

The Candidates 2012

- The Truth Endorses:**
- President Barack Obama
 - Senator Sherrod Brown
 - U.S. Rep Marcy Kaptur
 - U.S. Rep Candidate Angela Zimmann
 - Lucas County Commissioners Gerken and Skeldon Wozniak
 - Judge Myron Duhart
 - Ballot Issue 2 All Local Tax Levies



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Vote for President Obama – A Clear Choice

Rarely in the course of presidential elections have we not heard that "this election is the most important one in a generation ... or a lifetime ... or in the history of our nation."

Obama vs. McCain ... Bush I vs. Clinton ... Reagan vs. Carter ... Carter vs. Ford ... Nixon vs. McGovern ... Nixon vs. Humphrey ... Johnson vs. Goldwater ... Kennedy vs. Nixon ... Eisenhower vs. Stevenson ... Truman vs. Dewey ... Roosevelt vs. just about anybody – all races upon which hung the fate of the Western World.

Most of these races were so important because they voters had the option of choosing between foreign policy initiatives. Even in 2008, the presidential contest between Obama and McCain offered no stark differences in domestic policy, other than perhaps on health care.

This year, however, we really can say without using even a hint of hyperbole, that this presidential race is about as important as any we have seen and is truly about the fate and future of our country.

The issue is two-fold. First, short term, what works to pull



a country out of economic recession or depression? Second, what should be the shape of our government in the long term?

And just in case you have missed 99 percent of the political advertisements over the course of this election cycle, let us point out who believes what on the political landscape. Democrats believe in relatively big government – progressive taxation, government assistance, regulation of commerce and industry, and so forth. Republicans believe in low or no taxation, individual self-reliance, laissez faire (hands off) approach when dealing with captains of industry and, as we are learning ever-increasingly these

days, that rape is God's gift to women.

Just wanted to make sure you were paying attention. Only about a half dozen Republican candidates have made such declarations, although the Republican Party platform does not make an abortion exception for victims of rape or incest. Probably just a coincidence.

So what works to move a nation out of recession? President Obama believes in spending our way out, the traditional Democratic cure. For Governor Romney, the answer is lower taxes, cut government regulations and make investment more attractive to those who can afford to do so. From where we sit, the

Obama approach is one that has worked in the past and appears to be working at the present. It may not be working at the speed with which we would all like but there would appear to be one logical reason for that – the administration has not spent enough.

Early on in this administration's term, liberal economists such as Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman argued that the bail-out was a step in the right direction but not large enough. Krugman argued that we should be talking about a package twice the size of the administration's proposed \$800 billion.

Was he correct? Well, as we assess the slowness of the recovery, we are assured that the administration judged correctly that a bailout of that size – or one over \$1 trillion – was not something that Congress could swallow.

But in the larger view, what would have happened had we followed the Republican plan of cutting spending, cutting taxes and letting the big capitalists have their way?

We do have examples of that plan at work. Europe, under the guidance of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, tried that plan – austerity. The European recovery has been virtually non-existent, plagued by the frequent bail-outs of economically weaker

European Union nations, and has, in fact, contributed to the slowness of the American recovery.

Early on in the Obama Administration, Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell offered an analysis, one of those inane statements he seems to have a gift for, about the Roosevelt years and the recovery from the Great Depression. Said McConnell, America did not make a recovery because of the spending generated by the New Deal. The nation only recovered when World War II came along, he explained.

Some economists would argue that Roosevelt himself did not spend enough to get the job done quickly. In fact, he hedged his bets after his first re-election and, in 1937, became a deficit hawk, cutting taxes and spending and sending the nation deeper into depression wiping out many of the gains of his first term in office.

But, to McConnell's point about WWII, what was that event if not the biggest spending spree that any nation has embarked on in modern times?

So, yes, we believe that President Barack Obama is on the right course in his effort to end the recession.

In the long term, the question facing voters is what will be the shape of our nation going forward – one that provides quality health care, edu-

cation, retirement benefits, living wages to as many of its citizens as possible or one that allows the free enterprise system to determine who shall thrive and who shall starve?

Those who suggest that a truly free enterprise system will benefit all by permitting a trickle down impact of higher wages seem to forget that truly free enterprise systems of the past – see America in the late 1800's – led to abuses such as child labor, sweat shops, six and a half day work weeks.

Now we can talk about immigration, gay marriage, the War in Afghanistan, how the Libyan crisis was handled. But the central issue is really spending short term and health care – since it is the prime example of what the future may or may not hold for Americans.

If one believes that the gap between the very wealthy and the rest of the nation which has grown steadily over the past 40 years is what Americans should be preparing for in the future, then Mitt Romney is the choice.

If on the other hand, one feels that we should be preparing for a future of greater economic security for both those in the middle class and those who are the least well off of our brethren, then that choice is clear as well.

We believe a vote for President Barack Obama is that clear choice.

FOR Issue 21 Metroparks

Only Issue 21 will:

- Maintain** clean, safe, natural parks across Lucas County, open every day of the year with no admission fee
- Enhance** park ranger patrols to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for all visitors
- Expand** programs for children, family and seniors
- Continue** progress on new park areas and trails already in the planning stages

Vote FOR Issue 21
Issue 21 will appear on the ballot as a new levy. It will take the place of a 0.3 mill levy set to expire at the end of the year and offset recent losses in funding.

www.metroparks2012.org

Printed by Glenn Edwards in Mansfield, OH. Design by David C. Deane, an artist, 100 W. Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43604

Teledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Cambridge Place – Toledo
1821 W. Alexis Rd.
Saturday, November 3, 2012
6:00p

Annual Meeting and Appreciation Banquet

Meet the Honorees

Tickets are \$35.00 and are available at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Call 419-255-8876 for more information

16 YEARS

With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.
Matthew 19:26

Vote FOR the Seven Local Levies

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Make no mistake about it – the seven tax levies on the ballot for Toledoans in this election cycle are all about quality of life and how much we are willing to pay for that quality. Do we want to maintain and improve our schools, our libraries, our parks and recreational facilities, the care we provide for the less fortunate?

Because the State of Ohio has a Republican governor and a Republican-dominated General Assembly who were determined to balance the budget without raising taxes, local governments and entities have had to do what Columbus did not – ask citizens to dig a little deeper to maintain and improve their quality of life.

The cost for that maintenance, if all seven local ballot initiatives are approved by a majority of Toledo voters, will be an annual total of \$233 for a Toledo resident who owns a home valued at \$60,000, \$389 for a home valued at \$100,000. The additional tax requests total \$170 for a house of \$60,000 and \$284 for one valued at \$100,000 or an additional \$20 and \$14 per month, respectively.

Any additional household money forked over to the government during these still difficult economic times is more than most of us want to part with. However as we look at the ballot requests – for education, for parks/recreation and for services – the fact is that the benefits we derive from these public entities is worth the asking price on the 2012 ballot.

With that in mind, we strongly urge our readers to vote FOR all of the levies. We cannot afford to do without these services.

Vote FOR Ballot Issue 20 – Toledo City School District

The granddaddy of them all – the largest request on the ballot – the Toledo Public Schools are seeking an additional tax of 4.9 mills for each dollar of valuation. This request is more than half of the total ballot additional taxes requested. But, it is vitally important.

What more worthy investment than education?

Obviously, skepticism arises over the recent disappointing State of Ohio report card for TPS but, on balance, there is much to like about the direction in which the district is moving. There are some sterling success stories from recent attempts to offer a variety of products to TPS students – Toledo Early College High School, Toledo

Technology Academy, MLK Academy for Boys, Grove Patterson and Old West End Academies, for example.

Certainly part of the difficulties encountered this past school year had to do with the move from middle schools to a K – 12 format.

Nevertheless, the transformation plan makes sense for the future, as does the effort to increase even further the variety of products offered.

We are impressed by those directing the school board – Superintendent Jerome Pecko, Ed.D., and his cohort of lieutenants – Chief Academic Officer Jim Gault, Asst Superintendents Romules Durant, Ed.D., and Brian Murphy. We are also impressed by the leadership of the Toledo Federation of Teachers and that bargaining unit's efforts to work closely with the administration in the rebuilding plans, not to mention the sacrifice teachers and other union members have made over the last several years to help curb the burgeoning deficits.

We are impressed by the spirit of collaboration that the school board and the administration have displayed in recent years with a number of community partners.

There has been some disquiet in this community over TPS' decision to seek a Head Start grant and seemingly putting at risk those currently employed by EOPA. It is not at all apparent that current Head Start/EOPA employees will be at much of a risk, certainly not as much of a risk if a third party obtains the contract. At any rate, education is the business TPS is in and it makes perfect sense here that they should seek to do as much of it as possible.

If you don't have children in the public schools and are wondering what possible benefit there might be for you to dish out more of your hard-earned dollars to support other folks' children, be reminded, the well-being of the public school system is directly tied to that of the community as a whole. The economy of the area depends in great part on what sort of students the school systems are producing. No single resident of Toledo is unaffected by the quality of the education offered here.

We can't afford not to support our schools.

Vote FOR Issue 23 – Toledo Lucas County Public Library

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is asking voters to approve a levy that is in part renewal – 2 mills – and

in part new – 0.9 mill – for a period of five years in order to keep pace with expenses in the face of dwindling assistance from the state.

And what do we get for this money? A wealth of reading material, research information, after-school and summer programs, job assistance programs, computer instruction ... services that are far too numerous to detail here. Last year, for example, the Library lent out 7.2 million items to card holders. The public library, as Director Clyde Scoles has written, is the people's university.

The reason for the request is painfully obvious. Over the years state aid for the Library has diminished from a high of 75 percent of operating expenses to the current level of 48 percent. State aid has not increased from the 1996 level to account for inflation or increased services.

The Library is seeking an increase that will cost the owner of a home valued at \$60,000 about \$18 annually, the owner of a \$100,000 about \$30 annually. It's an investment that's vitally important in order for the Library to continue the all-important task of providing access to education for all Lucas County residents.

Vote FOR Issue 25 – Lucas County Children Services

Lucas County Children Services is seeking a levy that is also part renewal – one mill – and part increase – 0.85 mill. The increase will add about \$26 annually to a homeowner's tax bill whose house is valued at \$100,000.

Children's Services needs these funds to forestall layoffs to professional staff who are advocates for child safety and seek out and prevent child abuse.

Over the years, LCCS has been a faithful steward of the taxpayers' monies. A decade ago, the agency reduced its levy millage and saved area residents thousands of dollars. As with other agencies, state and federal funding has been reduced and currently LCCS receives half of its operating funds from these local levies.

Rumor has it that the agency has a huge fund balance to rely on. That may have been true in past years, but the fund has dwindled to very little over the past decade due to the economic difficulties of the past years and those dwindling funds from Columbus and Washington, D.C.

Thousands of children and families benefit each year from the services LCCS pro-

vides. Cutting back on such services places an untold number of innocent children at greater danger. Please vote FOR Issue 25.

Vote FOR Issue 24 – Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services

This is an additional tax request of one mill – about \$30 annually for the owner of a \$100,000 home – over a period of 10 years. It is the first request in 24 years from the agency which provided services to over 24,000 people annually.

If the levy request fails, the board would be forced to trim \$1.57 annually over the next year and a half. This from an agency that has already cut 20 percent of its administrative staff.

Another agency which has been a good steward of public funds, MHRS has delivered 97 cents of every dollar to direct services over the years.

Failure to approve the levy will place more people who are mentally ill or addicted into jails, prisons and homeless shelters – and servicing them in those places will cost taxpayers much more than

will this additional levy.

Vote FOR Issues 5 and 21 – City of Toledo and Metropolitan Park District

Both of these issues deal with our parks and recreation. The City of Toledo is asking voters to approve an additional tax of one mill to provide parks and recreational facilities. MetroParks is seeking an additional tax of 0.9 mill for the purpose of acquiring, operating, improving, conserving and protecting new and existing Metropark lands. Both requests are for 10 years.

The City request will earmark dollars specifically for the far too decrepit parks and swimming pools, for the enhancement for programs and to create summer jobs for youth.

On the other hand, the Metroparks, which includes nine area parks and the Toledo Botanical Garden, along with three greenways, are a perfect example of the best that Toledo has to offer. Metroparks wants to enhance programs and develop a Middleground in downtown Toledo. The \$1.7 million raised by the levy will double

the operating budget.

Three million visitors avail themselves of the pleasures of Metroparks annually. Vote FOR both of these measures.

Vote FOR Issue 25 – Imagination Station

Although this Issue is at the bottom of our list, in some ways, this may be the easiest call of all ... because it is by far the least expensive. For \$5.21 annually, the owner of a \$100,000 home can help support a downtown facility which has provided an educational experience for over a half million visitors since 2009.

The center offers families a chance to learn together, it offers teachers an opportunity to enhance their student's science experience and it brings a much-needed boost to the downtown area.

The monies raised by the levy will provide one-third of the center's operating budget. It's a bargain we can't afford to pass on.

We can't afford to pass on any of these measures, in fact. Dig just a little bit deeper, folks. Every one of these levies make sense in the short and long term.

Mental Health and Recovery

Your Vote FOR Issue 24 Restores Services to Those In Need

We are proud to be endorsed by:

- The Blade
- The Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County
- Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 8
- Toledo Area Small Business Association
- Lucas County Sheriff James A. Telt
- Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapiszukewicz

Levy Facts:

- 1 mill
- 10 year levy
- \$2.53 per month for the owner of a \$100,000 home
- First new money request in 24 years

**Vote to stabilize families.
Vote to save lives!**

Vote FOR Issue 24

Helping Neighbors in Need.

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

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Community Forums

By Jay Black, TAACC President
Special to The Truth



This article is a continuation of the TAACC Sponsored Community Forum Summary that appeared in last week's addition.

The TAACC Mission Statement:

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce advocates

and promotes the economic growth and development of African American owned businesses by focusing on the development of business opportunities, business alliances, and legislative advocacy.

TAACC Vision Statement:

The TAACC is focused on serving the minority business community and has as its goal the promotion of economic development through the creation of jobs and provision of assistance to small businesses. As a result the greater Toledo area and northwest Ohio region will be strengthened.

Our mission and vision statements are the back drop for hosting Community Forums. Last week we reported on the summaries of forums held with Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Lucas County Mental Health Recovery and Services Board, Lucas County Children Services Board and Imagination Station.

This week we report on forums held with Toledo Public Schools, Lucas County Public Library and County Commissioner Candidate Kevin Haddad. It should be noted that Commissioner Pete Gerken cancelled his forum with TAACC the day before his scheduled time with us. He asked to reschedule with TAACC after the election.

TAACC expressed to Commissioner Gerken that one of the purposes of the forums is to give the candidates and levy sponsors the opportunity to present their platforms to our community so they would have factual information that would allow them to make informed decisions on Election Day. Gerken's slot was filled by Haddad.

TAACC reiterates that we are a non-partisan organization that does not endorse candidates or levies. However, we do want our members, partners and constituents to have enough information to make an informed voting decision. The information reported in these articles is based on factual information only.

We do challenge our members and community to ask why should we support candidates and tax levies if they don't support our businesses economically? Secondly, we encourage our constituents to follow the lead of other successful communities that hold elected officials, candidates, and levy sponsors accountable by not voting for them if they are not supporting our community and businesses with the economic resources they control.

All presenters have been advised that the results of the forums are published in The Sojourner's Truth and Toledo Minority Communicator News weekly newspapers. They were also encouraged to do business with these TAACC members.

Toledo Public Schools (TPS)

Jerome Pecko, Ed.D, reported on a number of TPS very

positive initiatives undertaken by the District. They include:

- TPS Graduation Rate 62.4 percent
- Attendance Rating 94.3 percent

Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys, Elmhurst, Grove Patterson, Toledo EHS and TTA were all rated **Excellent**

Five Schools moved up one category

Transformation Plan Highlights:

Increased distance learning options that allow students to enroll in courses that are not offered at their school (136 students enrolled last year, 205 enrolled thus far this year).

Dropout Prevention Program is working (336 students earned credits last year, 408 students were enrolled in summer school this year).

Secured a \$17MM SIG grants for Scott, Robinson, Glenwood, and Pickett schools.

Built Early High School Options Program (EHSO) for seventh and eighth graders to take courses for high school credit, allowing them a jump start on their secondary education (500 students earned a 3.31 GPA or better in FY12).

Created neighborhood elementary schools for children in kindergarten to the eighth grade. (FY12 Preliminary: Eighth grade scores improved by 12 percent in math, six percent in science).

Developed and implemented an inclusion model for special education purposes.

Significantly increased partnerships with external organizations to enhance opportunities for students to suc-

(Continued on Page 5)

EMILY OWENS M.D.
TUESDAYS 9PM

ARROW
WEDNESDAYS 8PM

BEAUTY & THE BEAST
THURSDAYS 9PM

TOLEDO CW5
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Community Forums

(Continued from Page 4)

ceed in TPS schools (Boys and Girls Clubs, SES, Hubs, YMCA latchkey, AmeriCorps Program, Jones Program with 5/3 Bank, College Coaches Program with Lucas County, and Gateway to College Program).

Pecko also talked about Transformation Plan Phase II which can be found on TPS' website.

Pecko answered the three common questions as follows:

TPS does not have a Business Inclusion Plan at this time. A vote was taken for the Policy Committees recommended plan at the October board meeting and 2 board members voted for the Policy Committees recommended plan and two members voted against the recommended plan. **Please refer to the October TPS Board minutes found on TPS' website for more details.**

Total Goods and Services Budget is approximately \$100MM annually.

Pecko did not know how much of that number is spent with MBE's.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library

Margaret Danziger, deputy director, Charles Oswanski, superintendent, Facilities & Operations, and Faith Hairston, manager of Kent Branch Library were the presenters:

Our Library is ranked seventh nationally.

This levy accounts for 50 percent of the Library's budget, is a 2.9 mill request (2.0 mill renewal, .9 mills additional).

The Library has several programs that are either located in its central city branches or that directly benefit central city residents. These include: Homework Helpers Program, Summer Reading Program, Library Cybermobile (classroom on wheels), and Kent Branches Access Center just to name a few.

They have over 400 partners who help with specific program offerings (Read for Literacy, Area Office on

Aging, Owens Community College, Penta Vocational College, Mercy Health Partners, Promedica Health Systems, etc.)

Additionally, each of its 18 branch locations often offer programs specific to that location. Time does not permit us to list all of the positive offerings of the Library.

Statistical Information

Total Employees 356 (approximately 15 percent are part-time employees).

Out of 18 Branch Managers three are African American (16.6 percent)

Total annual budget \$33.1MM

They answered the three common questions as follows: Do not have a Business Inclusion Plan.

Total annual Goods and Services Expenditures are approximately \$12.1MM.

Do not track expenditures by segment so no data is available on how much of the above was spent with MBE's.

Lucas County Commissioner Candidate Kevin Haddad

Kevin Haddad said he entered the race because of the trend of "Community Decline" in the County. As a minority himself, he feels that both the Democratic and Republican Parties "disenfranchise" minorities. That's why he is running as an Independent.

He left the Republican Party because of their views against the poor. He doesn't fit with the Democrats because he is a "B Teamer" who cares about people and he's not the typical politician. He says he's tired of the "good old boy network" coming out of the County Commissioners office. He said a case in point is how Peter Ujvagi was hired.

He says that if elected as a County Commissioner, he would work to restore the middle class in the county and

promises to work against the good old boy network he says exists in the County operations.

When asked what he's done as a Sylvania Township Trustee he listed the following:

Eliminated 90 percent of paper processing and waste.

Attempted to get the same trash collection program that the City of Toledo has for \$150 per year (he was voted down by the other two Township Trustees).

He is the president of the Lucas County Township Association (which is an association of 11 Townships) and has promoted greater cooperation among the members of the association.

He wants to opt out of the Storm Water Utility system because they are paying \$2.4MM without receiving corresponding services.

Haddad says he has challenged Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak to a one-on-one debate and she has declined.

Haddad was asked what he has done in his position as township trustee to include MBE's. He says he has advocated for small business opportunities in Sylvania Township and has tried to get MBE's included in the contracting process. He has had the conversation with the other two trustees and was shot down two to one. He said he has demonstrated his personal commitment of doing business with MBE's by being a faithful customer of Powell's Beauty and Barber Supply. He challenged TAACC to ask elected officials and candidates to disclose what African-American owned businesses they personally support.

Sylvania Township annual goods and services budget is approximately \$30MM and he doesn't believe any of it is spent with MBE's.

Please visit our website at: www.toledoacc.com for more information about TAACC and our forums.

When elections are fair, THE PEOPLE WIN. Vote YES on 2.

When you vote **MAKE SURE THEY LISTEN.**

When districts are fair, your vote counts. When elections are fair, the PEOPLE win.

VOTE YES ON ISSUE 2

votersfirstohio.com
Paid for by the Ohio Democratic Party, Chris Redfern, Chairman, 340 East Fulton Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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 Help us in our final push before election day!
ohio Dems.org/volunteer

Unnecessary Battles

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



Truth is that which serves the interests of a people. Two groups of people locked in combat cannot be expected to have the same truth. - Albert B. Cleage, Jr.

The Executive Exempt ordinance presented to City Council by Mayor Mike Bell would have increased pay ranges for nonunionized ex-

ecutive staff. The pay scales have not been adjusted since 1998, a period of 14 years.

After several bitter back and forth skirmishes and support from only two of 12 councilpersons, the Mayor unilaterally ordered salary increases to administrators totaling \$62,000 for the remainder of 2012 and \$295,000 in 2013.

With the raises fiscally accounted for in the City's projected \$900,000 budget surplus, what's really behind the civic altercation?

Bell insists that it's about fairness.

"Executive staff, commissioners, managers, directors and other exempt staff have not received raises or had their pay ranges increased since 1998 while unionized workers have received raises. That's unfair," Bell says.

Toledo's municipal administrators are also paid from 10 - 42 percent less than their counterparts in comparable Ohio and regional cities, according to a 65-page executive salary survey presented to City Council.

"Not only is it about people in Toledo not keeping pace with their peers," adds Toledo Public Information Officer Jennifer Sorgenfrei, "but also about the fairness

of paying people what they are worth and putting people where they belong within their classification. One city director is the 15th highest paid person in her division and is paid less than many of those who report to her and is administratively responsible for."

Some administrators also get a bad rap from some councilpersons such as Steven Steel who has been critical of administrative personnel. "We should take care of the people who actually do the work. If I call you (the administrator), you call someone else to do the work," Steel remarked in a committee meeting.

The comment, according to some, overlooks the fact that "if the faucet is turned on and no water comes out or if a toilet is flushed and nothing happens," that it is the administrator who has to sit in the pit of council chambers to answer the tough questions and who often has to discipline employees over behavior as bizarre as having a fist fight over a bag of pork rinds.

"When people are responsible, you pay them for what you expect them to deliver," Sorgenfrei emphasizes.

The puzzling part of the conflict however, is that none of the three African-American council members supported the Mayor's legislative request.

Part of the conflict may be from the still bitter after-taste of Bell's support of Republican Gov. John Kasich's since-repealed Senate Bill 5 controversial limits on collective bargaining by state public employees.

Also making things toasty is union pressure resulting from recent concessions in which employees will now be responsible for paying their own portion of their pension contributions, health care premiums and other concessions.

Payback? Perhaps.

"Yet, no one has looked at the diversity in all of this," Bell states sagaciously.

Indeed, overlooked, in this 22nd vs 21st floor internal

strife, is that of the beneficiaries of the mayor's initiative, 100 percent of the executive directors, 44 percent of the department directors, 36 percent of managers, a third of the executive management staff and ten percent of the commissioners are men or women of color. In addition, Clarence Coleman, commissioner of taxation and an African-American male, is one of seven non-unionized employees who maxed-out at the top of the salary scale and is not included in the mayor's initiative.

My thoughts concerning the civic showdown?

Given the overall state of political and social polarization prevalent in today's society, my belief is that, at the core, the mayor's action is about constructive leadership.

While politically unpopular, this is about fairness. It is about paying employees their market worth within their frame of reference and allowing others to share in benefits previously unavailable but that other city employees have received.

Unlike most of the prevalent perspectives and policies being promoted in a year where every election or legislative act is heated or intensely contested, Bell's actions foster inclusion and encourage a better situation for all. Most importantly, the salary hikes do not enhance one group by diminishing another.

For certain, the time has come for an end to the condemnation and mis-labeling of moral acts as evil in those who differ from us in some way, as we shamelessly tolerate the reckless, illusionary or incompetent behavior of others who regularly pass off depravity as virtue.

Let's focus our attention on relevant contests and recognizing the true motives of those currently running for political office.

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

Justice

Yvette McGee Brown

the first African American woman and
only Democrat to sit on Ohio's Supreme Court.

Yvette beat the odds.
Raised by a single mother, she knew that hard work and education would be the key to success. Yvette is now our voice, as the only Democrat on Ohio's Supreme Court.

This Election Day, don't forget to vote for
Yvette McGee Brown.



www.JusticeYvette.com

Be the difference
Help us in our final push before election day!
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Paid for by the Ohio Democratic Party, Ohio Redfern, Chairman, 340 East Fulton Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

What's In A Name?.....A lot!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



What's in a name you say? A lot, I say! Can you immediately imagine some quality or image if I was to say the following names: Gandhi, King, Napoleon, Jesus, Reagan, Oprah, Cosby, Churchill, Picasso, Geronimo, Castro, Obama, Aretha, Lincoln, etc...etc? I bet you can associate something with those names and probably identify their ethnic backgrounds if pressed to do so. According to the Bible, a good name (reputation) is more precious than gold. So, you would think that there would be some serious thinking and planning when a name is picked. Even if it is an

historical name or names honoring some past family ancestors...something to show that the parent or parents took pride and responsibility in their deliberations in giving a name to a child.

Now...fast forward to the present decades and see what is being dished out as names for new born children. Mind you, unless that child changes that moniker, it is his or hers for life...even if they have to abbreviate it.

So, somebody tell me. What's up with some of the, "you gotta be kidding me" names that we see or have seen being slapped on unsuspecting kids?

Some names are so horrendous and just plain bad...much less silly or stupid that you wonder,

was the parent still on happy meds when she signed off on the birth certificate?

Here's the deal. When a parent slaps a ridiculously hard to pronounce name...much less spell...

on a unsuspecting new born, that child is marked for life. FOR LIFE!

No, it is not about be-

ing cute or trying to be creative, it is just plain stupid as stupid does. Why chain down a kid with a goofy name because you as a parent wanted to be, "creative."

You want creativity? Take an art class at the museum. Take up photography. Learn to draw.

Take a class in jewelry making or block printing but for heaven's sake quit taking out your creativity juices on the kid!

Oh. Another thing. This is so clear that even Ray Charles could see it. You know, when you plaster your child with a Scrabble Board name, not only will he or she be teased at school but, guess what? On any application blank for a job, good ol' Mr. Employer will know upfront that the applicant has one of those funny made up names that are peculiar to "you people".

Why does that matter? Because they now have an easier job of quietly exiting your application blank out of the job pool and into the trash can if they are trying to root

out, "you people." I know. I know. I sound paranoid. Yeah. A little. But why increase the hazards of being black in America by branding a kid with a laughable name.

I know. I know. One name is great to you but that same name is an eye-roller to someone else!

Ok. Take this quiz: I am an employer at a local factory and there are three job openings

and the following four names come into me for my final selection. Choose the names that you think are the names of the black applicants:

- (1) Tye'Vonte
(2) Credulisha
(3) Richard
(4) Sno' White

The next four first names came up on a scholarship select committee. Choose the names that you think are from aspiring black applicants:

- (1) Mon'Quella
(2) Zaarquese

- (3) Tanqueray
(4) Denise

The next four first names called about a rental vacancy in a very tight housing market. All things being equal, who would you call back to see the three-bed unit?

- (1) Berterrallia
(2) Jo'phonsea
(3) Margaret
(4) Kasadillia

The next four first names came up on a gang unit task force review. They are looking for the

person or persons that did an AK-47 drive by shooting in the Fulton and Islington area. What names would probably draw a visit from the SWAT team?

- (1) Andonymius
(2) Moorpheus
(3) Dedondre
(4) Ralph

The moral of this story is parents, quit tagging your kids with nutty names just so that you can say, "my child is differ-

ent!" Give the kid a fighting chance so that when it comes down to a name meaning something, he or she is not fingered as a "you know who" before the kid has a chance to prove him or herself.

When you see some of the names on the birth records and recorded in the police files, you gotta wonder, "what planet was this parent from that hung that 500 pound name weight on that child's life?"

You say you love your kids? You want them to have a decent start in life? Prove it.

Do you part and get a book of baby names from the library and give the kid a fighting chance

with a real name; and let your "creativity" be channeled in choosing a riveting pastel paint color for the living room or spicing up a bland chicken pot roast.

Now that we are finished with that, don't you dare ask me about my first name!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

Advertisement for Imagination Station featuring a child's photo, text: 'NOT A NEW TAX VOTE FOR ISSUE 26 SUPPORTING IMAGINATION STATION REMAINS ONLY \$5.21 A YEAR!', and a QR code.

Angela Zimmann: Challenging Traditional Republican Domination in District 5

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

In their zeal to eliminate one of the Democratic lions in the House of Representatives through re-districting and thereby forcing Marcy Kaptur of Toledo to face Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland in a newly drawn "lake" district, the state GOP may have overlooked the consequences of stretching one of their previously safe seats into Democratic land.

District 5, which has had a Republican congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives since the 1930's now reaches into Toledo and, according to Democratic challenger and first-time candidate, Angela Zimmann, presently has two percent more registered Democrats in the district than Republicans.

Zimmann is squaring off against Rep. Bob Latta who won the seat in a special election in 2007 after the death of long-time Representative Paul Gillmor. Latta's father, Del Latta, had held the District 5 seat from 1959 to 1989.

A college instructor (at Bowling Green State Univer-

sity, her alma mater) and a Lutheran pastor, Zimmann has a fighting chance against Latta in what was once deemed a safe Republican seat.

"Independents rule the day here," she says of the new make-up of District 5. "Republicans were so focused on drawing Marcy Kaptur in with Dennis Kucinich, they put this district at risk. Only one half of the voters remain from the former district."

The Democratic candidate in previous District 5 elections, going back for decades, used to be a mere stalking horse for the Party. From Zimmann and her supporters' standpoint, those days are over.

Latta must think so as well. He has spent his campaign in hiding, ducking any encounters with the challenger, even declining to comment on why he won't debate his opponent.

Surprisingly, the first-time candidate for Congress has raised funds enough to keep the battle going. "We have raised donations from every

state in the nation," she notes. Over 2,000 individual donors, she says, have contributed to the campaign.

For Zimmann, her future as a congresswoman will be devoted to three primary policy issues that she believes will help turn around the fortunes of Ohioans.

First, there is the matter of the infrastructure, says Zimmann. "I have spoken with county engineers all over the district," she says. "All of them say that when money is put into the infrastructure, it helps the economy."

To that end, Zimmann notes that "Ohio is a donor state" placing more into federal coffers than it receives in return for investment in the infrastructure. That's a formula she would like to change.

Second, she is an advocate for closing corporate tax loopholes, such as the break corporations receive when they are moving jobs overseas.

Noting that the United States has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world and a wealth of loopholes that give

make it difficult to determine what the effective rate might be, Zimmann would want to change those inequities in the tax laws.

Her third challenge as a congresswoman will be education, particularly in helping correct the current imbalance in which so many Ohioans are undereducated and so many jobs unfilled because the workforce is not adequately educated to meet requirements.

As the election nears, Zimmann is busy traversing the 14-county district – the second largest in Ohio, bringing her message of a moderate Democrat to urban and rural areas. Optimism reigns in the Zimmann camp particularly because the voters of the new District 5 have been responsible, she notes, for voting former Gov. Ted Strickland, President Obama and Senator Sherrod Brown, into office.

And she has been busy taking to task an opponent whose record, she says, has been anything but kind to women,



an issue that may play a central role in the upcoming election as Democrats around the nation reflect on a variety of Republican candidates' statements about abortion and banning abortion under any circumstance, even in cases of rape and abortion.

"My opponent has attacked women on equal pay,

domestic violence issues and with Planned Parenthood," says Zimmann. "He's been so dismissive of women – as if they don't matter."

For more information on the new District 5 and to determine if, as a Lucas County or Toledo voter, you now reside in the district, go to www.zimmannforcongress.com

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Hundreds Attend NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Over 600 Toledo civic and political leaders, residents and pastors, leaders of institutions of higher learning and institutions of faith all gathered to accept two calls of action delivered by Toledo NAACP Branch.

The NAACP has addressed injustice since 1909. The Toledo Branch, the local voice, held its annual Freedom Fund banquet on October 26. First vice president Ray Woods served as master of ceremonies for the banquet. The United States Navy and United States Marine Corps in full uniform presented the colors.

The event continued with a vocal rendition of National Anthem by Errin Brooks, an invocation by Rev. Talmadge Thomas of City Zion the Mount Zion Church and a welcome address by NAACP Unit president Rev. Kevin Bedford.

Toledo's local Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) served as event ushers to assist the presentation of awards to the Freedom Fund Award honorees.

Former Toledo City Council President Wilma Brown was awarded the Roy Wilkins Leadership Award for her community-focused work during her tenure as a Council representative. In addition



Family of Dr. Samantha P. Adams, recipient of the Roy Wilkins Leadership Award (Posthumous)

to Brown, the NAACP honored individuals and organizations in the areas of law and justice, medicine and health care services, education, media, community service organizations, spiritual leadership, leadership, emerging youth community leaders, labor, music and performing arts and youth.

"We are proud of our youth, they are our future. Let's encourage them as best we can," said Bedford.

The 2012 honorees are: Attorney David Barker, Doni Miller and Neighborhood

Health Association, Martell Holcomb, Albert Flores, Geraldine Fair, The Sojourner's Truth, The Toledo Journal, WTVG 13 ABC News, The Juice FM 107.3, African-American Legacy Project, Frederick Douglas Community Association, ABLE Law Firm, League of Women Voters, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Rev. Theadis Horton, Samantha Adams, PhD, Judge Robert Franklin, Michael Alexander, Reginald Temple, Kenyetta Jones,

Derrick Roberts, Ed.D, Joan Bolden and the Student African American Brotherhood.

The milestone celebration delivered the first call to action about the importance of volunteering with the NAACP and featured Kirk Clay, the senior advisor of PowerPAC, as speaker. PowerPAC focuses on political and civic engagement

and had various community-driven positions in the area of government, civic engagement and voting.

"The NAACP is vital to the African-American community. Since 1909 the NAACP has been fighting for us. We still have a long way to go, and that's why membership and volunteering with the NAACP is important,"

said Ohio House of Representatives member Michael Ashford.

The theme "Your Power, Your Decision, Your Vote," was the second call to action to stress the importance of voting. The NAACP Toledo Branch in collaboration with community organizations urges local voters to vote early in person.

"Souls to the Polls" calls for places of worship to encourage their members to vote on Sunday, November 4 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. The polls are also open November 2, 8:00am-7:00pm, November 3 and November 5, 8:00am-2:00pm.

Immediately following the banquet, NAACP Toledo Chapter President Bedford issued corporate acknowledgements and gratitude to community supports. For information about youth and adult local member, and to view the official banquet acknowledgements, visit www.toledonaacp.org.

"No one group is an island, we need all of these groups to make this city of Toledo great," said Bedford.

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Offer valid: 11/1/2012 - No end in sight.



See tarta.com for details.

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State Representative



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- ✓ Fought for senior citizens by helping to pass the largest property tax cut in Ohio history
- ✓ Opposed \$2 billion dollar cut to Ohio's public schools
- ✓ Managing Partner of Toledo-based Small Business
- ✓ Reader, St. Stephen's Catholic Church - 15 years

MATTszollosi.com

Part of the family of Matt Szollosi, Attorney, Ohio, 2007-2012. Thanks to: [unreadable]

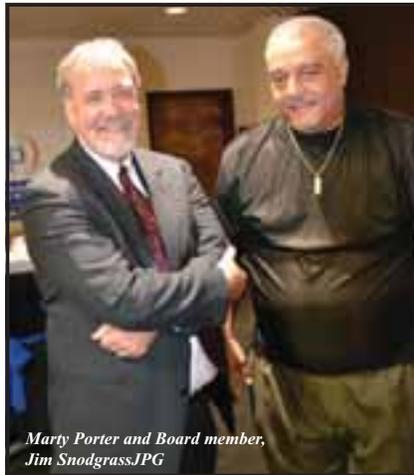
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FDCA Introduces New Director

The Frederick Douglas Community Association (FDCA) held a Meet and Greet for their new Executive Director Sonya Harper-Williams, October 25, 2012 at the Frederick Douglas Center. The event was an opportunity for the FDCA to introduce Harper-Williams to the general public and share the vision of the FDCA for the future.

According to Harper-Williams, part of that vision is to re-establish the connection with the families in the neighborhood. She said: "Our vision is to not just service the children but the whole family."

The FDCA currently offers a variety of recreational programs but Harper-Williams said the priority right now is providing services to the family. She added, "We are not by any means



Marty Porter and Board member, Jim Snodgrass.JPG



Board Vice Pres. Jan Scotland and Pastor Lee Williams



Board member, Michelle McCaster and Board Pres. Karl Parker

abandoning our recreational programs and will be introducing tennis and soccer to the programs already offered, we will just be increasing the services now available to families."

Some of the programs include; GED, Parenting, and Anger Management classes as well Financial Stability Coaching.



Executive Director, Sonya Harper-Williams

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African American Legends Luncheon



Photo highlights of the 8th annual Legends weekend which began October 5 with a reception held at the Toledo Club and concluded with a luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn October 6. The event is hosted by the African American Legacy Project, a group dedicated to preserving the histories of African Americans in Northwest Ohio. Legends and Emerging Leaders were honored.



Judge C. Allen McConnell, Sam Harris, John Henry Livingston

Front row : George Davis Jr., Lancelot Thompson, Ph.D., Emerson Cole, Edna Brown, Clara Brank, Cenia Willis

Back row : Reginald Temple, Willie Ward, Jaquelyn Jones, Karen Sherman – Sorina, Rhonda Sewell, Michael Alexander



Willie Ward and Donnetta Carter



Saluting State Sen. Edna Brown

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Campaigns Touch Many Parts of Toledo Area



Pathy and Vince Davis hosted a gathering last week at their home on Collingwood and welcomed Justice Yvette McGee Brown, who is running to keep her seat on the Ohio Supreme Court, and Craig Robinson, brother of the nation's First Lady Michelle Obama.

Also on hand was gospel singer Shirley Murdock, a Toledo native and resident of Dayton.



The day before, Democratic National Committee Chairman Debbie Wasserman Schultz was in town to preach the gospel of early voting to a crowd of Democratic Party members.

Phil Copeland
Elect Democrat Phil Copeland County Recorder

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur endorses Phil Copeland for Lucas County Recorder

Phil Copeland:

- Experienced (8-year city councilman)
- A lifetime fighting for working families
- Brings people together

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"Phil Copeland's integrity and commitment to public service make him the right choice to protect Lucas County homeowners as Recorder. Please join me in supporting Phil Copeland."

— Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

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Hundreds Attend NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

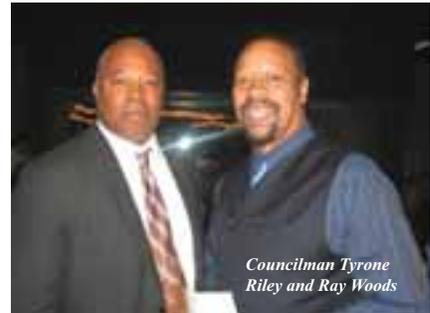
from Page 9



Congresswoman, Marcy Kaptur and Councilman, Phil Copeland



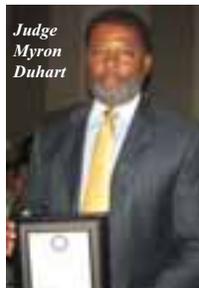
Martell Holcomb



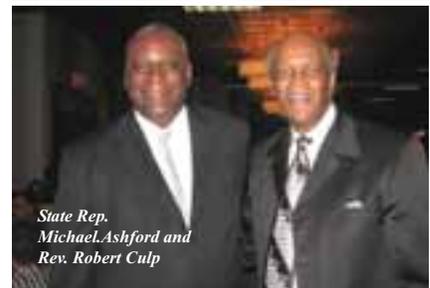
Councilman Tyrone Riley and Ray Woods



Karl Sill and O.C. Ballard



Judge Myron Duhart



State Rep. Michael Ashford and Rev. Robert Culp



Mayor, Mike Bell with Judge, Myron Duhart



Deb and George Tucker

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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor



Toledo's Old West End District Celebrates Artz and Soul with Culture and Entertainment-Filled Affair (Nov. 11, 2012)

Special to The Truth

The Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation will celebrate its launch in the Old West End at the Historic Collingwood Arts Center, with a mission to re-grant to community based organizations that provide performing arts, visual arts and music instruction for children K-8. Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter Dwele will headline the impressive array of local entertainment talent.

As so consummately described by Michael Hayes, Sr., currently a drummer, vocalist, teacher and mentor, Dorr Street in the 1960's and 1970's was an eclectic, integrated, and hopping neighborhood dotted with restaurants, pool halls, theaters and shops — many minority-owned and boasting more than a dozen active nightclubs and music joints within its one square mile. It was written on a sign of the "Soul and Art Creative Workshops" once located on Dorr and

Forest Streets, "The Creative Spirit is the Heart of any Great People".

The Soul and Art Creative Workshop was where countless urban youth could come to view and learn many forms of visual and performing arts. Few people today know of the rich history of Dorr Street during that era, and its musical legacy because it vanished abruptly and so thoroughly due to redevelopment in the 1970s.

The Creative Workshop was the vision of two men Russell Taylor (artist and jazz DJ on 99.9 WKLR radio) and Vernon Martin (national recording jazz artist). It was a place where we could learn from local and regional artists, poets, painters, sculptures, potters, musicians, dancers, etc., for free. There were many workshops and less gangs and violence in the neighborhood. We were too busy learning and rehearsing rather than out selling drugs and killing one another.

The genesis of Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation begins in NW Ohio where students at Toledo's lowest-performing schools live unstable lives, moving between homes and schools at alarming rates and at an age when they are most vulnerable. The GWAFF believes that arts and music education can be used to bring communities together, educate our children, and create places of beauty that inspire both the heart and the mind. Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation seeks to fund after-school programs as a direct response to the growing number of youth that are either falling through the cracks at school or are al-

ready entangled with the juvenile court system. The goal is to make funding accessible in public school environments and community based organizations serving youths K-8 who are having a turbulent transition to young adulthood.

Creative arts and music education as an alternative can offer a positive support system to avoid the pitfalls that can derail the lives of youth. Due to limited programming, Toledo students will miss out on opportunities to develop creative skills and critical thinking abilities. Students need access to quality cultural arts and music education in our schools to

ensure that Ohio's quality of life standards are maintained and funding for these programs is limited. Due to budget cuts by the local school systems youth K-8 will be underserved. Community programs do not have resources to fill the gaps of what is now a distressed community.

On Sunday, November 11, 2012 the Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation (GWAFF) will host a lively, memorable affair to help revive neighborhoods centers of music and cultural diversity. The GWAFF will celebrate its launch in the Historic Old West End at the Collingwood Arts Center, with a mission

to re-grant funds to community based organizations that provide performing arts, visual arts and music instruction for children K-8. Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter Dwele will headline the impressive array of local entertainment talent.

Taking part in the evening celebration are notable Toledo establishments such as the Collingwood Arts Center and Club Evolution, along with other local artists, musicians, community and corporate sponsors, to make this an Annual Fall Season event. Purchase tickets online at www.grantwritersforthearts.org

Lucas County CASA Elects New Officers and Board Members

Special to The Truth

Lucas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) announced the selection of its newest officers and members to the Lucas County CASA/CRB Volunteer Association Advisory Board.

The Board elected **Sharon (Judi) Ellis**, a retired vice president of National City Bank as its President. Ms. Ellis founded the delinquency prevention nonprofit K.E.V.I.N., Inc.

Stephen Vasquez, Membership Development Manager of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and former Development Officer of the United Way of Greater Toledo, was elected Vice President.

Daniel Nathan, J.D., Clinical Professor at the Domestic Violence & Juvenile Law Clinic at the University of Toledo, College of Law, was elected Secretary.

Denise (Didi) Thomason, a former business analyst for The Home Depot at their corporate headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia was re-elected to the Treasurer's position for her third term.

The Board selected the following esteemed individuals of the greater Toledo community to join the Advisory Board:

Mark Wagoner, JD, a litigation partner at the premier law firm of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick and former Ohio Senate majority leader;

Joe Sharp, the CEO of Thread Marketing Group, a full service, customer-focused marketing communications agency offering strategic, integrated solutions in marketing communications, digital communications, public relations, and information technology.

Kate Malone, RN, a nurse at St. Francis de Sales High School and a Lucas County CASA volunteer since January 2008.



Sharon (Judi) Ellis

Lucas County Court Judges Denise Navarre Cubbon and Connie Zimmelman extend a warm welcome to the CASA/CRB Advisory Board's new officers and members.

Transportation for the 2012 Presidential Election

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Sat. 8am-2pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm
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The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo by Tom Reiss

c.2012, Crown

\$27.00 / \$29.95 Canada

414 pages, includes index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

For a quiet weekend get-away, there's nothing like a novel.

With a novel in your hands, you can travel the world without going anywhere, seeing things your eyes can't show you. Reading a novel allows you to be someone—or something—else for a while.

A good novel is just what you need when you need escape. But as you'll see in *The Black Count* by Tom Reiss, your favorite fiction may not be a fiction at all.

The knock on the door came just before midnight.

Alexandre Dumas, then four years old and the future author of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*, remembered the sound, even as an adult. It was a knock that brought word of his father's death.

Dumas' father, Thomas-Alexandre Delisle, was born in 1762 in Saint-

Domingue to a fugitive nobleman and a black slave. Known as a fine horseman, Thomas-Alexandre's life was idyllic until his father brought him to France in 1776. There, the boy was educated and later changed his name to become, as Reiss calls him, the "original Alex Dumas."

Though he was technically "owned" by his father, Alex Dumas *père's* French education and his life as a nobleman's son was possible, says Reiss, because of several French laws and concepts. Slavery was allowed in France, but the French also embraced the "undeniable right to freedom" once a black slave landed on French soil. Though Dumas was dark-skinned, his appearance was "admired and celebrated," but not as much as his later accomplishments on the battlefield.

Much taller than his contemporaries, Dumas was said to look like a centaur when riding. He was extraordinarily strong, wide-shouldered and well-built, and good with a sword. Though he joined the French Revolution as an enlisted man, he quickly worked his way up to General and eventually fought alongside Napoleon.

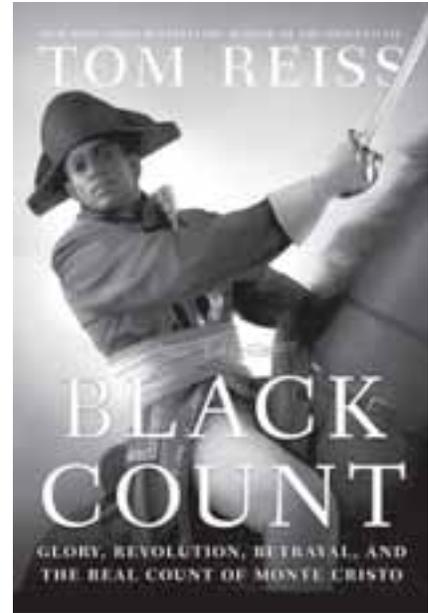
But in 1799, on his way home from Egypt, the great soldier was captured by Italian forces and became a prisoner of war. Released two years later, betrayed by his country, he never fought again.

Part classic literature, part biography, and very steeped in French history, *The Black Count* explains the correlation between Alexandre Dumas' swash-buckling stories and the man who inspired them. And that's all good — if you're into French history,

because that makes up a good portion of this book.

Author Tom Reiss brings plenty of excitement to Dumas' story, but it comes between pages and pages of battle descriptions and details that are nice to know but that aren't necessarily integral to Dumas' biography. That tended to slow the story down, which often made me lose sight of its importance; specifically, that this inspirational, battle-tested historical and literary figure lived in a surprisingly enlightened time and died in relative obscurity. Reiss tells us why, but it takes awhile to get there.

Overall, this isn't a bad book. It's a good peek into a slice of history, but it's slow at times. Beware of that, and *The Black Count* may be just the right escape for you this weekend.



★

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Early Voting Hours

Now – Thursday, Nov. 1, 8 am – 7 pm
 Friday, Nov. 2, 8 am – 6 pm
 Saturday, Nov. 3, 8 am – 2 pm
 Sunday, Nov. 4, 1 pm – 5 pm
 Monday, Nov. 5, 8 am – 2 pm

Toledo/Lucas County Early Voting Location

Summit Plaza,
 1500 North Superior St.
 at corner of Bush & Superior.

Election Day Hours

Tuesday, November 6
 Polls are open from

6:30 am – 7:30 pm

To get help voting on Election Day or during
 early voting, call

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1-888-VE-Y-VOTA *en Español*

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Reminds You to VOTE!

Jazz in Downtown Toledo on Wednesday s

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Kay Elliott is a local treasure.

All she does for jazz, not just for the legacy of Art Tatum, but the art form

and its roots in our local musical culture... she needs an award or something.

When the Toledo Art Tatum Jazz Society has an event it is always professional, classy and accessible. I use the term accessible because the world of jazz music can be just as off-putting to outsiders as the world of hip-hop music. Jazz is a passionate undertaking that usually renders its enthusiasts into accidental clique-ish behavior at times.

You may find yourself being quizzed to test your

knowledge in some places and all you wanted to do was partake in the music. There are a few more parallels between jazz and hip-hop but the point I'm making about Elliott and her events is... they are the exception to the rule.

I never feel unwelcome or as if I have to google my way into some surface understanding just to belong. Sure, there are always jazz aficionados on hand but they are more than happy to teach than uninitiated rather than scold. The warm atmosphere follows Kay and her brand no mat-

ter the venue or occasion and I'm always glad I attended.

Last Wednesday the particular occasion was pianist Claude Black's 80th birthday celebration.

It was a simple two-hour after-work affair of jazz and great food at The Aqua Lounge, one of downtown Toledo's best kept secrets.

But although the vibe was effortlessly cool with modern décor and the Maumee river just outside the window, the musical offering was an entirely different kind of cool. As the legendary Claude Black was seated in the audience with well wishers flanking him on all sides, stationed in front of him was the equally legendary Clifford Murphy on his trusty upright bass.

With Mr. Murphy was a husband/wife duo with talent I find hard to describe... and I'm Kay's favorite local columnist! Matt DeChamplain...that name just sounds like a person destined for jazz greatness doesn't it? He

and Clifford Murphy were the only instrumental backing for the evening.

DeChamplain possesses piano skills that even had Claude Black hooting and hollering in enjoyment! Showcasing his Art Tatum skill set, he let loose with some stride piano during one solo but I watched him the entire night and his arpeggios and chord inflections were sharp and masterful no matter what the song or style of jazz.

But just like I told him when I shook his hand after the show, it was his wife who stole the show entirely.

I want to say this not as a casual jazz fan or a fan of music, but as someone who has produced and worked with female vocalists (albeit locally) for a while.

I say this as someone who has studied enough to know a little something.

Atla DeChamplain is one of the most naturally gifted singers I've ever heard.

Her control is Amel Larrieux-worthy and her

tone is reminiscent of Lalah Hathaway (yes, that Lalah Hathaway). Moving through jazz standards like "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Skylark", Atla's transcendent vocals had me and others seated near me in complete awe.

People were googling her while she was onstage just to see if she had more material they could hear, I mean... a truly mesmerizing and emotive voice.

I was so happy I went and guess what?

YOU CAN ATTEND THE NEXT EVENT!

Even though the most recent one was for Claude's birthday, Wednesdays at the Aqua Lounge beneath Grand Plaza Hotel are becoming the place for Jazz downtown.

To get on the mailing list to know exact times and details simply email:

kay@arttatumociety.com



The Thurgood Marshall Law Association is a group of lawyers committed to improving the lives of those in the African-American and Latino community. One of the most important ways that we can improve our lives is to exercise our right to vote. Therefore, to ensure that everyone exercises their right to vote on, or before, November 6th, the Thurgood Marshall Law Association would like to provide the following helpful information to the community:

1. A felony conviction **does not** prohibit a person from voting! As long as you are registered to vote, you can vote!
2. A state issued identification card is not the only acceptable form of identification for voting purposes. The following may also be used as identification:
 - any other reliable identification which has the voter's name and correct current address to include, but not limited to:
 - a. court summons
 - b. subpoena
 - c. parking ticket
 - d. car registration
 - e. hunting license
 - f. report card
 - g. school transcripts
 - h. bank statements
 - i. pay checks/stubs
 - j. utility bills (including cell phone, cable, internet)
 - you may not use any of the following: passport/passport card, non-Ohio driver's license, photo identification not issued by the military or Ohio DMV, expired ID, **utility bill, government document, etc. that is more than one year old or fails to show voter's current address.**
3. If you have any questions contact the Lucas County Board of Elections
4. Vote early!

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CLASSIFIEDS

October 31, 2012

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How to donate to help victims of Superstorm Sandy

Red Cross. Red Cross has opened 190 shelters along the Eastern Seaboard and has hundreds of disaster workers on standby with emergency supplies. To donate, go to the Red Cross website, call 1-800-RED-CROSS, or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. You can click here to go to the Red Cross disaster relief page. You may also contribute to your local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

Red Cross is also asking that people in unaffected areas donate blood. The organization shipped supplies to hospitals along the East Coast prior to the storm, but many blood drives in the region have been cancelled which has led to a decrease in supply. Visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to learn more about blood donation or to schedule a donation appointment in your area.

AmeriCares works with health clinics, food banks and other agencies in vulnerable areas to help with medical and emergency supplies. Go online to make a donation to the AmeriCares Disaster Relief Fund.

Salvation Army told CNN it has hundreds of emer-

gency response vehicles, including mobile canteens and kitchens, on standby. You can find out more at the Salvation Army disaster page.

World Vision is preparing for immediate disaster response and long-term recovery with a specific focus on the needs of children. You can support World Vision's effort online or text "GIVEUSA" to 777444 to make a \$10 contribution to the organization's disaster response.

International Medical Corps is coordinating with local agencies in Haiti to provide emergency supplies and mobile medical units to areas hit hard by Sandy. Go to International Medical Corps' website to support their emergency work in Haiti.

Operation USA is working to provide access to safe water and support to hospitals and clinics in Cuba. The organization is also providing emergency assistance in Jacmel, Haiti. Donate to Operation USA online or by phone at 1-800-678-7255 or text "AID" to 50555 to donate \$10 to the organization's disaster relief efforts.

Charity evaluators like Guidestar and Charity Naviga-



tor are good ways to check that the organization you're donating to is established, and that your funds will go where you intend.

Charley Shimanski, senior vice president of Disaster Services for the Red Cross, told WPTV in Florida today:

This will be a large, costly relief response and the Red Cross needs help now. People can help by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief online, by text or by phone.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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October 31, 2012

Stationary Steam Engineer/Journeyman/Building Operator – Job 11206

This position performs skilled HVAC/R, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing, electrical, painting, grounds keeping and maintenance repair of assigned buildings. Also operates boilers and automation system, and performs preventive maintenance on all building systems and components. Requirements include a Stationary Steam Engineers license with twelve (12) months training and/or experience in HVAC/R, electrical, plumbing under supervision of journeyman trade worker or equivalent, OR four year journeyman certification from a USDOL/Ohio Apprenticeship Council registered apprenticeship program. Electrical, plumbing, HVAC/R, or related trade journeyman preferred. Maintains valid driver's license and must be insurable under UT's driving policies.

For a complete listing of our openings and qualifications, or to apply, please proceed to our website at <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>.

REGISTERED NURSE

Full-time opportunity available for experienced nurse to perform duties such as health assessments, medication education and direct service to clients in clinic and in the community. Work schedule for this position varies, may include evening hours and may require travel to various sites.

Qualified candidates must possess RN license. Psychiatric nursing experience required, minimum of three years nursing experience preferred.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

Human Resources - RN
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

EOE

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry #FY13-38, (Project # 5008-13-1751) for HSC Steam Plant Boiler No. 6 for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2012 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$80.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bob Tauer of Fosdick & Hilmer, Inc. at 513-241-5640. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Health Education Building Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$250,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC: \$195,000.00; & Electrical: \$55,000.00.

Preferred Properties, Inc. has closed the wait list for John H. McKissick Senior Apartments as of 12:00 pm on 10/16/2012.



CHIEF BUYER

The City of Toledo has a current opening for a Chief Buyer to perform difficult and complex technical work to procure goods and service in accordance with established policies and procedures in compliance with Federal, State, and Local guidelines. The position involves creating reports from SAP data bases; reviews, evaluates and monitors departments' SAP purchasing activities; assisting management with planning and organizing purchasing functions. Prepares, sends, and receives bids and quotations from vendors; conducts public bid openings. The Chief Buyer supervises the City's print shop, mailroom, buyers, and clerical support staff. The current salary range is \$42,000 to \$50,000.

Candidates must have an Associate's Degree from an accredited college/university in Business Management Technology or a closely related field, four years of experience in the acquisition of materials, supplies, equipment and services, and three years of SAP/ERP experience. Experience in business administration, accounting, or supply chain management preferred. Experience in the acquisition of Architect/Engineering and Construction Services is highly desirable.

An application may be obtained at the Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1920, Toledo, OH 43604 or on the City's webpage at <http://www.ci.toledo.oh.us/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities/>

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Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

Human Resources - DA
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
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Automotive Repair Technician

The City of Toledo is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Automotive Repair Technician for the Hoffman Road Landfill. The minimum requirements for this position are: High school graduation or equivalent and 4 years of responsible experience in the mechanical repair of vehicular equipment. Experience with diesel repair and ASE Certification are desirable. An Associate's Degree in Automotive or Diesel Technology may substitute for 2 years of experience. Must be able to obtain a valid State of Ohio Class B CDL within the probationary period. All applications for this position must be received no later than Friday, November 16, 2012. To obtain an application, you may go online at www.toledo.oh.gov/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities/ or pick up an application in person at the Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1920, Toledo, OH. The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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Request for Proposals Training Services for Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Programs RFP #12-R022

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Training Svcs.-Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Programs. **Received in accordance with law until Tues., Oct. 23, 2012, 3PM ET.** For Documents: www.lucasmhha.org, 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711) or 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry #FY13-36, (Project # 5017-12-1724) for Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center Phase II – Bid Pack 2 Building Envelope for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers.

Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 30, 2012 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$125.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jennifer Fuller of BHDP Architecture, Inc. at 614-486-1960.

One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$8,982,627.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$8,982,627.00.

Second Baptist Church Encouraging Women of Excellence

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The women of Second Baptist Church celebrated their annual Women's Day service on Sunday, October 27. Women were decorated in elegant hats, chic suits and dresses, accessorized in orange and white to rejoice and fellowship during the morning and afternoon services.

Second Baptist, also known, as the church of a second chance, welcomed Mother Emma Brown of Second Baptist and Vera Sanders of Ebenezer Baptist Church as service speakers.

The theme "Women of Excellence," drawn from the biblical book of Philippians, first chapter and 10th verse, which states: "That you may approve things that are excellent; that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ."

The Women's Ministry is a group of dedicated volunteers who work collectively to finalize the theme. "We usually select a theme for women's day, and pray about it. We let the Lord lead us in

the direction he would have us to go, and check with our pastor," said Lorraine Bartley, program co-chairman.

The morning service opened with a spirit-filled devotion led by Ella Pickett of St. Mark Baptist Church, Jackie Mullen and Lara Webb of New Hope Baptist Church, Ann Walker of Calvary Baptist Church, and Pearlie Wiggins of Love Missionary Baptist Church.

Immediately following the warm welcome delivered by Ella Betts, Michelle Tarrant facilitated the responsive reading from the Book of Psalms. In between the morning and afternoon service, guests, members of Second Baptist Church and community residents continued to fellowship while they dined on home cooked food prepared by church members.

The afternoon service, continued in the spirit of the morning service with Lorraine Bartley, Varetta Glover, Trina Sample and



20 Deborah Jones, Patricia Clay, Pastor Boose, First Lady Deborah Boose, Mother Emma Brown, Vera Sanders, Regina Tilman.

Lutrel Stokes, members of Second Baptist Church leading the afternoon devotion. Both services received musical selections by the Women's Day Choir, while the afternoon service included soloist Mattie Taylor of First Baptist Church and Lisa Sumrow of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Co-chairman Bartley wanted those in attendance

to leave inspired by the theme and service. "It's possible to walk in excellence, if you allow yourself to follow God. His expectation is excellence, it's about walking towards that, it's pleasing to his site."

Women's Day committee officers and members: Patricia Clayton, chairman; Debra Jones and Lorraine Bartley, co-chairmen; Regina Tilman and Giselle Young,

finance; Tiara Clayton, Whitney Hunter and Teal Jackson, flowers.

The congregation is under the leadership of Pastor J.L. Boose and currently holds services every Sunday at 330 Oak Terrance Blvd in Spencer Township. In the coming months the congregation will focus on an outreach ministry for residents of Spencer Township and

surrounding communities.

"Second Baptist Church, we welcome anyone to come and visit. We're a growing church, God has truly blessed us. This Women's Ministry is just one of our ministries. We focus on outreach and changing people's lives. I thank God for the women of God that God himself have blessed this church with," explained Pastor Boose.

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Our Community . . . Our Legacy

By Carla Yvette
Society Editor

As humans, we are all born with a sense of "purpose." Whether we vocalize it or not, we want our life to make a difference. We want our time on the earth to count for something and at some point or another, we find ourselves asking the questions: Does what I do matter? What difference will I make in the world?

These queries, coupled with our natural desire for attention and positive affirmation, cause us to pursue our dreams, strive to achieve our goals, and work hard to become "somebody."

It is in the striving and the pursuing that the lines between building a reputation and building a legacy sometimes become blurred. A reputation is what people *say* about you. A legacy is what people *know* about you.

A reputation desires the lime light and sometimes causes us to compromise our principles and standards and even sell our souls to protect. A legacy results from the contentment with doing the hard work that sometimes goes unnoticed, relies on principles and integrity and requires us to *give* of our

souls as build.

Building our reputation brings us instant gratification albeit via twitter followings or Facebook likes, but can also be ruined in an instant. Building a legacy, however, takes time and sacrifice and may not be recognized until long after we're gone, but bears fruit from generation to generation.

The word legacy is defined as something that is handed down from an ancestor or the past. It consists of our lasting contribution to our community, society and even the world. It is something that

is acknowledged in our current life time or remembered after. If we are living and breathing, we have the ability to start building our legacy today, in whatever capacity we choose.

Parents – A family legacy is passed down from generation to generation, positive or negative. Are you modeling behavior and instilling values that you will want to carry on from generation to generation?

Artists - Your works of art, music, dance or poetry, whatever the form, has the ability to impact the world for decades to come. What type of impact do you want to make?

Entrepreneurs, Teachers, Pastors – You have the ability to empower others and inspire growth. Who are you equipping and empowering to ensure the work of your vision and knowledge continues?

Civic Leaders and Activist – You stand and fight for your beliefs and principals and sacrifice greatly for your cause. What do you want to be remembered for?

As a community, we must remember that because of what our ancestors did for us, we are better off today. Legacy matters. What will your legacy be when you're gone?

AKA's Fall Into Fabulous Dinner



The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. held its second annual Fall into Fabulous Dinner and Dance on September 29 at the Brandy Wine Country Club. Many were in attendance to help support the efforts of the Sorority.

According to Fundraiser Chairman Lisa E. Dubose, the event is held to raise money for community service projects and scholarships.

"This is our way of being able to give back to the community. Since receiving our charter in 1952, we have been able to give over \$200,000 to our community and so we appreciate the support of our guests who allow us to continue our efforts," said Dubose.

DJ Roc kept the party live and the people dancing. Entertainment was also provided by the blues man himself, Bobby G.



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