



Volume 29, No. 7

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

August 27, 2014

# Naturalistas in The Garden

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Ashley Evans, Zahra April, Darlene Whitehead, Jaimee Pettis, Dena Pratt and Shannon Jackson

# Influencing Change: Protest or Presence?

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

*... There is a spirit and a need and a (person) at the beginning of every great human advance. Each of these must be right for that particular moment of history, or nothing happens.*

– Coretta Scott King



I spent several hours speaking one-on-one with NAACP president Ray Wood, just prior to Ted Nugent's appearance at The Blade's 31st Annual Northwest Ohio Rib-Off. Wood's philosophy and vision for the NAACP were among the topics we discussed.

However, the core of our dialog revolved around the question: What NAACP response is required to influence institutional, political and community change in Toledo? This question was made more relevant in light of the Aug. 9 killing of Michael Brown, a black teenager, by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. This incident has fueled nightly protest demonstrations and captured the attention of a global audience, aided by an activist black social media who provided details germane to the black experience, a perspective often overlooked or misinterpreted by mainstream media.

The following is part one of our conversation:

**Perryman:** It has been eight months now that you've taken over leadership of the Toledo NAACP. So have you gotten your feet wet?

**Wood:** I think they're wet. They were kinda' wet a little bit earlier, but as far as being the point person, I'm that and I'm okay. I actually have a good board and other people active in committees and as any good leader would do, I try to engage them. And I do like the fact that the community is trying to give this board the benefit of the doubt in trying to engage the NAACP in things that we hadn't been previously.

**Perryman:** Such as?

**Wood:** Gang violence is a real big issue. And, as you know, we are involved in the minority recruitment of firefighters and police officers. But whether it is collaboration with groups like Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, or the Toledo Community Coalition or any of that, I think that the NAACP really does have to have a presence. All of these things directly relate to our community and to who we are, but this is one organization that you can't afford to spread yourself too thin. So that's the wetting of the feet process. It is to try to make sure -- and then the other thing that's super important is to try to engage African-American churches. I also believe

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## The Sojourner's Truth

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

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A Certified MBE

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www.thetruthtoledo.com

## Community Calendar

### August 29-31

The Latter Rain Conference 2014: The Armory Church; Guest speakers Carolyn Showell, Pat McKinstry, Donnie McClurkin: 419-537-9736

### August 30

"Fathers Ice Challenge:" 1 pm; Corner of Detroit and Dorr; All youth are invited to participate and receive free resource contact and support; Kids bring ice, water and buckets: 419-255-4444

### August 31

Second Baptist Church Outreach/Mission Sunday: 4 pm: 419-944-8106

New Prospect Baptist Church Pastor's Aid Program: 4 pm; Guests Rev. Sylvester Rome and Tabernacle Baptist Church

Calvary MBC Homecoming: 10:45 am; "Come Home to the Brick"

Mt. Nebo Women's Day: 11:15 am; "Godly Women Working Together in Unity;" Guest speaker Teresa McBee: mtbaptist@sbcglobal.net

Faith Way Church Back to School – Youth Day: 11 am; Guest speaker Min. Sandra Smith of Greensboro, NC

### September 5-7

Worship Center Church Celebration of Pastor Pat McKinstry: Celebrating 55 years in the ministry, 45 years of marriage, 25 years in pastoral ministry and her birthday; Fri at 7 pm – Bishop Iona Locke of Abyssinia Christ Centered Ministries of Detroit; Sat at 5 pm – banquet at the Pinnacle; Sunday morning service – guest speaker Bishop Liston Page of The Greater Highway Deliverance Temple Ministries of New York City: 419-244-2100

### September 6

Spring Street Prayer Breakfast: 9 to 11:30 am; Guest Speaker A.E. Richardson

### September 7

Greater St. Mary's MBC Annual Praise and Worship Service: Presented by the Youth in Praise Dance Ministry; 5 pm; Featuring praise, mime and dance team ministries from around the area: 419-973-4197

### September 9

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee Separation and Divorce Recovery Support Group: 13-week session; 6:30 to 8 pm: 419-893-0223 or www.fpcmaumee.org

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee GriefShare Program: 13-week session for those in the community who have experienced death of family member or friend; 6:30 to 8 pm: 419-893-0223 or www.fpcmaumee.org

### September 13

Community Day Rally: Noon to 4 pm; Savage Park; Faith, fellowship, friends; Community leaders, refreshments

### September 14

Prince Hall and Acceptor Masons of Amazon Lodge #4 and Composite Lodge #108 Celebrate Americanism Day: In honor of founder Prince Hall; 4 pm; St. Paul MBC: 567-258-9319

# Thank Jack For His Services But...

(ANNN) This just in from the All Negro News Network aka: ANNN:  
Our Motto: When it is news about Negroes, read it first at ANNN!

Dear Reader:

As you can discern from the below recently released press release, Jack Ford has been unceremoniously dumped from power in the local Democratic Party.

As you may know, Jack Ford tried to back door the political process by trying to run as an independent against Edna Brown for her state senate seat.

However, Jack Ford voted recently as a Democrat and thereafter was trying to flip the script and run as an independent.

Did Jack ever hear the phrase, "you can't have your cake and eat it too!"

Jack played ignorant by trying to smooth talk himself out of this jam by stating, with a straight face that he did not know that he was voting the Democratic ticket the last time he cast his ballot and/or that he thought he was voting issues only and which allows you to be recognized as an independent.

Nice try Jack...but no cigar!

As a journalist whose only concern is for the reader to be well informed of events that affect their lives, I took the bold and unusual step of contacting Jack Ford for some comments regarding this 4-0 vote against him being on the upcoming ballot.

Here is a portion of that telephone interview:

**ANNN:** Jack, this is ANNN reporter, Lafe Tolliver. Can I ask you a few questions about your response to the recent vote of the Democratic Party to not allow your name to appear on the upcoming ballot for the state senate slot?

**JACK:** Yeah, go ahead. What can I tell you that is not news already?

**ANNN:** What made you think that you could vote Democratic in the past election but run as an Independent in the fall elections?

**JACK:** I did not expect that the party would turn on me this way. Normally no one monitors such matters so closely. I was singled out. Someone was following the rules and they wanted to make an example of me! How dare they!

**ANNN:** Jack, as a law school graduate, how did you figure that you could get pass reading the ballot as being approved for an independent when it was a straight Democratic Party ticket that you voted on and you did not vote issues only?

**JACK** (long pause due to loud cries and weeping coming from someone else in the background at Jack's house): Hey, it was a harmless error. All that I have done for this city and northwest Ohio and this is the thanks I get!

**ANNN:** (still unable to hear what Jack is saying due to other voice in background weeping uncontrollably and with loud groans of sadness): Jack, in light of this vote, will you support the Democratic endorsed candidacy of Edna Brown?

**JACK:** (mumbles something about, yeah, sure...why not). (to the other wailing voice in the background, Jack tells them to chill out because he is on the phone).

**ANNN:** Jack, what are your political plans for the future?

**JACK:** (again, it is hard to hear due to the ear grating sounds of a man acutely in distress and loudly weeping near the phone): I dunno. I will meet with Carty and he will guide me and tell me what is my best course of action. Without Carty, I would be totally lost!

**ANNN:** Well Jack, thanks for your time. By the way, who is that poor creature who is crying their eyes out in the background? I could hardly hear you on the phone:

**JACK:** Oh. That is Keith Burris, the Toledo Blade columnist. (in the background, before I say goodbye, I hear Keith yell, "Oh, the debt of love and gratitude that we owe Jack. It can never be repaid!").

End of call.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

To: All Media Outlets in NW Ohio and Jack Ford supporters  
From: Lafe Tolliver  
Re: Jack Ford  
Date: 8/22/2014

In a stunning 4-0 vote, the local Democratic Party dealt a severe political blow to the political fortunes of perennial political office runner, Jack Ford.

The swift vote was a thorough renunciation of the political machinations of Jack Ford as he tried to feebly explain his way back into the good graces of the local party machine.

Using cumbersome language stating that either he did not know he was

voting a Democratic Party ticket or that he thought he was voting only on issues thus allowing him to vote Independent, the local party bosses, in a mere matter of ten minutes, rejected out of hand that political gibberish.

Now, the voices of the lumpenproletariat have been heard and it is a glorious sound indeed!

The local Democratic Party has once and for all stepped out of the glooming shadow of Jack Ford and they are paving a wondrous path for new politics to follow on.

A thoroughly dejected Jack Ford indicated that he may file an appeal with the local court of appeals or with the Ohio Supreme Court.

The party minions who follow the voice of Jack Ford were also soundly defeated.

One particular Jack Ford loyalist, Keith Burris, was so sorely distraught at this

Jaw-dropping loss by his political leader that it is reported that he was involuntarily placed on calming medications and was sent to a rest and recover resort in Northern Michigan for an extended stay. Such was the impact of this loss on this ardent supporter of Jack Ford.

In spite of the many adulatory and fawning columns written by Keith Burris in support of Superman Jack Ford, the common man in the street said no to Jack and the local Democratic Party took up their courageous call and collared the political aspirations of Jack Ford.

May this be the start of the glorious revolution in Lucas County in which the people take back control of their political parties and man the doors so that similar Jack Ford types will get the bum's rush and not allowed to primp and prance around as if they personally own and operate the political machinery.

Power to the people! No one is above the Party!

End of press release

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Tolliver@Juno.com](mailto:Tolliver@Juno.com)



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**Sign up now for our next training classes:**  
Tuesdays/Thursdays, Sept. 2 – Oct. 9, 6 – 9 p.m.  
Saturdays, Sept. 20 – Oct. 25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Classes are held at the LCCS training center, 705 Adams St. in downtown Toledo.



# NAACP Toledo Unit Honors Former Presidents

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The NAACP Toledo Unit held its first ever ceremony to publicly acknowledge all past presidents on Saturday, August 23, 2014. "Yes, this is our first ever program honoring past presidents. We owe these leaders our gratitude and didn't want to lose this opportunity," explained current President Ray Wood.

The program opened with Wood serving as master of ceremonies, and a prayer offered by Vice President Micheal Alexander. Guests then dined on a banquet-style meal and refreshments, Johnny Love sang a selection, and tokens of appreciation were given to all past presidents before the program closed with the Negro National Anthem.

"We wanted to acknowledge our past presidents and present them with flowers, while they are still with us. We are honoring them because of their commitment then and now to civil rights, especially during their tenure as president of NAACP Toledo Unit," shared Wood.

Toledo Unit past presidents are: Rev. Robert Culp, who served in 1966; Rev. George W. Maze, III, who served from 1974-1976; George Davis, Jr, who served in 1981 and from 1990-1991; Rev. Floyd Rose who served in 1982; LeRoy A. Williams who served from 1984-1989; Judge C. Allen McConnell who served from 1992-1993; Toledo City Councilwoman Theresa Gabriel who served from 1994-1996;



Clockwise from top left Councilwoman Theresa M. Gabriel, Rev. LeRoy Williams, Rev. Robert Culp, Ray Wood, WilliAnn Moore, George Davis, Jr.

David R. Taylor, III who served from 1997-1998; WilliAnn Moore who served from 1999-2010 and Rev. Kevin Bedford who served from 2010-2012. The presidents in attendance each received a standing ovation from attendees, generous gifts and proclamations.

"As the current president, I've learned from the past presidents that I have to be steadfast, unmovable and focused on our community's is-

ues. Some of our struggles have changed but more has to be done. We rallied and boycotted in the 1950-1970s but we still need to have those conversations, focus on issues and fight," said Wood.

The NAACP Toledo Unit invites the community to join the local unit and mark your calendars for the annual Freedom Fund Dinner on October 24, 2014.

# 60

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# Toledo Urban Planning the Big Move to Free-Standing Facility

By Linda M. Nelson  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Although the driving forces behind the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union are determined to ensure that members have the tools and the opportunities to become financially successful through the many programs offered, they work equally as hard on the African American Festival, which TUFUCU has hosted for the past 10 years.

Cowell says the idea for the festival came to her in a unique way. "I had a vision," she says. "I told my staff that we were going to start a festival, but when I brought it up at one of the community meetings it seemed that every naysayer was there." Cowell says that she was discouraged until someone approached her at church and said "You better do what God told you to do."

She says she knew that she had to make it happen.

The festival did happen and Cowell says over 600 people attended that first year. The African American Festival promotes black history, health and education in the community, and features a prayer breakfast, a parade, live entertainment and health screenings. "We have actually saved a couple of lives through early detection by health screening," Cowell says.

Next on the agenda for TUFUCU is a move. The credit union, now in a strip plaza, will be moving to a freestanding facility on Dorr Street and Detroit Avenue, across the street from its current location.

"We are going to build our own site," says Cowell. But the process will take some time. Cowell points to some funding challenges even though she says that 2008 was the first year the credit union actually made money. "There were assessments placed on all credit unions that year, and we were back in the hole," she says. "We had to build the business back up." Cowell says that thankfully many of those earlier financial backers continue to support the move. "People have been saying that it's never going to happen, but in God's time it's going to happen," she says.

Meanwhile those involved remain committed to the original purpose of TUFUCU. Board President Frances Smith says "As a race we are already being rejected. We want to help people turn around and become credit worthy individuals so they will be able to go into any credit union and apply for a loan."

Part of that plan includes steering members away from payday loan establishments. "We have an all out campaign with our members to get them away from those places, it can be a vicious cycle," says Smith.

Cowell agrees and says that these loan companies take advantage of people as do the buy here pay here auto lots. "You don't even have to know how to fill out the paper work. They do it for you," she says.

This practice, according to Cowell, encourages people to get caught up in high interest loans that they can't pay. "When you can't pay your car loan, then they come and get the car," she says. "When they come and get the car then you can't make it to work. And if you can't make it to work and lose your job, then what are your options?"

But even though the TUFUCU advocates are moving forward and are optimistic about the future, there are those who remain concerned about the community's financial health and its projected ability to thrive.

Board member and business owner Edwin Mabrey talks about some of those challenges that continue to hinder blacks. "My concern is that we as a black community can't come together to make things happen," he says. "There are so many things that we can do, but there is a lack of community involvement."

Mabrey says he is also disturbed by the decline of black businesses in the area and the affect it has had on the community. "When you think about old Dorr Street it was full of black businesses," he says.



Mabrey says that while it is important for blacks to consider opening businesses and becoming self-supportive, it is also important to keep the money in the community. "Other people suck off the breast of the black community," Mabrey states. "Typically, as soon as a black person gets money it's taken outside of the neighborhood and turned over six times, but inside of the community that money may be turned over once."

James Snodgrass Sr., TUFUCU member and supporter since 1996 agrees, "I support this credit union because it's in close proximity and a necessity," he points out. "This credit union is something that we need to have and something that we can call our own."

... continued on page 13

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# The Corbitt Family Gathers to Celebrate

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Family reunions are defined as fellowship, good food and laughter. The immediate family, first cousins and other relatives of community leader Leola Haynes gathered for their reunion on Saturday, August 24, 2014. Five to six generations have gathered to fellowship since 1952. "We always come together, when people see us together, you can tell we're family," said Leola Haynes.

Over 150 children, grand-children, great-grandchildren, cousins, siblings and beyond filled the American Legion

... continued on page 9



Oscar Haynes, Leola Haynes, Odis Galloway



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# The L.O.L Lounge Celebrates Three Years of Laughs

By *Carla Yvette*  
*Society Editor*

The L.O.L Lounge celebrated three years of laughs Thursday August 14 at Our Brothers Place.

The L.O.L Lounge (free comedy show) was started by Keith Cook (a/k/a comedian Kool Keith) August 11, 2011 shortly after Our Brothers Place opened.

Held the first Thursday of every month, Cook brings in comedians from all over the region and country to perform.

Said Cook, "I always showcase Toledo talent as well. Many of the comedians I bring in are touring and/or have appeared on some major stages and TV screens." He continued, "I always say this show just takes place in Toledo but it's bigger than the 419."

Cook said he also offers the shows free of charge on purpose.

Why?

"I offer it free," said Cook, "so that people have no excuse not to come. Also, it's my 'give-back' to my city!"

*... continued on page 9*



*Comedian Kool Keith*



*Headliner Joshua Adams*



*Brenda McKitric and Bonita Brazzel*



*Brother and sister, Anthony Abbott and Delisa Moore*



*Charlene Johnson and Adonica Jones*



*Dorian N. Powell, Dominique Sander and Kamesha Jones*



*Jarolyn Williams and Ricky Blackman*

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- Shared their expertise to help their own personal goals.

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To register, visit [www.toledoschamber.com](http://www.toledoschamber.com)

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Naturalists.. continued from page 16

stop the ladies from lending their unique style, elegance and sass to what turned out to be a fun, bonding experience.

What better way to end the summer than to showcase natural beauties in a beautiful natural setting. Enjoy!



Zahra April and Ashley Evans



Emily Evans



Iman Hancock

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Bonita Jemison



Darlene Whitehead



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Corbitt Reunion... continued from page 6

Hall located on Byrne to enjoy the festivities. Family members donated food for the occa-

sion and cousin Tosha Easter was the DJ.

"As long as Leola continues to organize the reunions, I'll keep coming to Toledo. I

brought my son, two grandsons, my wife, and sister-in-law," said Clover Holden, a family member.



L.O.L. Lounge... continued from page 7

Cook, who has been doing stand up since 2009, travels the road doing comedy and hosts a wide array of shows as well.

"I believe if I can keep people laughing and in good spirits on a consistent basis, then that's good for our city," he said.

The third anniversary celebration was headlined by comedian Josh Adams of The Motown Laugh Kings. Adams, who hails from Detroit, Michigan, was recently a winner on Apollo Live.

The audience was also treated to performances by comedians Jordon Stewart, Jeff Horste and Demeco Lewis.

Each show begins with a video mix on the big screen by Travis "DJ Big Trav" Grant with the next show taking place September 4 featuring "CoolAide" out of Detroit.

Doors open at 8pm, the show starts at 9pm.



Comedians Josh Adams, Jeff Horste, Host Kool Keith, Demeco Lewis and Jordon Stewart



LaPala and Charise Crawford



Brent Price and Erin Beene



The Toledo Museum of Art is seeking participants for a research study regarding its toddler tour program. Children ages 18-36 months who can speak in three to four word sentences and their adult caregivers can participate.

Sessions take place at the Museum every Saturday morning from **September 13-December 20, 2014**. Participants who attend all sessions will receive a \$150 gift card.

For more info and to register, visit [research.toledomuseum.org](http://research.toledomuseum.org) or call 419-255-8000 ext. 7363.

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# TLCPL Rooftop Bash a Soaring Sixties Success

*Special to The Truth*

Some 300 Library supporters Swung by the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's 1960s-themed ROOFTOP BASH, an outdoor/indoor event presented by PNC and hosted by the Library Legacy Foundation.

The event atop Main Library's Civic Plaza Rooftop was the perfect evening as blue skies and perfect summer weather served as the backdrop for a fun "friend" and fundraiser. The event, expected to net some \$14,000 to benefit youth programs and the purchased of books for the Library, saw many attendees in both 1960s and cocktail attire. Bashers danced to the sounds of HepCat Revival, and dined and grazed on delicious hors d'oeuvres by Mancy's Catering.

The fun was enhanced by a wine ring toss, and a raffle of a diamond necklace donated by David Fairclough Fine Jewelers. Attendees were excited by the fundraiser's parting gift of a library book, which they selected from a clever display.



*The Library's Cynthia Arias, David Bush and Roberta Gordon*



*The Library's Krista Turner*



*Katrina Conway and Regina Whittington*

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*Steve Reamey*

*Perryman.. continued from page 2*

in the spiritual piece, so I believe that that's where our movement and our coming together has to never leave away from

**Perryman:** Has your organization had a strategic planning session yet?

**Wood:** We have had a retreat, where we just kind of sat down and determined where we wanted to focus. We had several issues. One issue, and I don't know if it's going to go away, is the gang violence and the black-on-black crime and how our young men are winding up either dead or in prison. That was an area that we really wanted to try to concentrate on. And that's what I meant to say about this whole thing with the Nugent guy. He's going to be gone. He will come and go. He's recently been to other cities in Ohio. Do you know what we did? Nugent was in Columbus the 24th of July. He's going to be in Cincinnati the day before he comes here, and I reached out to those local NAACP chapters just so we can kind of collaborate on something together. I didn't hear a response from either one of them. I personally called both of the presidents and left messages. And, not that what we do here in this community is going to revolve around what someone else does, but, you try to get as much input and as much support as you can. But when that didn't happen, we kept going forward.

So in our strategic planning, because Ted Nugent wasn't on our map, it was a part of that planning process. What was on our map was that they're building jails for kids based upon third grade reading scores. We wanted to be involved with the educational piece with Dr. Romules Durant and the Toledo Board of Education, so we have begun to reach out and try to have collaborations any way that we can, and particularly in the African-American schools. So we wanted to make sure that education was a part of our focus. We wanted to make sure that the gang violence was a part of our focus. And just like the Nugent thing popped up, the EOPA (Pathways) thing came up and so many people are losing their jobs because of the transfer of Head Start, so we've been in discussions with Dr. [Cecelia] Adams and the Board and other organizations to help try to find employment for those individuals that have lost their jobs and opportunities.

So, it's not like we haven't been focusing. And obviously, we also want to make sure we set a goal for 500 NAACP memberships. A major reason is because we get numerous requests from the community, not just for our involvement, but if we can support something financially, we do that as well. We are also working on a march to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in order to engage our community by unifying and working together. Ultimately, however, we can march until we don't have any more feet and we can talk until we are blue in the face, but people want to see action. They want to see change. They want to see us involved. But we've got to be willing to do what it takes.

**Perryman:** Let's stay with the chapter's focus. You made the statement that Nugent will be here and then he'll be gone, and we will still have kids in the streets. So, I guess I heard you say that we can kind of wipe that Rib-Off experience away or flick it off, basically.

**Wood:** I really wouldn't want to flick that off. I just want to put it in perspective. You know, that's a big deal that The Blade and other sponsors have thought that it was okay to have someone with that inappropriate conversation and that mindset to come here and be in this community in light of being called a compassionate city and in light of these racism forums that they've been having. Now, I don't accept anything that Ted -- I think he's a true racist. I mean, and a lot of other things as well, because you know, he says anything that comes out of his mouth. The bad thing about that is that we have so many people, and he's not the only one. You've got a lot of people with that type of inappropriate behavior and what some people, the first thing they'll say -- 'you know, he sits on the board of the NRA and he's a gun-totin' guy, and blah, blah, blah.' It ain't about Second Amendment rights and it's not about freedom of speech, First Amendment rights. It's about his inappropriate conversation and disrespect of all people, and it's about moral issues where you wouldn't expect -- Listen, now like I said, he's been all over. He's still getting engagements. Unfortunately people all around this country are still having this guy come in light of

what they know about who he is.

**Perryman:** Well, that speaks to my point, which is, that fighting Nugent support here in Toledo does not contradict your point of focus, which is the gun violence that is rampant in our community. Number one, if this man is the celebrated figure that he is and he's pro-gun and all of this, that makes -- and that kind of vile language inspires people to...

**Wood:** People with guns to do crazy stuff.

**Perryman:** That leads to the death of unarmed black young people like Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis or a Renisha McBride in Detroit and other children who are shot at and killed by citizens or the police at extraordinary rates compared to others. And, in most instances, those individuals who kill us are not held accountable by the criminal justice system.

**Wood:** Absolutely.

**Perryman:** Not only that, but when that violent stuff is celebrated in the media, it has a direct effect on our young black men. They think guns are natural. They don't think shooting people is that big a deal, because they see it celebrated and pushed in the media and they see the Toledo Blade providing financial backing of it. So by proxy, as some might see it, The Blade is supporting shooting African Americans and gun violence. There is a direct connection and correlation with how blacks are demonized in the media and the level of violence they experience. So this does not contradict your focus on young people.

**Wood:** No. Not at all. And I agree with everything you said, because, I mean, it is all interrelated. The point I was making was that, Ted Nugent is not going to be my focal point, because once he leaves, we are still going to have to deal with the education in this community. The housing, whether it's blight or because of the lead poisoning and how it adversely affects our community and our people will still be with us. Eighty percent of the lead poisoning deaths are African Americans. And we've got property owners and people that are unaware.

**Perryman:** And the educational problems and these kids who are shooting each other are all connected.

**Wood:** I agree with you.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drdlperryman@center-ofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@center-ofhopebaptist.org)

## 5th Annual "Dads and Kids Kamp Out"





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For Registration & Information log on to [www.restorefathers.org](http://www.restorefathers.org) or e-mail [restorefathers@bea.net](mailto:restorefathers@bea.net)

# Lead Poisoning Threatens Area Low-Income and African American Children

## Prevention Ordinance Slated for City Counsel

Special to The Truth

Together, Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA) and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) have been working on a Lead Poisoning Prevention Ordinance for the City of Toledo.

“Lead poisoning is a serious problem in the City of Toledo and the problem is clearly concentrated in the low-income and African American communities, where most, if not all of the housing stock was built prior to 1950,” says Marcia Dinkins, TUSA executive director and lead organizer.

“US Census Data from 2010 shows that more than 80,000 African American residents live in the zip codes considered high risk – this means that 96 percent of Lucas County’s African American population is at risk for lead poisoning,” Dinkins adds.

Research by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention shows that lead poisoning can cause permanent damage to the brain and many other organs and cause reduced intelligence and behavioral problems. These problems can start in vitro if a woman is exposed to lead paint or dust while pregnant, and exposure can also result in fetal abnormalities.

These statistics and others can be found in a report on the Impact of Lead Poisoning on Minority and Low Income Communities in Toledo published by ABLE. The report includes specific at-risk zip code maps and other data that shows minorities and low-income residents are at much greater risk for lead poisoning than other demographics.

According to ABLE Attorney Robert Cole, “The report notes that the majority of the land contained within the boundaries of the city of Toledo is considered high risk areas for lead poisoning. The homes in these high risk zip codes are older and possess

a high risk for the presence of lead paint. The conclusions that can be drawn from the data regarding which children continue to be exposed to lead hazards, who is lead poisoned and where they live, is clear.”

A Lead Ordinance would require that every owner of residential rental property constructed prior to 1978 must have the property inspected for lead hazards and must maintain the property so that it remains free from lead. If an inspection of the residential rental property shows the existence of lead, the owner must have the lead hazard corrected, before the property can be rented.

The Ordinance would also require that every owner of residential rental property constructed prior to 1978 within the City of Toledo, obtain a Certificate of Registration of Lead Safe Residential Rental Property from the Toledo Lucas County Health Department before letting or otherwise permitting the occupancy of such residential rental property.

“The City of Toledo has one of the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning in Ohio, ranking second highest to Cleveland for the percentage of children with confirmed elevated blood lead levels in 2012,” adds Cole. “The dangers posed by lead poisoning for children fall disproportionately on Toledo low-income and African American populations. The enactment of the proposed Lead Ordinance is a matter of environmental and racial justice.”

TUSA and ABLE will be spearheading a Lead Poisoning Prevention Summit sometime in September. “Our goal is to have the Ordinance introduced by Toledo City Council in September and passed by year’s end,” says Cole. “Enforcement of the ordinance would start quickly in the most affected neighborhoods, taking full effect within three years.”



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## New Data Show Suspensions, Expulsions Down in TPS Schools

Special to The Truth

Toledo Public Schools has some good news to share right before school starts next week. Data compiled by TPS administrators for the 2013-2014 school year show a dramatic decrease in the number of suspensions and expulsions in the district from the previous year. For example, the number of suspensions across the district was down 25 percent while the district-wide number of expulsions was down 31 percent.

A school-by-school breakdown also shows impressive results, including an 81 percent reduction in expulsions at Rogers High School and a 48 percent reduction in suspensions at Start High School. Need more numbers? How about the fact that 31 percent of all elementary schools had no expulsions at all and the majority of the rest only had a handful each?

TPS Administrators point to a number of factors for the declines, most especially the continuing implementation of two programs – Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) as well as strong relationships with community partners who work with at-risk youth. Those partners include TUSA, T.A.C.K.L.E., PASS, the graduation coaches at United Way and the Young Men of Excellence and the Young Women of Excellence groups in the TPS schools.

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# Lulu in Honolulu by Elisabeth Wolf

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Your parents are lucky to have you around.

They rely on you to do so much: you keep your room clean, you can cook super-easy meals, and you're very good at keeping your little brother quiet.

You help your parents quite a lot...or, at least you try. But in the new book **Lulu in Honolulu** by Elisabeth Wolf, Lulu Harrison's parents really wish they'd left her in L.A.!

It was supposed to be the family vacation of a lifetime, with a little work on the side: beautiful Fiona Harrison was directing a new film on location in Honolulu, and her handsome husband, Linc, was the lead actor. They brought along 16-year-old, bikini-obsessed Alexis, who'd been a model once; and 11-year-old Lulu, who had frizzy hair, freckles, and a total inability to hula.

That's not good, when you're spending the summer in Hawaii.

But it was okay. Lulu, "the world's most freckled fish out of water," was perfectly happy to wear SPF-50 clothing, dorky shoes, and thick sunscreen while she attended Ohana Day Camp. The Camp was where she met her best friend, Noelani, who was the finest hula dancer Lulu had ever seen, but who seriously

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280 pages

lacked *koa* (bravery).

And that was okay, too, because Lulu had enough *koa* for them both. Take, for instance, when Ohana Day Camp was competing

in the hula-off. Lulu knew that her famous family could boost the chances of a team win – if only they would attend the competition. What happened went viral online.

If that was the only thing that happened to Lulu, it still would've been an awesome summer – but, of course, it wasn't. Both her

parents were overworked and the film was over budget, which meant that they didn't have any free time. Lulu tried to help with a few schemes that seemed like great ideas, but she just made things worse every single time. Then Fiona got fired, and she threatened to send Lulu back to Los Angeles. Alexis was mad, too. Was there any way to get her *ohana* (family) to forgive her?

I struggled for the better part of an evening to read *Lulu in Honolulu*, and I wasn't sure why. The story's basically good; young girls will get a kick out of Lulu's well-meaning personality and her adventures were fun.

Finally, I realized what I really didn't like about this book.

First, its formatting makes it seem slow. Author Elisabeth Wolf presents this tale as though it were a movie script, which means it's filled with directions and asides that don't play well. Kids might like the hook for awhile, but I didn't.

I also greatly disliked Lulu's too-busy-for-her, rich-and-famous, gorgeous-and-they-know-it parents. On the *first page*, this 11-year-old character compared herself to them, and came up woefully short. That made me sad.

Overall, I'm always a big Know Your Audience advocate, and that goes doubly for this book. It's not totally horrid. It's worth a try, but remember this: your eight-to-10-year-old might love *Lulu in Honolulu*, or she might not even want it around.



**Toledo Urban... continued from page 5**

Snodgrass recalls the heyday of Dorr Street. "There is a lot of history on Dorr Street. This street was lined with stores," Snodgrass says. "Then came urban renewal, which is really urban removal. We need to have something to call our own. Nobody's going to do it for us."

Mabrey, who thinks that the reluctance to begin a business is multifaceted and includes a lack of trust, a community that needs to unify, and challenges with credit, also believes that these obstacles to ownership can be overcome. "We have to get back to going into business for ourselves," he says. "If you have financial problems that are beyond your capability to solve, the credit union is here to serve you."

For now, the steady flow of TUFCU members

are a testament to its commitment and continued success on Dorr street as customers who wait in line take time to praise the agency.

Toledo Attorney Keith Mitchell who has been a TUFCU supporter since 1992 says that he continues to do business there "because it's a nice banking institution and it supports our community."

Peter Coates, a member since 1997, and owner of Pete's Custom auto Body & Paint, says about TUFCU "I want to deal with my own folks and this a comfortable place to be."

And member Linda Sutton comments as she waits in line to conduct business, "What do they offer? They give love, compassion and consideration," she says. "I wouldn't go anywhere else."

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# CLASSIFIEDS

August 27, 2014

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Brandi Brown, Program Director at [brandi-brown@urbanradio.fm](mailto:brandi-brown@urbanradio.fm)

### Request for Proposals

#### Advisory/Consulting Services for Public Housing Demolition/Disposition

RFP#14-R014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Advisory/Consulting Services. Received in accordance with law until Tues., Sept. 16, 2014, 3PM ET. Pre-Proposal Conf.: Sept. 2, 2014, 11AM ET, 425 Nebraska Ave. For Documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org), 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).**

Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



### LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR APPLICANTS

The Ohio Revised Code, under Sections 3113.33 through 3113.39 authorizes the collection of funds to be dispersed to those shelters that provide aid for the victims of domestic violence. In accordance with further provisions of these sections of the Code, the Lucas County Board of Commissioners is requesting applications from potential shelter providers for the funds collected. The funds are to be dispersed for 2015 shelter operations.

To qualify as a provider, applicants must provide:

1. Evidence that the shelter is a nonprofit organization.
2. Corporation trustees.
3. Proposed budget for the shelter for the following year.
4. Summary of services to be provided.
5. An estimate of the number of persons to be served.
6. Applicants must receive at least 25% of their funding from other sources.

Application forms are available in the office of the Board of County Commissioners, One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2259. The forms may be picked up during business hours, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. They must be completed and the application filed with the Board of Lucas County Commissioners by 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

This notice will also be posted on the Lucas County Website at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/Bids.aspx>

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# Naturalistas in the Garden

By Carla Yvette  
Society Editor

The 1st Annual Naturalista Photo Shoot "Naturalistas in the Garden" was held Saturday, July 26 at the Toledo Botannical Gardens. Over two dozen natural hair sisters answered the call to participate in the photo shoot. Neither hot temperatures nor overzealous insects could

... continued on page 8



Brenda Durrah - Jones, Vicky Simpson-Brooks with Megan Yasu Davis and LaGwanda Joyce Parker



Crystal Adams and LaRhonda McCoy with Kim Taylor and Bonita Jemison



Yvonne McDaniel, Dorothy Harris, LaDonna McDaniel, Kathy Harris and Veronica Lynn King



Veronica Lynn King, Kathy Harriss and Samia Dixon with Dorothy Harris



Pillar with son Zion and Marie PowellVeronica Lynn King

