers in the black community

March 1

Art of the Cut:

March 7-8

St. Paul MBC Men’s Day Weekend: 9 am Saturday Breakfast with Guest speaker Rev. Floyd Smith of Calvary MBC; Sunday 10:45 am service with Guest speaker Rev. Kenneth Wayne Coleman of Canaan MBC of Dayton: 419-246-2886

April 24-25

Calvary Baptist Church Women’s Ministry 23 Spring Retreat: Holiday Inn Lima: 419-531-9443

The Sojourner's Truth

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Becky McQueen – Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Megan Davis – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster

Jessica Crans – Layout

A Certified MBE

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And Here Is the Reason Why

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

"Your eyes are getting heavy...real heavy. You are quieting your mind...all is at peace. You are relaxed and you are seeing nice places in your mind..."

"Now, when I tell you to open your eyes, you will leave your mind closed and only listen to me and what I say. Do you understand?"

"Yes master," the servile, hypnotized voter says during his politically induced trance.

"You will suspend all logic and common sense thinking and against all facts and history, you will vote for Bernie Sanders for President!"

"Yes master, I will obey your every command!" And so goes the present presidential Democratic primary events in which the Democratic Party is seeking a seasoned boxer to go 15 brutal rounds with Herr Trump who is known to be a dirty fighter.

Make no mistake about it. If Bernie Sanders is the Democratic nominee, the upcoming election will be – not promises to be – a real battle royale with each side drawing blood and bruises.

The brawl will be a no-holds-barred contest with both sides poking thumbs in their opponent's eyes and denying they did it. They will knee body parts that knees should not visit.

Morning, noon and night, the airwaves and social media will be bombarded with bots, fake ads, fake polls, false testimonies, lurid stories, and cries of "Foul!" to the Federal Elections Commission, but to no avail.

The refs in this Mother Of All Political Wars will have a blind eye and will let the combatants duke it out to the end. When even Stevie Wonder could see blatant violations of the election laws, these snowflake refs will turn their heads away and calmly say, "Didn't see it!"

But, and this the King Kong in the closet.

Bernie Sanders is a SOCIALIST (democratic – as if adding on that moniker will mean anything to a non-discerning voter)!

Let me repeat that. Bernie Sanders, the aged and ornery white haired seemingly-mad-all-the-time senator from Vermont is two shades from being labeled a communist! (already labeled that by Herr Trump).

Tell me in twenty words or less. How does a Democratic Socialist win a nationwide election in a capitalistic country?

Answer: wait for it...He does not!

If you are not hypnotized like the above person I introduced at the beginning of this article, you will soon understand that being a socialist of any stripe or degree spells D-O-O-M in any language in the US of A.

Take a few examples. Tell me the number of voters in Ottawa Hills, Shaker Hts., Chevy Chase, Gross Pointe, Palm Beach, Riverside California and other toney/rich places that will lay down their Wall Street Journal newspapers and Barron's and Fortune Magazines and pull the lever for a socialist?

Tell me the number of blue-collar workers in Port Clinton, Youngstown, Scranton, Milwaukee, and Jacksonville who will put out yard signs saying, BERNIE FOR PRESIDENT!

Bernie may have a large excitable younger age base but that does not equate into a nationwide movement in the key battleground states that are needed in order to dump Herr Trump.

Being loud at rallies does not translate into older Americans going to the polls to vote for a socialist.

Is Bernie deluded? To me, yes and so is his rabid base thinking that in their bubble, Bernie is on his way to the White House to make a socialist revolution inevitable.

Don't drink the Kool-Aid! Bernie's insistence on Medicare For All (no exceptions) is a fool's dream that Bernie has been hyping for decades.

If you listen to Bernie closely and watch his facial expressions and posturing, you are seeing the ravings of a man who thinks that this is his last rodeo (and it is!) and unless we all fall under his socialist spell, we are dupes for capitalism.

It is Bernie's Way or the highway and if you question his math on financing his pipe dream plan (including free college tuition at public colleges), you are seen as a virus to be attacked.

Bernie has done quite well in this "capitalistic" culture with his three homes, published books and fat-cat salary and benefits as a US Senator.

Sometimes, I get the impression that Bernie just likes to get a rise out of people with his constant yapping that socialism is the cure-all for all our ailments.

If Bernie gets the nod to be the face of the Democratic Party's presidential choice, watch out! Herr Trump and his craven forces will make him out to

Perryman... continued from page 2

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SNITCH THEM OUT!!

By Gwynn Ellis-Manning
Special to The Truth

Another Mother's Day has passed and one Toledo mother is still praying, still broken-hearted and her life will forever be changed by the senseless murder of her ONLY son, Cethus Jerome Manning II who was murdered in the early morning hours of February 21, 2017. This is the morning that Gwynn Manning received the heart breaking call and news that no mother EVER wants to receive...the news that her son has been murdered.



Cephus Jerome Manning II

Imagine this, on the night of February 20, 2017 as her son was at home talking with her and preparing to go to work at his part-time job (Fed Ex) from 11:30 PM until 3:30 AM. "Jay" (as his family and friends called him) was happy that he was about to graduate from his Welding Apprentice Program from Penta County and that following Monday he was to start a job at Sunrise Windows, a job his sister helped him obtain.

His mother remembers the joy in his eyes and heart as he was dancing in his room, getting ready and went down the stairs to go to work that night. His mother was at the top of the stairs saying "I love you baby, and be careful." His reply was "I love you too mama and I'll be careful." This last memory and vision of her son running down the stairs will FOREVER be embedded in her mind, for this would be the last time she would see her son ALIVE.

Cethus J. Manning II was not killed in an automobile accident, or a mishap at work; he was gunned down by a cold-blooded killer as he sat in his mother's car and talked with his girlfriend (who also worked at Fed Ex) after their shift in front of her grandmother's house on Everett Street. He tried to get out of the car, but was shot in the back of the head, his back and upper thigh. His lifeless body fell out of the car

on the passenger side and hit the curb where he laid and took his last breath.

Gwynn Manning would like for you to know her son, who he really was, and this is her story...

February 21, 2017, at 5:15 AM, will forever be the darkest day of my life because in the early morning hours as he was dropping off his girlfriend around 4:30 AM, someone walked up to my car and shot my son (Cethus Jay Manning II) and killed him...he was only 19 years old. My son wasn't a thug or a menace to society; he was a respectable and decent young man.

He wasn't out here robbing, raping, killing, selling drugs, or committing crimes. He didn't carry a gun as these young people do today. He was coming home from work when someone stole his life. He was my only son, and my world has forever been changed. I have a whole in my heart that will never go away. Some days the heartache and pain is just unbearable. I look at his pictures of the loving, smiling young man and ask myself consistently, "why would someone kill my child?" I am in grief beyond words, and so is the rest of my family.

I pray every day that whoever did this heinous crime to my child, that God will reveal them, and bring JUSTICE FOR JAY. He didn't deserve to be shot up in a car, and die like a dog in the street. The police have no suspects, just persons of interest (as they say), but no one has been charged with this brutal crime. I'm asking for prayers for my family that we'll have peace, comfort and closure. This is so hard, so very hard. No parent should have to go through this.

"Jay", (as we called him) was a good boy, a loving, kind, respectable young man who had his whole life ahead of him. He was just coming into his life as a man when it was stolen from him. He'll never have a family, a child; know the joys and perils of being a man and taking care of his responsibilities, and being an asset to society. He would have been someone great and good, an asset to the community and society. I am haunted by the visions of my son's last thoughts as he looked at his killer, and drew his last breath. I pray that he didn't suffer; that he called on Jesus before his life left him, and of course his Mama. Burying your child is the most devastating thing that will happen to any parent in their lifetime.

You go through all the facets of sorrow and grief. Missing your child; missing their face, their laughter and watching them grow from a child into adulthood. Parents are not supposed to bury their children; our children are supposed to bury us and when this circle of life is distorted, it is a heartache that doesn't ever end, or ever heal. For the rest of your life you will feel the loss, the hurt, the heartache, the emptiness and the void that will never be filled.

"Jay" was a loving, kind, respectable and decent young man who had his whole life ahead of him. He was just coming into his life as a man,

... continued on page 6

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Weldon Douthitt: Lucas County Commissioners Honor A Toledo Icon

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Describing the honoree as “a personal friend of all of us,” former State Rep. Michael Ashford had the final say during a Lucas County Commissioners’ Black History Month celebration. On February 18, 2020, the Commissioners honored the 86-year-old Weldon Douthitt for his contributions to the community in a number of different areas – social services, politics, community organizing and a lifelong commitment to helping others.

Douthitt, who has spent decades with the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA), now Pathway, working with housing issues in underserved neighborhoods as project director for the agency’s Home Rehabilitation department, was just recently in a home that needed work done.

“Last week, imagine this 86-year-old man in a 70 year-old senior’s basement, dealing with frozen pipes,” said Ashford of Douthitt’s continuing involvement with improving housing problems.

Douthitt arrived in Toledo in 1954, noted Commissioner Pete Gerken as he kicked off the tributes to his long-time acquaintance. “He came here in 1954 and was a skilled-trades mentor with EOPA/Pathway since [that agency’s] inception. He left a mark on a community, on people and on housing stock. He is an iconic figure in the African-American community.”

For many Toledoans, especially those who follow local politics, Douthitt’s name will be forever entwined with that of his long-time best friend – former Mayor Jack Ford. For years, Ford was the very public face of local politics – elected, first, to City Council, then to the Ohio General Assembly, mayor, Toledo Board of Education and, again, to City Council. For just as many years, Douthitt provided the backing and support for the Ford campaigns – making the tactical decisions and doing the leg work to get the candidate elected.

Ashford spoke of the threesome he formed with the Ford-Douthitt duo after he entered politics. “In that threesome, Jack wasn’t in charge; and I wasn’t in charge. Weldon was in charge and told us each and every day what we needed to do.”

Jessica Ford, the Lucas County deputy administrator and Jack Ford’s daughter, has known Douthitt all of her life ... as a member of the family, more than just her father’s advisor and friend.

“Weldon is the true definition of grass roots,” said Jessica Ford on Tuesday. “His community organizing during the Civil Rights movement – is a legacy no one will be able to replace. Without Weldon, you don’t have Jack. Weldon spent hours doing whatever was necessary and he understood how important it was to have folks at the table.”

“Weldon gives because it’s the right thing to do,” said Ashford introducing his friend.

Douthitt spoke of the honor and pleasure he has had over the years connecting with such a large variety of people in the community – the friendships he has formed and the appreciation he has had for friends and family.

Politics, social action, community organizing, mentoring younger generations – Douthitt has accomplished a lot and given a lot and he has no plans to ease up yet.

“The good Lord willing, I will be 87 years old in March,” he noted as he described how much everyone close to him in his life – family and friends – have meant to him.



Helen Cooks, PhD; Judge Jack Puffenberger, Weldon Douthitt, Ruth Ashford, Michael Ashford, Mike Craig



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Snitch Them Out... continued from page 4

when it was stolen from him. He was enrolled in a Welding Apprentice Program, doing very well and would have graduated in June of 2017. His school gave him a tribute on their graduation day. He attended school from 5:00 until 9:30 PM, and then worked at Fed Ex from 11:00 PM until 3:30 AM, Monday through Friday. "Jay" was a decent child, reared in a loving home and family. He was also raised in the church, a member of the youth choir, and was in a few affiliations in the church and community.

"Jay" was loved by so many and had a plethora of friends who miss him terribly. Anyone who knew him knows that he had the kindest heart, a beautiful smile that lit up a room and was the most loving, caring and respectable young man. There is now a tremendous void that is our present and our future due to "Jay's" tragic departure from this earthly life. We have a whole in our hearts that will never be filled. Some days the pain and heartache is just unbearable. I miss my only son.

I have been constantly keeping in touch with the detective(s) on his case, and they always say that the case hasn't gone cold, but they have nothing. No one has called into crime stopper with anything, or no one has called them with any new leads or information and how this just baffles the bureau that no one has called in with a legitimate lead that will lead to the apprehension and prosecution of his murderer. My family has posted a reward; the Detective Bureau has listed the case in the town's crime-stopper program and the paper with a reward and to no avail. My family has posted flyers with his picture on them, and no answers, the city's crime stopper program posted a reward also and nothing.

It's so heartbreaking to think that you raised a wonderful person for 19 years and then he's brutally taken from this earth and no one is accountable for this terrible injustice.

C. J. and Gwynn Manning's son was a Rogers High School Graduate, and enrolled in a Welding Apprentice Program at Penta County. He was a "Good, Decent Kid" Jay Manning had no criminal record, had never been arrested or in trouble with the law. He was raised in a two parent home; raised and active in church with his youth choir. He was reared to respect his elders, and to do the right thing in life, yet someone plotted to steal his life. It's not only the person you murder that suffers from such a heinous action, but their whole family as well.

"Jay's" life was not taken in a fit of rage; he was not arguing with anyone or as an act of self-defense. It was plain cold blooded murder, and his young life was forever silenced. His 20th birthday was celebrated



CJ and Glenda Manning

as a vigil at Woodlawn Cemetery with family, friends and people who loved him wearing T-shirts with his pictures on them. Along with a balloon release, many were in attendance sharing heartfelt words about him. Channel 13 News, The Toledo Blade and The Toledo Journal covered the event. Sweet memories are now all we have to remember his voice, his presence and the life and love we will forever miss.

Cethus J. Manning II was the eighth homicide of 2017. His story is one of the many unsolved murders in Toledo, and these murders and the murderers must be stopped. Our youth are killing their generation for no reason at all, and this must cease. It's time for Mothers, Fathers and families to stop burying their children and loved ones because of this senseless gun violence these young people are doing now.

People the time has come to SNITCH THEM OUT! Let the perpetrator(s) of this and other horrific crimes know that they don't have the right to TAKE A LIFE just because you have an argument; are jealous; envious; gang related; don't like them, etc. A life is a precious thing, and it's not a PlayStation or other gaming system where the person attacked or killed can get back up when you push REPLAY! Life isn't like that. When you kill someone its FINAL. They can't come back from DEATH!! Families are being destroyed and Mothers are devastated for the rest of their lives. Please people, if you know something about this terrible crime that happened to young Cethus Manning II, please I beseech you to come forward and inform on them. You can call crime stopper at (419)-255-1111, and make acknowledgement of what you know or heard.

This could be the tip that cracks this case. Do the right thing; this could have been YOUR family member, (so think how you would feel).

No longer must these cold blooded killers be allowed to walk free, sit at our tables, eat our food, sleep in our homes, ride in our cars and breathe and live, while they ended someone's life for nothing. Not because it was self-defense, protecting their family or property, but just because they have a gun. In the old days if you had a beef with someone, you had a fist fight, and you either whooped or got whopped, but you LIVED to fight another day. Nowadays everyone wants to carry a gun and just kill someone just because they can. What if this was your brother, sister, mother, father, etc., how would you feel then?

It is time for these vile people to know and understand that there is a God who sits high and looks low. Nothing is hidden from God, and you REAP WHAT YOU SOW ALWAYS!!! No longer must these cold blooded killers be allowed to take the lives of our youth or anybody and then brag about ending the life of another human being.


SNITCH THEM OUT!!! They must be exposed; Justice must and will come when we as a community take a stand. If you know something - say something. You can remain anonymous. But if you know something, saw something, then say something or the blood of these victims is on your hands. There is nothing noble about keeping the secret of a murderer! SNITCH THEM OUT!!! The taste of blood is in their mouths and they are thirsty for more. Don't think that you are exempt from the havoc they wreak, these killers do not value life and the next life they decide to take might be YOURS, or someone you love.

I pray that God will reveal whoever did this heinous crime to this child, and bring them to justice to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for what they did to young Cethus J. Manning II.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

A COMMUNITY MEETING

**Changing Minds &
Changing Lives:
Combating
Racism**



Please join The Toledo Community Coalition as we recap 2019 and navigate the challenges of racism in 2020. We will also honor Mr. Dave Murray and the late Rev. Karen Shepler.

**Thursday, February 27, 2020
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Warren AME Church
915 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH 43604**

Sponsored By Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio, YWCA, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Association of United States Catholic Priests, Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio, Ohio Civil Rights Commission, NAACP, Buckeye Health Plan, Lucas County Health Department, The Fair Housing Center, Neighborhood Health Association, The Blade, YMCA, Toledo Together, First Church of God, and Warren AME Church.

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The Soulcial Scene

Fashions, Fros & Finds

Local Artist Places in the International Model and Talent Association Convention

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

Jeremy Holloway has more than a dream. In this year 2020, being hailed as the Year of Vision, he has a clear picture of what he wants to accomplish, and works diligently to complete his vision in concept, progress and fulfillment.

Last month, The International Model and Talent Association (IMTA) Convention was held in Los Angeles at the downtown Westin Hotel. Toledoan Jeremy Holloway followed in the footsteps of another local native, actress Katie Holmes, whose participation with the local Starbound Talent company informed both actors of the IMTA event.

The International Model and Talent Association employs hundreds of fashion and talent agents, personal managers, casting directors, network representatives and music producers who have a long-standing rapport of excellence in judging and scouting new talent for new models, actors, singers and dancers to work in the fashion and entertainment industries. Along with Katie Holmes, other actors who have competed at IMTA include Ashton Kutcher, Eva Longoria and Jessica Biel.

Holloway is a singer-songwriter, having recently released his album No More Delay, an intimate playlist of reflective and worshipful music that he shares as worship leader at Solid Rock Missionary Church in Blissfield, Michigan. Last week he shared his musical gift in honor of the survivors of multiple earthquakes in Puerto Rico, at the Light of Hope prayer vigil and fundraiser held at Braden United Methodist Church.

In addition to being a recording artist, he published his first book entitled God Wants You to Smile Today: 25 Epiphanies of God's Goodness — Secrets to Living With Radical Peace, Joy and Hope, which explores the healing and inspiration found in the simple expression of a smile. Holloway's voice and smile garnered him the honor of winning third runner-up for best songwriting award, best commercial and a runner's up for Best Male Actor of the Year 2020 at IMTA. He said, "I am happy to announce that out of quite a group of amazing people, I was humbled to rep Toledo in these categories! I am still so amazed."

His career in education has given him the opportunity to teach abroad in South Korea, being awarded as International Teacher of Excellence; and in various cities throughout China and locally at The University of Toledo and Lourdes University. He received a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and a bachelor of education degree from UT. He taught Spanish at area schools and later graduated from the University of Toledo with a master's degree in English as a second language.

Holloway's passion for mentorship, leadership development, and goal-

... continued on page 11



Jeremy Holloway

Honor Black History Month by EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

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- ☑ Chair - Toledo City Council's Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform Committee

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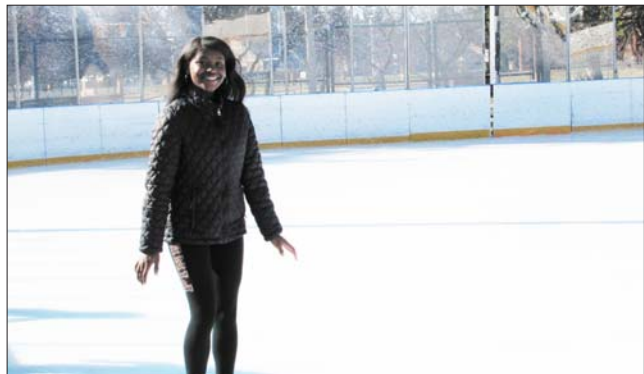
The Soulcial Scene

2020 Annual Youth Skate Day – Winter Wonderland

Councilman Tyrone Riley invited the community to attend his 2020 Annual Youth Ice Skate Day - Winter Wonderland. This free event was held on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at Ottawa Park Ice Rink from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a special appearance by the Walleye's very own Spike!

“As a youth, I wanted to visit the Ottawa Park Ice Rink, but for no particular reason the opportunity never presented itself. I am providing an opportunity for youth and family members to experience the fun and excitement of ice skating. This event is to encourage youth to learn and experience a new sport, while having a fun and enjoyable time with others in the community,” Councilman Riley explained.

The event will included admission, skate rental and hot chocolate.



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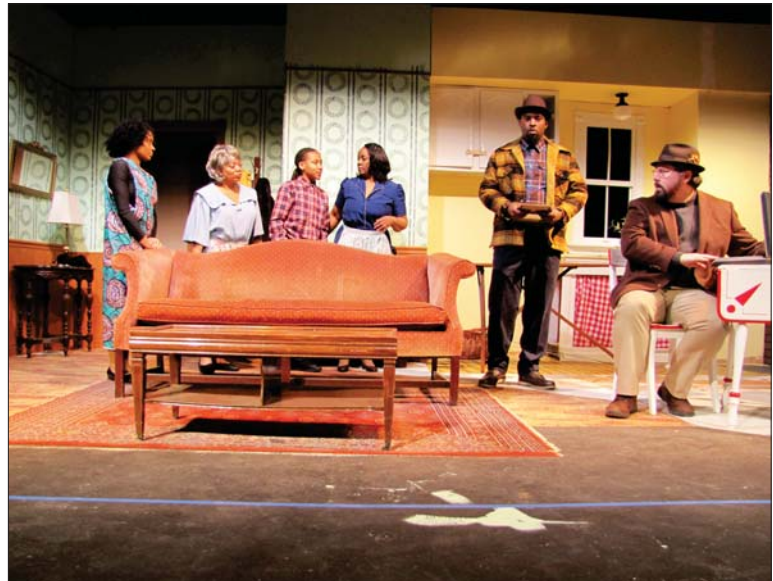
The Soulcial Scene

A Raisin in the Sun – The Next Two Weekends at Toledo Repertory

A Raisin in the Sun, a play by Lorraine Hansberry that debuted on Broadway in 1959, is coming to Toledo this weekend. The play's title comes from the poem "Harlem" (also known as "A Dream Deferred") by Langston Hughes. The story tells of a black family's experiences in south Chicago, as they attempt to improve their financial circumstances with an insurance payout following the death of the father. The New York Drama Critics' Circle named it the best play of 1959.

Walter and Ruth Younger, their son Travis, along with Walter's mother Lena (Mama) and Walter's sister Beneatha, live in poverty in a dilapidated two-bedroom apartment on Chicago's south side. Walter is barely making a living as a limousine driver. Walter desperately wishes to become wealthy. His plan is to invest in a liquor store in partnership with Willy and Bobo, his street-smart acquaintances.

Beneatha is in school and has plans to become a doctor and Mama just wants to move her family out of their crowded apartment into a house with the money from the insurance payout – a house in an all-



Beneatha, Mama, Travis and Ruth listen as Walter discusses the family's plans with Lindner



white neighborhood.

A Raisin in the Sun runs from February 28-March 8, 2020 Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Toledo Repertory Theatre.

The play is directed by Irina Zaurov, who directed a truly wonderful version of August Wilson's Fences last year at the Toledo Rep.

The cast includes Liam Ellis as Walter Lee Younger; Kimberly "Miss Pincoes" Kane as Mama; Lisa Renee Miller as Ruth Younger; Sabriyah Davis as Beneatha Younger; George Johnson as Asagai; Derrel Stephens as George Murchison; Kantrell Cameron as Bobo; Tristan Tobias Manahan as Travis Younger and J. Heath Huber as Karl Lindner

Tickets are \$20.00 for adults; \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students/children. For ticket info: www.toledorep.org or call (419)243-9277

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The Soulcial Scene

NANBPWC -Toledo Club Safe Encounters Program at Keyser Elementary School

Special to The Truth

The Toledo and Maumee Bay adult and youth clubs of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. presented a "Safe Encounters Program." This program focused on what you should do if stopped by the police. This is a very important program of NANBPWC because of the problems that citizens all over the United States encounter. It is also program mandate for the organization. Presidents Frances Collins, PhD, (Toledo Club) and Pattie Poston (Maumee Bay Club) welcomed everyone and emphasized the special message that was being presented.

The guest speakers featured were Sonya Randall from the Sheriff's Department and the Buffalo Soldiers. They spoke to over 150 youth from the Toledo Area high schools who are participating in the Cotillion Scholarship Program, as well as the Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Clubs adults and youth members. The Cotillion Scholarship Program is led by Chairman Wilma Brown and Co-Chairmen Karen Jarrett and Denise Cardwell.

Anyone can be stopped by the police for different reasons. This can happen regardless of where you live. You can also be walking, driving a car, or at a location where police are called to the scene. This program helps everyone understand the right way and the wrong way to respond.

Sonya Randall, Earl Mack and the Toledo Area Buffalo Soldiers gave an interactive presentation, mock scenarios and held a question and answer interactive segment. The message was to "Comply Now and Complain Later."

If you have a problem with your interaction or encounter with the police to file a complaint.

Literature on the Do's and Don't, Important Actions: What To Do If stopped By The Police, etc, were guides in the discussion. Two interactive sessions the students participated in consisted of volunteers who demonstrated the wrong way and the right way to respond if stopped by a police officer. The students did a fabulous job imitating what could possibly happen.

Program Chairman and First Vice President Denise Black-Poon thanked everyone for coming as she and members of both adult and youth clubs gathered around the special guest. Certificates were given to the special guests for their involvement and bringing awareness to the community. Maumee Bay Youth Club President Nia Hunter, Toledo Youth Club President Jordan Collins and other youth club members were also in attendance and presented certificates



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* Joan Lunden, journalist, best-selling author, former host of Good Morning America and senior living advocate.

The Soulcial Scene

Fashion Fros & Finds... continued from page 7

setting set him on a path to pursue a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction whereby he has passed the defense of his dissertation last week, making him eligible for graduation this May. Upon graduation and becoming Dr. Jeremy C. Holloway, he was asked what his future plans are: "There are many options, but one of them is become a professor in a university. While doing this I want to continue to write books, release albums, and do acting when the time presents itself. I also have my own media marketing company, Sm3x, so I plan to keep doing this as well. I feel blessed to be a blessing in any way that I can."

Fear isn't a part of his mindset, as he may be found affirming himself and others with positivity to fuel his goals and dreams. He is soft spoken, yet energized with enthusiasm for life, love and the pursuit of real joy.

Holloway is young and wears Free Form Locs, he plays the acoustic guitar and may be seen in a suit and tie or jeans and a sweater. When asked about the significance of his hair, he replied, "My hair is a statement. My hair means freedom. It's a reminder that I am free and beautiful just the way I am and that there are others out there that suffer and don't have anything and my hair is a reminder that I'm not here to serve perfect people, but people that look different from me. But in a nutshell, it represents the most valuable thing to me, and what I want for every person: FREEDOM."

No matter what he wears, he is always clothed with a smile.

In the midst of a time where society has gone into policing anything possible, including black hair, Holloway described his hairstyle's impact on his professional career. "The key words here are "MY professional career", not someone else's. Sometimes I believe we are waiting for someone else to tell us how we are supposed to look and act. That I believe, is the wrong mindset to have. You have to be happy with how you look. Honestly, I never thought about that much because I am not interested in a job that would affect my professional career in any way than the way I want.

"I'm sure if I applied for the wrong job, I'd receive a negative effect, but the effect that I receive the most is that people ask me if I am an artist or musician, and to that question I feel honored. My hair in a sense, filters out the people who are secure within themselves from the people who aren't. Those who are secure about themselves and do not feel the need to impress people they don't know are the kind of people I want to

be around. I find that people who don't want to superficially impress others are attracted to my style, so I'm thankful for that. If you don't feel that way, unfriend me, unfollow me, whatever you need to do. I understand the importance of blending in and there are times for that, but that I believe, is to a certain extent. Be who you are, and be around people who love that about you."

If you mention his honors, that include the 20 under 40 recipient in 2017, his numerous recognitions in the local community and from educational institutions or his recent accomplishments, it's no wonder why Jeremy Holloway would smile. But his greatest achievements include balancing his professional and creative careers with his beautiful family.

He explained, "There are two words: God's Grace. One thing I try to do is keep my priorities straight: God first, second my wife, third my children, and then my work. I'm learning that if you keep that order straight, God will take care of the rest. One of the other things I would say is do what you love to do. When you do what you love, you will find yourself energized when you use the gifts that God's given to you. Then know when you need to rest. My family helps keep me balanced, and that helps me a lot."

Holloway resides in Toledo with his wife Kayla, and their children.



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Simpson to Leave Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority as President and CEO

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

Demetria Simpson, president and CEO of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), is leaving the organization. Simpson and her husband will be relocating closer to their family where he will be pursuing a new job opportunity. Simpson has taken a job with BGC Advantage, a Louisiana based affordable housing development, consulting and management firm.

Simpson's passion for making a difference in underserved communities has been very evident during her tenure at LMHA. A Mississippi native, she has worked in Housing and Community Development for 23 years. She led the redevelopment efforts of affordable housing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Her career at LMHA began, in 2015, in the role of Director of Real Estate Development and Modernization, and then as Chief Operations Officer. She assumed the role of President and CEO in June of 2017.

"I really cannot stress enough what Demetria has accomplished for LMHA and the community as a whole," stated William J. Brennan, chairman, LMHA board of commissioners. "She has led LMHA into a new era of engagement in our community where we have become much more collaborative with local partners in a variety of endeavors. Our work with the Homelessness Board stands out as a prime example of that where we

worked with community partners to reorganize a system that was not fulfilling the needs of the community and the residents it serves. She has also put LMHA in its appropriate leadership role in the area of affordable housing where we are engaged again with our local partners in working to solve this significant problem. For LMHA itself, she has worked strenuously to stabilize the organization financially and has moved us toward creating more diverse revenue streams which are necessary for LMHA's continued success in the future. Her leadership and commitment will be sorely missed by both LMHA and our community."



Demetria Simpson

A search committee has been in place since December to find Simpson's replacement. The transition is expected to take place within 90 days.

Portman, Brown Introduce Resolution Honoring Ohio-Native and Civil Rights Activist, Judge Nathaniel R. Jones

Special to The Truth

This week, during Black History Month, U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced a resolution honoring the life, legacy and work of Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, Nathaniel R. Jones. Jones, a civil rights activist and Youngstown native, was the first African-American Federal Appeals Court Judge in Ohio, and the first black prosecutor in the Northern District of Ohio. He served 23 years as a Judge on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Jones passed away at his home in Cincinnati last month, but his legacy will live on for generations.

"We lost a giant in Judge Nathaniel Jones. Through his work as a lawyer he was a national leader in advancing civil rights and as a judge a distinguished champion in protecting those rights. Through it all, he was a humble man of the high-

est integrity. I'm proud to introduce this resolution honoring my friend Nate Jones," said Portman.

"Judge Jones devoted his entire life to answering the call for racial justice, and his unwavering commitment to this country is one we should all aspire to emulate. He not only fought to make this country a better place, but he paved the way for generations of lawyers, clerks and advocates that will follow him," said Brown.

Jones was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, and attended Youngstown State University, where he earned an undergraduate degree in 1951 and a law degree in 1955. Jones later went on to serve in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Judge Nathaniel Jones to serve as the Assistant General Counsel for the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner Commission. The final report issued by

the commission found racism to be the cause of civil unrest occurring in cities across the U.S. during the 1960s, and determined that the United States was "moving toward two societies, one black, one white-separate and unequal."

Jones also served as the General Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1969 to 1979, directing efforts to desegregate public schools in Northern cities, defending affirmative action, and fighting against discrimination against African American soldiers



Judge Nathaniel Jones

...continued on page 13

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Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot by Mikki Kendall

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

A sea of people.

That's what you saw, overlooking the crowd at the rally you attended. More people, perhaps, than you'd ever seen in one place before, all gathered together for one ultimate cause. Or were they? In the new book *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall, look again: was that sea of people mostly white?

c.2020
Viking
\$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
267 pages

Chances are, says Kendall, if it was a women's event, many were. White feminists "can lean in," but they sometimes don't "show up when black women" have different issues to deal with. Feminism, she says, can't "forget that a movement that claims to be for all women" must "engage with the obstacles women who are not white face."

"And when we act as allies," she says, "feminists have to be willing to listen to and respect those we want to help."

That includes understanding that guns have a lot to do with feminism because poor women and women of color are "more likely to be victims of gun violence." It includes knowing that hunger and homelessness are painful realities for many black women, and that it doesn't help to make either seem like they were the result of "bad choices."

Respect means that victims of abuse and sexual harassment are not

blamed for their clothing, job, or hairstyle. It means never asking what they were drinking when they were assaulted. It means the end of hypersexualizing young black girls and women. It means accepting their unique beauty, without politicizing hair or body shape, and without comment. This also, by the way, extends to trans women of any color.

Feminism for all means that we ignore fear and misconceptions of "the hood." It means that we must "unlearn the normalization of violence against women." It demands that we confront family and friends who hold racist ideals. It means supporting health measures for women and their children. It means voting for the good of all women, and it requires that allies occasionally "stop, step back, and realize they are still part of the problem."

In tackling Hood Feminism, there may come a time when a reader finds it necessary to split the narrative.

On one hand, author Mikki Kendall offers exactly what she promises: an uncomfortable truth, because it's necessary and because she's kind, and laying out this information is a sort of kindness. The things she points out are vital for people who profess to be "feminists" to know, and while that may not be any fun, neither is ignorance. Fingers out of your ears, think of this book, maybe, as consciousness-raising workshop plus personal intervention.

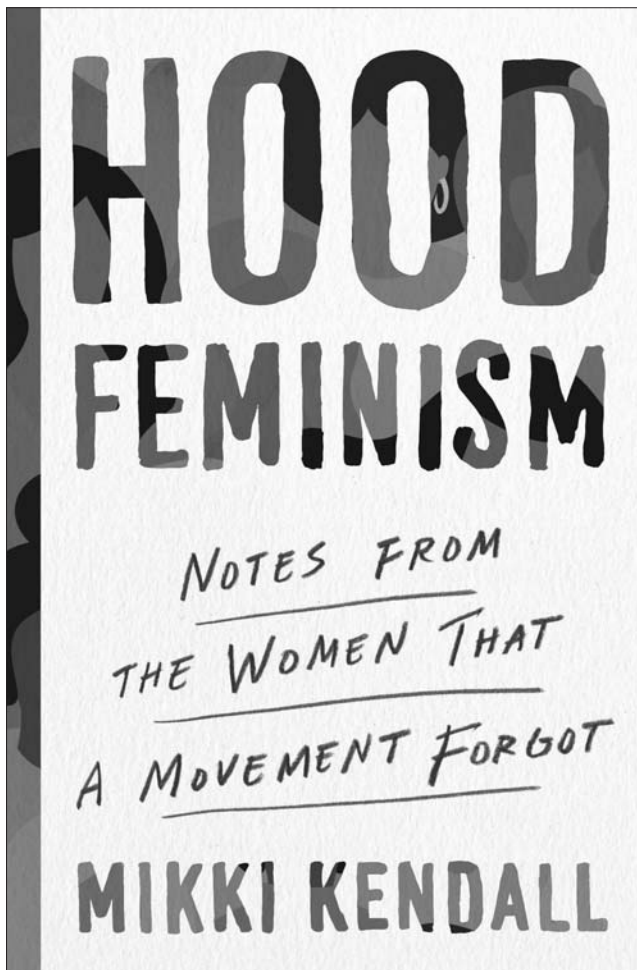
On the other hand, however, Kendall paints white women with a mile-wide, 10-foot-tall brush of condemnation, that may or may not be fair. Yes, these are words that white women need to hear... and yes, they're also somewhat overgeneralized.

Still, keep in mind that this is a book to help, not to censure, and even though it stings, you'll be glad you read it. Find *Hood Feminism*. It offers an ocean of thoughts to ponder.

Nathanial R. Jones... continued from page 12

in U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition to countless groundbreaking achievements, Jones received 19 honorary degrees and numerous awards of distinction, such as the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor awarded by the NAACP, the International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association, and the Pillar of Justice Award from the Federal Bar Association.



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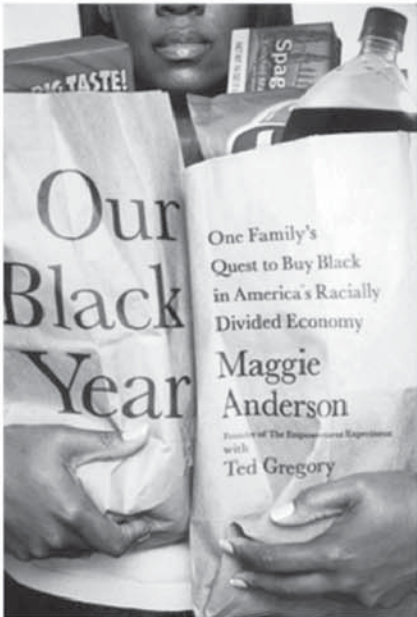
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CLASSIFIEDS

February 26, 2020

Page 15

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has openings for seasonal Natural Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$11.00/hr. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management preferred. Some outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture preferred. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position description and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$24,150.00 for one person or \$27,600.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.

Call to place
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419-243-0007

www.
TheTruth
Toledo.com





Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® - Pink Goes Red for a Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Zeta Alpha Omega and Alpha Lambda Chapters, whose traditional colors are pink and green, adorned themselves in red to help bring awareness to women and heart disease. This activity is in support of the American Heart Association national campaign "Go Red for Women."

On February 7, 2020, the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha observed Pink Goes Red for a Day by sponsoring a community Aerobic Workout Party at Keyser Elementary School. The exercise classes were led by Sheila Brown and Toni Quinn. Thirty-two members of the community and 27 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha participated in a fun, challenging aerobic workout and line dancing to strengthen their cardiac fitness and show just how much fun physical activity can be. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Alpha Lambda undergraduate chapter provided healthy snacks and blood pressure readings to attendees. Educational materials were also provided to ensure participants are aware of the warning signs of a heart attack in women vs. men and heart disease.

All the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha wore "Red" to the February chapter meeting in support of heart health month. The Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, is under the leadership of the President Andrea Price, Vice President Treva Jeffries and the Women's Healthcare and Wellness Committee Chairman Fionne Roberts-Wright.

The Undergraduate Chapter, Alpha Lambda, at the University of Toledo, is under the leadership of Zeta Alpha Omega's Graduate Advisor Cheryl Bobo-Wallace, President Tulani Black, Vice-President Tammeya Ashberry and Women's Healthcare and Wellness Committee Chairman Amya Strong.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. AKA is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is comprised of over 300,000 members in the United States and abroad.



NANBPWC Third Annual Fundraiser Cabaret

The Toledo Club of (NANBPWC) National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. held the third annual 60's, 70's and 80's Fundraiser Cabaret on Saturday, February 8 at the UAW Hall at 5411 Jackman Road.

Since February is Black History Month, the music theme highlighted African-American music from the 60's, 70's and 80's as guest dressed in afro wigs and fringes.

The fundraiser was a great night of fun for everyone in attendance.

In honor of "Heart Month," donations for chocolate heart-shaped boxes of candy were given out to guest.

Music was provided by DJ Big Trav who kept the dance floor full as he played music of blast from the past. Special guest entertainment was provided by music from the past, such as, James Brown, Whitney Houston and blues singers.

Door prizes were given throughout the night that were donated by the Toledo Club Members donated.

NANBPWC INC Toledo Club President Frances Collins, PhD, thanked all present for their support as she led the special feature of the evening. A contest for the best dressed costumes from each era was a great highlight of the evening. Three guests from each decade were voted on by the audience for first, second and third places.

Clara Brank and Delores (Dee) Bates were the co-chairs for the Fundraiser and really did a wonderful job in planning this event.

Toledo Club members consist of:

Frances Collins, Toledo Club President, Denise Black-Poon, Alexii Collins, Denise Cardwell, Wilma Brown, Mary F. Dawson, Ethel Scott, Marquita Scott Chong, Crystal Darnell Harris, Carla Smith, Mironda Harris, Barbara Tucker, BJ Tucker, Beverly Tucker, Deborah Carlisle, Karen Jarrett, Donna Todd, Tommie McGee, Iris Pat Page Jones, Sherry Reed, Wanda Terrell- Galloway, Tyra Smith- Gabriel, Carla Hill, Clara Brank, and Delores Bates.

