



Volume 29, No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 10, 2014

Rhonda Jemison, Principal

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Principal of Springfield High School

"We're doing a lot of things that make people excited about being here and when you're excited, you learn more, you teach more, you work harder and it changes the whole atmosphere."

A Chat with Rhonda Jemison, Principal of Springfield High School

Last week, The Sojourner's Truth sat down with Rhonda Jemison, who is the newly appointed principal of Springfield High School. Jemison has been with Springfield Local District in administrative positions for seven years. Prior to that, she worked in the Bedford School District for seven years. Jemison started her career in education with Toledo Public Schools.

The Truth: What particular skills and experience do you bring to your new position of principal of Springfield High School that will distinguish you from your predecessors?

Rhonda Jemison: I think that having been a teacher and administrator for over 21 years ... that experience is not common to people but I think that most important is my richness of a diverse background – being a product of TPS, having taught at TPS ... the dynamics of that district ... and then moving to Bedford and being there for seven years, which is a completely different demographic, different everything.

Then moving to Springfield, which is so rich in diversity. That has enhanced my ability to deal with everybody, see different perspectives and to take everywhere I've been and create great things.

The Truth: You've been with the district now for about seven years. What has impressed you most about Springfield Local?

Jemison: I think the community itself. You'll hear me say diversity a lot but we have kids who live in gated communities and kids who live in trailer parks. We have teachers who drive and bus drivers who drive two hours to get here to work because they just love it here. We have teachers who drive from all over to get here. And I think that the teachers here are the best I've ever seen, from everywhere I've been. I mean absolutely the best ... working with limited resources at that. And the kids are phenomenal. We come from different places but we all get along. Somebody said to me one time, "we take everybody here" – we really do. It's a great place with a lot



Rhonda Jemison

The Sojourner's Truth

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of different personalities, a lot of different character.

The Truth: After you stint as principal, what's next in the career of Rhonda Jemison?

Jemison: Right now it's just getting to the next school year! Ultimately after I'm done in education, I would love to be a motivational speaker. I'd

... continued on page 6

Community Calendar

September 11

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Meeting: 5 pm; UT Scott Park Campus, Rm 1080C: 419-350-2567

September 13

Community Day Rally: Noon to 4 pm; Savage Park; Faith, fellowship, friends; Community leaders, refreshments
Indiana Ave MBC Pre-Women's Day Garden Tea: Noon; "My Cup Runneth Over:" 419-350-6149

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
New Prospect Baptist Church Pastoral Anniversary: For Pastor Nathan Madison; Guests are Rossford Baptist and Pastor Sheares

September 15

Frederick Douglass Community Association Youth & Parent Mixer: Information and open registration for all FDCA after-school programs including enrichment classes and sports – parents must be present for registration; 5:30 to 7:30 pm

September 20-21

St. Paul MBC Women's Day Weekend: Sat – 11 am to 1 pm – salad/dessert smorgasbord, speaker Sis Margureit Bills from Jerusalem Baptist; Sun – 10:45 am service, guest speaker Evang. Teresa Allen of New Bethel: 419-246-2886

September 21

New Prospect Baptist Church Pastoral Anniversary: For Pastor Nathan Madison; Guests are Greater St. Ministries and Pastor Barnes
Calvary Baptist Church Roses of Flowers Ministry Anniversary; Guests are Rev. Charles McBee and Family Baptist

September 22

12th Annual Black College Tour Informational Meeting: 6 to 7:30 pm; Kent Branch Library; For the 2015 Southern Route tour from April 5-10; Sponsored by the Maumee Bay Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc; Gwen Banks – 419-944-5912 or Trevor Black – 419-478-7844

September 27

Spring Street Baptist Church Anniversary Musical: 5 pm

September 28

Spring Street Baptist Church Friends and Family Day: 11 am worship service

October 3

Calvary Baptist Church 85th Anniversary: Memorial Musical; 6 pm

October 5

Spring Street Baptist Church 81st Anniversary: 4 pm service; Guest speaker Pastor Clayborn Arnett of Greater Harvest

October 12

Calvary Baptist Church 85th Anniversary: 4 pm Service; Guest speaker Pastor Lorenzo Edwards of Holy Cross

October 19

Calvary Baptist Church 85th Anniversary: 4 pm service; Guest speaker Pastor Donald Newsom of Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Lead Poisoning Is a Very Serious Public Health Problem in Toledo

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. The dangers posed by lead poisoning for children fall disproportionately on Toledo's low-income and African American populations. The enactment of the proposed Lead Ordinance is a matter of environmental and racial justice.

Our community has an opportunity to take action to significantly reduce the number of children who are being exposed to lead by adopting an ordinance that will require Lead Safe Residential Rental Property.

Please consider attending a discussion on the steps necessary to significantly reduce lead poisoning in the City of Toledo.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

McMaster Center, Main Branch, Toledo Lucas County Public Library

Michigan Avenue, Downtown Toledo

PRESENTED BY:

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA)

This summit is free and open to the public. Space is limited.



Advanced registration is required no later than Monday, September 22. Please email: leadsummit@ablelaw.org with your name and contact information.

Conference presentations will be videotaped by WGTE Public Media and available for online streaming at www.knowledgestream.org.

A service of WGTE Public Media, Knowledge Stream is an online archive of free, video-on-demand multimedia resources for the public.




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Call Savannah Tibbitts, MBAC Coordinator at 419-243-8191 for more details.
 To register, visit www.toledochamber.com





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Saturdays, Sept. 20 – Oct. 25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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



Frederick Douglass Community Association: Making an Impact but Struggling to Survive

By Linda M. Nelson

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Frederick Douglass Community Association, located at 1001 Indiana Avenue, is like many of the community organizations throughout central Toledo. The ideals and concepts of these organizations are simple: for some that purpose is to serve the people in the community through programs and education; for others it is offering assistance and a hand up to those who need it. But the one prevailing theme among each one seems to be a lack of community support and a desperate need for funding.

Sonya Harper-Williams, executive director of FDCA, is fighting to stay afloat in an opposing current. Her goal, in the almost two years that she has been at the helm, is to transform the association and make it viable again.

"We are in a dire situation," Harper-Williams says. "People don't know how close we are to not being. There is a financial struggle, and if the community wants this institution to survive we need them to claim this building as their own."

The building that FDCA has occupied since 1979, is actually the James B. Simmons Jr. Neighborhood Facilities building. Harper-Williams says that although the building is owned

by the city and designated as a community resource center, FDCA serves as the administrator or onsite landlord. "The city maintains the building but we are responsible for managing the space," Harper-Williams says.

According to the FDCA website, the community agency was founded in 1919 out of a desire that attorney and community leader Albertus Brown had to provide opportunities both socially and recreationally. "This facility belongs to the community," Harper-Williams continues. "All programs and services are designed for that purpose."

But before Harper-Williams and her team prepare to move forward they must first eradicate the financial burdens of the past. "When I



Sonya Williams



Headstart Teacher Assistants

got here, almost two years ago, it was a mess," Harper-Williams describes. "The building was in disrepair. The lights weren't on. Doors didn't lock. Windows were shot out. It made me mad. And I thought what's going on? It's been 95 years and we're still struggling."

And although Harper-Williams is reluctant to

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Frederick Douglass... continued from page 4

cast a negative light on previous administrations, she believes that past neglect is directly affecting the future of the center. "There were unpaid taxes and poor choices made," she says. "And while we need to pay our previous debts, we also need to fund future projects. If we are going to move forward we have to address the past. It has a chokehold on us now."

Harper-Williams says that when she came, the association was on its way out and many were surprised that it was still viable. In fact Harper-Williams herself was surprised when she heard that FDCA was looking for an executive director.

"I'd heard that the center was closed," she says. Another red flag was the elimination of FDCA's name from the Lucas County Children's Services' referral sheet. "Our name was grayed out, and we were no longer being considered as a referral," she says.

But Harper-Williams states that she is committed to seeing a change soon. "I want the center to be what it was designated to be, and I see a brightness every day."

That brightness lies within many of FDCA's programs.

Harper-Williams says that the Community Peace Garden, which sits across the street, was obtained from the Lucas County Land Bank, a \$31,000 grant from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and plant donations from Toledo Grows. The plots were then adopted by local church groups who are responsible for the upkeep of the garden.

Harper-Williams says that eventually she'd like to see the produce from the garden be sold to the community as a way to raise funds for the center.

FDCA's school suspension program is formed by a partnership with Pickett Elementary School. FDCA staff takes those children who have been suspended from Pickett and provides a structured environment for them to complete class work and not fall behind. "Our goal is to get kids back into the classroom," Harper-Williams says. She also purports that they have seen a marked improvement in student grades because of the program.

Also FDCA now holds a Friday basketball game night. This event is the brainchild of Teneashia Cunningham (Coach T), FDCA program coordinator. "I wanted to see the guys off the street," Cunningham says. Cunningham says that the evening games begin at 6 p.m. and can go until 2 a.m. The games run for eight-week sessions and are targeted to males ages 14 and up.

FDCA also has an afterschool program, onsite tutoring, a Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) that offers incentives to students who do well, and a GED program in partnership with Owens Community College.

Along with its own programming, the building is used for: TPS's Head Start program, a food distribution site in partnership with The Seagate Food Bank, weekly AA meetings, a private daycare and Sunday services for a local church.

The association offers computers, which have been donated, for public use. Also donated is a large piano that sits in the foyer. Harper-Williams says they are looking for a cost efficient piano teacher so that the center will be able to offer lessons.

Harper-Williams says that FDCA has experienced much generosity but she wants to encourage others to support the center through donations, volunteering or by renting space.

"It's a great facility. We have plenty of space. We are central," Harper-Williams says. Along with office space the association has a full service kitchen and a gym that can be rented.

Harper-Williams talks about future plans for the association. "I would

love to see more expanded family programs like financial planning, budgeting and nutrition classes," she says. "A kid's point of need starts at home."

But while Harper-Williams continues to worry about how the bills will get paid, she says she does see improvement and remains optimistic. "Vacant lots around us are not being dumped on anymore. There are so many opportunities for this center and the community but the car is stalled," she says. "It's frustrating, but I believe that it will happen. When I came here almost 2 years ago people said I wouldn't last six months, but I know what God can do and I refuse to believe that we will be left. We must change people's opinions and regain trust."

Sonya Harper-Williams is a Toledo native and a graduate of St Ursula Academy. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Ottawa University, and has more than 20 years experience in non-profit management. Harper-Williams says that she left Arizona and returned to Toledo in 2012 to be reunited with her husband, a hospital chaplain. "I toiled about coming back to non-profit," she says. "Non-profits are tough."

For more information on the Frederick Douglass Community Association contact them at 419-244-6722 or go to www.fdcatoledo.org.



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Jemison... continued from page 2

like to speak all over, to motivate others in the area of diversity but in education as well. To talk about culturally changing the environment in schools by doing dynamic things. By embracing everybody and making sure that schools aren't just focused on students, they are focused on everyone from teachers to the custodians. That creates an environment where everybody feels like it's home. You're at school for more hours than you're at home and so I want it to be an environment where everybody is happy to be where they are and working to their potential. So I'd love to be able to facilitate that and bring a change to schools that are failing, to turn them around and say 'this is a rich place and what can we do to make it better.'

The Truth: You take over leadership of a school that has a history of excellent marks on the state report card – dipped a little bit in the 2012-2013 academic year as the state changed the rating system to a grade of "B". We don't have 2013-2014 results yet ...

Jemison: I do and it was a "C" and we have dropped again. The way they grade schools, not just on testing but on such other things as attendance, particularly in our sub-groups. For instance, as a district we got a "C" on our Hispanic students' attendance which was around 92.3 percent when it needed to be at 93 percent.

So there are lots of things that go into the grade. And the standards go up every year. If we had had the same standards as the year before, we would have had a better grade.

The Truth: With that in mind, do you have any specific goals with respect to the state report card grades over the next few years?

Jemison: We're working on a lot of different things here at school. We're implementing homeroom and seminar schedules which will allow teachers to work with small groups of students who are struggling in different areas. We're looking at all groups of students. We don't just want those who are struggling to improve, we want our exceptional students to go beyond where they are – because that's part of it, too. We have to make sure we push everybody to another level. All of our students should be growing educationally.

The Truth: The report card for 2012-2013 shows that black students achieved higher grades in reading and math than did the general student population – 96.4 and 94.5 respectively. However, when it comes to graduation rates – black students lag noticeably – 88.6 percent compared to the overall graduation rate of 92 percent. What, in your mind, is the reason and how will you be addressing such a disparity?

Jemison: I don't think there is necessarily a reason. I don't think there's anything we do. A lot of our kids are transient, for example. The formula they use – how many days a kid is in your district for example – I don't necessarily think their numbers are genuine. Part of our plan for this school year, however, is to identify kids who are struggling, to find out where they fit. Every student is not made to go to a traditional high school, we have other options for our students. We are generating lists of student who need extra attention, extra direction. They might need a place where they can earn credits while working such as a vocational career center to learn skills that are good for the real world. We have students now who graduate from here as certified cosmetologists, or in culinary or as licensed mechanics – they have all those skills. We try to point them in a direction in which they will be successful. We have partnerships with online classes also. Our job is to identify students who are those potential drop outs, who are going to fail in this setting.

The Truth: So then, what are your challenges as a new principal and as an African-American principal?

Jemison: I will answer the first part first. I'm coming into a building – this year our levy didn't pass, so we are offering no transportation for high school students. So I'm spending an hour of my day, not inside the building where I could be doing great things for students, but outside directing traffic.

So many things are happening – they are replacing the OGT with another test and we have to find computers for each student to take the test. Many of the challenges are based on the levy. We are three teachers down, we are bus drivers down, custodians down. We in financial distress and it's only going to get worse if our

November levy doesn't pass. So transportation, new testing, less staff and more students, I'm new with a new assistant principal and new athletic director ... we are working against the odds but it's okay because there is an excitement here.

As an African American, it's a struggle because a lot of people question your right to be where you are and that's not coming from any direct challenge – it never would be. But it comes in questions that you're asked when you're meeting with parents. Or questions that you're being asked that you know others haven't been asked before.

But I'm trying very hard not to concentrate on any of that – there's such an excitement in the air – morale is up. The kids are excited. I met with each class at the start of the year and I told them – this school is going to turn around. We're going to have fun here; we're not going to make rules and not allow our great kids to do great things because we're worried that something might happen or that there might be trouble. We're not going to let anyone who would make our name look bad dictate how we're going to run our school.

I've built partnerships with four or five area businesses. We're doing students of the month; we're doing staff members of the month; we're doing teachers of the month; we're doing a lot of things that make people excited about being here and when you're excited, you learn more, you teach more, you work harder and it changes the whole atmosphere.

Life's been completely overwhelming. I don't have a minute to have my own thoughts in my head but it doesn't matter because I'm excited and happy. There is a change in the air. That doesn't mean it was bad before, but it's different.

This is a different day and a different season!



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Speak Up During National Bullying Prevention Month

Special to The Truth

With classes, sports, homework and other activities, weekdays are action packed for kids. Unfortunately, some students deal with an unwelcome addition to their daily routine -- bullying. An estimated 13 million students are bullied annually, according to government statistics.

With online social media so widely available to kids today, bullying doesn't necessarily stop after school, and often takes place round-the-clock. The repercussions can be missed days of school, depression and even suicide.

Fortunately, kids are getting more help these days as bullying prevention efforts are growing nationwide.

Cartoon Network has been a pioneer in this space and its "Stop Bullying: Speak Up" campaign has been empowering bystanders to put a stop to bullying since it launched in 2010. On average, more than 100,000 people visit the initiative's website monthly to learn prevention strategies.

"Speaking up to a trusted adult is the safest, most effective way for victims and bystanders to bring an end to a bullying situation," says Alice Cahn, Cartoon Network vice president of social responsibility. "Bystanders in particular can be powerful agents for change when they report incidents."

Support for Cartoon Network's award-winning pro-social effort has come from such diverse organizations as Facebook, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, LG Mobile, and CNN. President Obama even invited Cartoon Network to the first Bullying Prevention Summit at the White House, and later introduced the initiative's first documentary, "Speak Up."

This year, Cartoon Network's Speak Up Week (Sept. 29 - Oct. 3) kicks off National Bullying Prevention Month in October and is a great time to review ways that adults and kids can stand up to bullying:

- Cyberbullying: Don't contribute to the problem by sharing, saving, forwarding or reposting information. If you're on the receiving end, resist the urge to get back at the person or fix the issue online -- both can make the problem worse. Get offline and deal with it in real life. Parents can help prevent cyberbullying by monitoring kids' use of computers, mobile phones and tablets.

warding or reposting information. If you're on the receiving end, resist the urge to get back at the person or fix the issue online -- both can make the problem worse. Get offline and deal with it in real life. Parents can help prevent cyberbullying by monitoring kids' use of computers, mobile phones and tablets.

- Don't stand by: Research has found that when bullying occurs and a bystander intervenes by speaking up, more than half of bullying situations stop within just 10 seconds.

- Share your voice: Cartoon Network is recruiting 1MM students, parents, teachers, legislators and anyone concerned about bullying prevention to submit user-generated videos that feature individuals declaring the phrase, "I Speak Up!" You can use a smartphone or go online to upload your own video to the www.StopBullyingSpeakUp.com website.

Participants are also encouraged to use the hashtag, #ISpeakUp to share videos via their own social media platforms to help spread the word and enlist friends to take part in the 1MM challenge. Select videos will appear on-air as part of new campaign spots for Cartoon Network, its digital platforms and Boomerang.

- Listen: Parents should check in with kids periodically to make sure they're safe and happy at school, on the playground and online. If you're an adult and a child tells you about a bullying situation, listen. Either let the school know about the issue or talk to the other children's parents about putting a stop to the behavior.

Whether you're a victim, a bystander or a concerned adult, don't sweep bullying under the rug. By speaking out against cruelty, you can help end bullying.

Courtesy StatePoint

Proceed directly to Main Library on Sundays...

Main Library is now open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. (including Heatherdowns, Sanger and Sylvania branches*)

Main Library's secure, on-site parking garage is FREE on Saturdays and Sundays during normal hours!



* Main Library, Heatherdowns and Sylvania Branches are open on Sundays September through May. Sanger Branch is open on Sundays year-round.



419.259.5200 toledolibrary.org

Beginning September 7, Main Library Will Open On SUNDAYS

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator
The Truth Contributor

Proceed directly to Main Library on Sundays! Beginning **September 7**, Main Library, at 325 Michigan St., will open on **Sundays** from 1-5 p.m., along with Heatherdowns, Sanger and Sylvania branch locations

Main Library's secure, on-site parking garage is **FREE** on Saturdays and Sundays during normal hours!

*Main Library, Heatherdowns and Sylvania branches are open on Sundays September through May. Sanger Branch is open on Sundays year-round.

For more information, please visit toledolibrary.org or call 419.259.5200.



Mercy College Enrollment Remains Stable

Special to The Truth

Mercy College of Ohio President, Susan C. Wajert, PhD, announced the fall 2014 enrollment has remained stable at Mercy College with 1193 students enrolled, which is a .2 percent decrease from the fall 2013 semester. The Toledo campus enrollment decreased by only 1.1 percent with 1061 students, while the Youngstown campus enrollment increased 8.2 percent with 132 students compared to the same time last year.

Wajert said, "I'm pleased with the successful start of the Community Health Worker certificate program and the record number of students beginning our nursing degree programs this semester."

Wajert noted that Mercy College of Ohio is striving to keep tuition costs affordable in order to make college attainable for students as overall aid options continue to decline and student debt continues to increase. Mercy College offers a variety of programs from short term education certificate programs to associate and baccalaureate degrees that prepare students for the health care workplace. Growth in the healthcare field is expected to continue and Mercy College students are provided with a high-quality education making them well prepared to enter the dynamic healthcare environment.

Mercy College of Ohio is a Catholic undergraduate institution sponsored by Mercy. It focuses on health-care and health science programs and offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Health Care Administration, Biology and Nursing and Associate of Science degrees in Cardiovascular Technology, General Studies, Health Information Technology, Nursing and Radiologic Technology. The College also provides continuing education and short-term certificates, enabling individuals to quickly develop knowledge and skills to gain employment or advance in their careers.



The Library Recommendation: *Bedrock Faith*

By Rhonda Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator
The Truth Contributor

For the book recommendation for September, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library recommends one of *O, The Oprah Magazine's* Ten Books to Pick Up Now (April, 2014) – a work of fiction titled *Bedrock Faith* by author Eric Charles May, named one of 25 Writers to Watch by Guild Literary Complex and one of the Lit 50 2014 by Newcity. Named a Notable African-American Title by "Publishers Weekly."

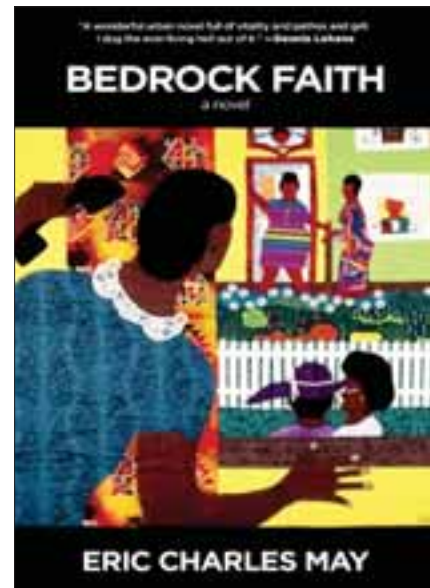
"In this vivid, suspenseful, funny, and compassionate novel of epiphanies, tragedies, and transformations, May drills down to our bedrock assumptions about ourselves, our values, and our communities. As sturdy as a Chicago bungalow and bursting with life, May's debut is perfect for book clubs," stated *Booklist* (starred review).

After 14 years in prison, Gerald "Stew Pot" Reeves, age 31, returns home to live with his mom in Parkland, a black middle-class neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. A frightening delinquent before being sent away, his return sends Parkland residents into a religiously-infused tailspin, which only increases when Stew Pot announces that he experienced a religious awakening in prison.

Most neighbors are skeptical of this claim, with one notable exception: Mrs. Motley, a widowed retiree and the Reeves's next-

door neighbor who loans Stew Pot a Bible, which is seen by Stew Pot and many in the community as a friendly gesture. With uncompromising fervor (and with a new pit bull named John the Baptist), Stew Pot appoints himself the moral judge of Parkland.

Bedrock Faith is listed as one of the Top Books in African American Fiction for the Library. Visit toledolibrary.org for more African-American fiction titles.



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Tips to Save for College

(StatePoint) As thousands of high school graduates prepare for college, more than a few households are coping with “sticker shock” when it comes to higher education costs. And many students are leaving universities not only with a degree, but a mountain of debt.

However, decades of student loan payments don't have to be in store for you or your child. With smart, long-term planning, this financial fate can be avoided.

“Anyone who anticipates paying for a college education at some point down the road should have a budget plan that includes a college savings fund,” says Diane Morais, the deposits executive at Ally Bank.

Regardless how far in the future your first tuition payment lies, consider these steps toward establishing a financial cushion:

- **Do your homework on college costs:** While it's hard to predict future college costs, choose a school that might be an option and plan on an annual tuition increase of about five percent to get a ballpark idea. Don't be dissuaded by the amount you may have to save – with time on your side, much is possible.

- **Budget for savings goals:** Prioritize future college expenses as a monthly budget line item. The sooner you start saving the better, because even small amounts of money invested early can grow quickly through the power of compound interest.

- **Consider safe, secure growth:** Investigate options where your

money can grow safely and securely, such as CDs. Also look for a bank with competitive interest rates and no maintenance fees, such as Ally Bank, which compounds interest daily and allows consumers to open an account with no minimum deposit.

- **Set up a dedicated account:** Create a college savings fund and pass the word to family members and others who may be interested in pitching in over time. Many banks allow customers to nickname accounts, such as “Billy's college fund” and offer the ability to “link” individuals to make deposits into such accounts for those who prefer to give a gift with lasting value.

- **Automate your savings:** Use direct deposit or recurring fund transfers to put a portion of your income into college savings automatically. With every raise or bonus, increase this amount.

- **Divert unnecessary expenses:** Premium cable channels, magazine subscriptions and fast food costs can be considered extra and might be better spent when put toward a college fund. For more budgeting tips, visit www.AllyWalletWise.com.

- **Investigate all your options:** See if your employer or state offers tax-deferred savings plans for college. Take advantage of opportunities that are right for you and your family.

- **Preserve other savings:** College is expensive, but students have more sources of money for college than you will for retirement, so don't dip into your 401(k) or other retirement savings. Many accounts charge a penalty for access and you'll be harming your own possibility of a comfortable retirement.

Don't wait until your child is graduating high school to worry about college expenses. The sooner you start planning, the better position you'll be in when this critical time arrives.

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WGTE Public Media Hosts Free Family Fun Day for Community

- Sunday, September 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at
Sylvania Tam-o-Shanter -

Special to The Truth

WGTE Public Media invites the community to its annual **Free Family Fun Day** on Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Sylvania Tam-o-Shanter, 7060 W. Sylvania Ave. The event for families with young children is made possible by the Conda Family.

Three stars from PBS Kids most popular children's programs, **Super Why!** and **Peg + Cat** will be on hand throughout the afternoon to greet young fans.

Free and open to the public, the afternoon will feature fun-filled,

hands-on literacy, science and math activities.

This year, WGTE FM 91 will broadcast live from the event and present live performances by the **Toledo School for the Arts Jazz Band**.

Children will also enjoy balloons, temporary tattoos and face painting.

Bring the whole family to WGTE's Free Family Fun Day, Sunday, September 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Sylvania Tam-o-Shanter, 7060 W. Sylvania Ave., Sylvania.

Owens Presents Yet-To-Be Written, Cast and Rehearsed Plays During 24-Hour 'Theatre Express' Event

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College students and faculty as well as community members will write, cast, rehearse and perform six different plays in a 24-hour time period as the Center for Fine and Performing Arts serves as host to the seventh annual fall "Theatre Express" production, Sept. 26-27. The 24-hour theatre event will conclude on Saturday, Sept. 27, with participants premiering their six masterful plays in the Studio Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Area residents are invited to attend the Saturday evening performance, as the "Theatre Express" production is free and open to the public. Owens is located on 30335 Oregon Road in Perysburg Township. Attendees are encouraged to arrive around 7 p.m. due to limited seating in the Studio Theatre.

"Theatre goers are in for evening fun and enjoyment as they will have the opportunity to experience theatre of the unknown," said Jeremy Meier, Owens associate professor of Fine and Performing Arts. "Each production will be written, cast, rehearsed and performed in the span of 24 hours, which is quite extraordinary."

The 24-hour marathon begins Friday (Sept. 26) when each actor and actress arrives at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts wearing a unique costume put together from their own wardrobe. Attendees will also bring an item that reflects their character's personality. Each performer's photo will then be taken for playwright selection purposes.

Beginning that same evening, six local playwrights will begin the arduous process of writing and staging a play based on a yet-to-be-determined theme and topic involving the assigned 3-5 actors and actresses. Caffeinated beverages will be the drink of choice as writer's frantically craft 10-minute plays throughout the evening hours.

For additional information about the "Theatre Express" production, contact (567) 661-2798 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 2798.

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Vote! Vote! Vote! The Best Black-Owned Businesses in Toledo??

By Vickie A. Shurelds

The Truth Contributor

We need your assistance, dear readers!

Just what and where are the best black-owned businesses in Toledo – great service, great performance, great value???

The Truth is asking our readers to let us know just who and where these businesses are. Drop us a line via email – business@thetruth1811.com ; facebook – SojournerTruth Newspaper ; Twitter – [@thetruth1811@gmail.com](https://twitter.com/thetruth1811) or Instagram – [@thetruth1811@gmail.com](https://www.instagram.com/thetruth1811) and leave a message --- comments, questions, opinions ...


Got a great business and want to make your case – email or facebook us!!!

We will be letting you know how the voting turned out in our October 1 issue and what other readers had to say about various businesses!

Accounting Services
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Tracing Your Ancestry: Using Databases

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Local History and Genealogy Department invites you to an exciting program titled *Tracing Your Ancestry: Using Databases*, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, **September 27** in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. **FREE** parking available in our on-site underground parking garage.

Learn the basics and tips and tricks of using four major genealogical databases

in your research. The databases included in this presentation are Ancestry, Heritage Quest, FamilySearch and Fold3.

This program is **FREE** and open to the public.

Registration is required. Please visit toledolibrary.org to register.

Call 419.259.5233 for any questions.

FDCA Youth & Parent Mixer

The Frederick Douglass Community Association (FDCA), located at 1001 Indiana Ave., Toledo will host a Youth & Parent Mixer on Monday, September 15, 2014 at the FDCA gym from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Information and Open Registration for all FDCA after-school programs including enrichment classes and sports.

Parents must be present for registration.

Refreshments, activities for kids, lots of community information, music and good times for all.

In Remembrance of Emmett Till by Darryl Mace

By Vickie A. Shurelds
The Truth Contributor

What can you say about tragedy?

When it's imminent, you brace yourself and hope to come out unscathed. In its aftermath, you mourn and, eventually, you move on, healed... but not quite ever the same.

Still, what, exactly, can you say about tragedy? Plenty, as you'll see in the book *In Remembrance of Emmett Till* by Darryl Mace, and the strongest words come from influential places.

Mamie Till-Mobley was born in Mississippi but, when she was just two years old, her family joined the Great Migration and settled in Chicago. They left a state where lynching was "an all-too-common experience for blacks" and segregation was a way of life. Things were different in Illinois; there was still racism, but it wouldn't likely kill anyone.

c. 2014
University Press of Kentucky
\$40.00 / \$50.00 Canada
214 pages

In this less-tumultuous place, Emmett Louis Till was born and raised and, due to his Chicago upbringing, "could not understand what it was like to be black in Mississippi." Still, as was the habit of many Midwestern African-American families at that time, 14-year-old Emmett was sent to spend the summer with an uncle in the south.

It was a tragic mistake.

In the days following August 31, 1955, when Emmett Till's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, "print media outlets... sprang into action" to report "yet another senseless murder of a black male..." Publications – both mainstream and black – leapt on the story in days to follow, reporting on "indifference" from Mississippi officials, lack of outrage from white Mississippians at the murder, and the ensuing trial at which the defendants were observed laughing.

Interestingly, Mace says that mainstream Midwestern newspapers covered the story differently than did papers in the West and Northeast. African-American publications, particularly from the Midwest, also had understandably different angles. They were, he says, the ones to keep the story alive long after the trial ended.

"At the time," Mace further adds, "whites in the Deep South could not see that with his death Emmett Till sowed the

seeds of change that would sprout forth into the modern civil rights movement."

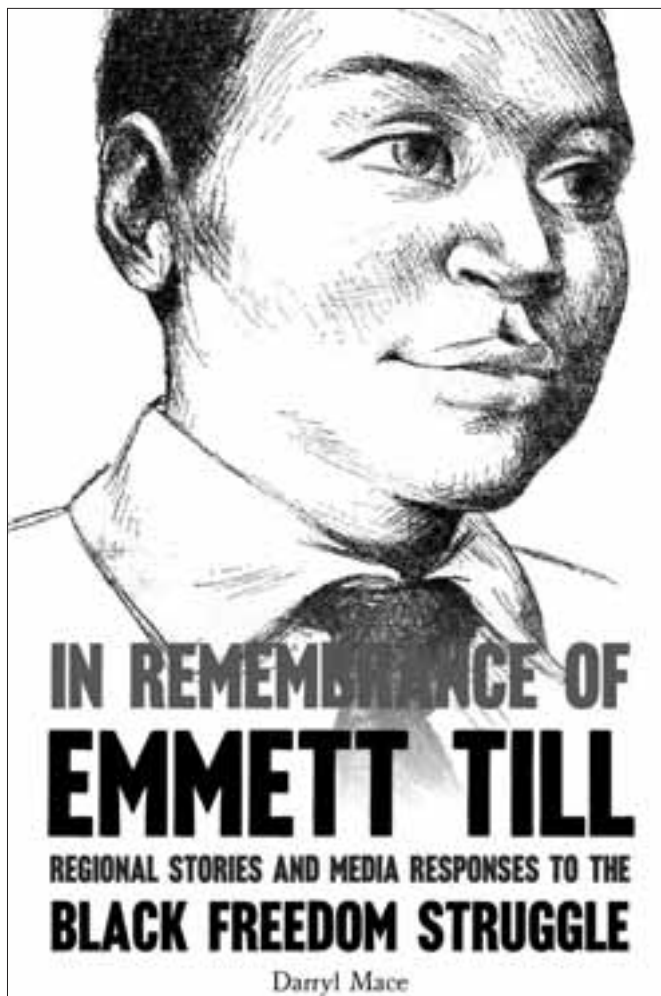
Regardless of race, Americans... and these members of the Emmett Till generation would change the very nature of race relations in the United States."

I struggled some with *In Remembrance of Emmett Till*.

Part of the problem is that this book is more academic than I expected; there were times when I was riveted by the information author Darryl Mace uncovered, while other pages made me want to just shelve it awhile.


There's a good sense of time and context here, though, and that helped. Mace gives readers ample opportunity to understand why Till's violent death wasn't just "another senseless murder;" why the U.S. was ripe for Civil Rights progress made in the decade after his slaying; and how the press, especially 60 years ago, served its public.

Scholars and historians may appreciate more from this book than most, but Mace's thoroughness will get you through if you casually want to tackle it anyhow. Try *In Remembrance of Emmett Till*, and see what you have to say.



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CLASSIFIEDS

September 10, 2014

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CLINICAL THERAPIST/ DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSOR

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Clinical Therapist/Diagnostic Assessor needed to complete diagnostic assessments and provide group and individual therapy to adults and children.

Qualified candidates must have strong clinical skills including the ability to make clinical decisions, knowledge of therapeutic principles and practices, thorough knowledge of DSM-IV and strong group process skills. Bachelor's degree and Ohio licensure as an LSW required. Master's degree and Ohio licensure as an LPCC or LISW preferred.

Send resume and salary requirements to:

Human Resources - DACT
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
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Website: unisonbhg.org
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Teacher Wanted

The Padua Center is seeking a part-time educator to teach in the Padua Possibilities, alternative to suspension, program. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and successful experience as an elementary school teacher, ability to maintain a positive learning environment for challenged students and a passion to help children. Send resumes by September 19, 2014 to The Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43607 or e-mail to thepaduacenter@gmail.com.

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Projects Assistant (Clerical Professional)

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods and preserving property values. The Land Bank seeks a dynamic individual to join its dedicated staff as a Projects Assistant. The Projects Assistant will provide top-notch clerical support and service-oriented reception and assist with all aspects of the Land Bank's legal and property-related projects. At least three years of experience in a clerical, legal secretary, or office-related position is required. Preference for individuals with public sector experience or an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in related fields. \$31,000 - \$36,000 (commensurate with experience) and excellent benefits. To apply, visit www.LucasCountyLandBank.org and click on "Job Opportunities." Deadline: September 24, 2014. AA/EEO.

Employment Opportunity

Job Title: Servant Leader Intern

Summary: Assists with the daily activities of the CDF Freedom Schools summer and after school program, operating Monday through Thursday, 3:30-6:30 from October until May, and full day during the months of June and July. Interns will deliver the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools program, a nationally recognized cultural enrichment program. Duties include planning academic activities in core areas, providing recreational activities and assisting with field trips.

Education and Experience

Required High school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED), some college, and one to three years experience working with children and adults.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Assist in providing daily supervision of youths.
2. Assist in enforcing safety rules and procedures including scheduling and assisting with required drills.
3. Assist in coordinating classroom and recreational activities for students.
4. Assist with record keeping duties.
5. Assist in preparing and maintaining program materials.
6. Assist students with self-care activities.
7. Deliver the Integrated Reading Curriculum to a class of no more than ten students according to the standards developed by the Children's Defense Fund and the local program sponsor.
8. Set up and break down his/her classroom space, including securing and organizing the appropriate materials.
9. Collaborate with staff to establish and maintain a supportive and structured environment for the children entrusted to their care.
10. Serve as a *Harambee!* leader each day of program operation.
11. Serve as a leader of afternoon activities and other special events; chaperone field trips.
12. Participate fully in National Trainings held in the fall, and summer (May 31st to June 5th, 2015).

Additional Requirements:

1. Initial and periodic physical exams required.
2. Must submit to initial and/or periodic state and/or federal criminal checks.
3. Maintain or have graduated with at least a 2.0 G.P.A.
4. Solid commitment to children's advocacy and enthusiasm for the *Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools* program
5. Ability to motivate others and work as part of an intergenerational team
6. Strong appreciation and understanding of individual cultural history and the willingness to be open and respectful of all cultures
7. Willingness to strive for excellence in all areas
8. Ability to think critically and analytically and exhibit positive attitude; model a mature and professional demeanor
9. Excellent written and verbal skills

To be considered, request and submit applications at centerofhopefamily@sbcglobal.net. Completed applications must be returned no later than Monday, September 15th, 2014

Associate Director of Services to Families & Children

Lucas County Children Services is seeking a candidate to provide leadership in the development and delivery of protective service programs for children and their families. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. Apply online OR send your letter of application, resume, and salary requirements by 10/3/14 to: LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 OR Fax: 419-327-3291. EOE Valuing Diversity. No phone calls please.

Job Posting

Position:
Youth Development Interns

Program Hours:
October 1, 2014-May 15, 2015 – Monday-Thursday, 3-6:30
May 31-July 31- Monday-Friday, 8-3pm

Program Location:
Old Orchard Elementary School

Qualifications:

1. Required High school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED), some college
2. One to three years experience working with children and adults (Preferred)
3. Initial and periodic physical exams required.
4. Must submit to initial and/or periodic state and/or federal criminal checks.
5. Ability to motivate others and work as part of an intergenerational team
6. Strong appreciation and understanding of individual cultural history and the willingness to be open and respectful of all cultures
7. Willingness to strive for excellence in all areas
8. Ability to think critically and analytically and exhibit positive attitude; model a mature and professional demeanor
9. Participate fully in National Training held May 31st to June 5th, 2015.

To Apply:

Request an application from Centerofhopefamily@gmail.com. Completed Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, September 19th, 2014 for consideration.

The Reddick and Rue Families Join Together for a Family Reunion

Special to The Truth

The Reddick and Rue families gathered together on Saturday September 1, 2014 at Wildwood Metropark to celebrate a joint family reunion.

Richard and Alice Duck helped to coordinate each of their families coming together this year as one big family reunion. Some family members travelled from as far away as Atlanta, Georgia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to join the full day of festivities.

The Reddick family celebrated their 11th year reunion and the Rue family celebrated their 2nd year reunion.

Speaking with the families it was discovered that Lawrence Reddick (deceased) and Diane Birchfield, who just passed away November 2013, were very instrumental in bringing their individual families together in the past.

Over the past 10 years Marilyn McCreary (Atlanta Ga.) coordinated the Reddick Family Reunions and Richard and Alice Duck along with Diane helped plan the first Rue reunion last September 2013 in Toledo Ohio.

It was a "labor of love" and very exciting getting the family together for food, fun and fellowship, said Alice. Both families wanted to make sure that the reunion legacy that has begun with each family was kept alive and it was a blessing that this

year's reunion brought both Richard and Alice Duck's families together.

There was lots of food brought by family members, games, raffles amongst all and everyone gathered around throughout the day talking about updates in each other's family. There was much to celebrate this year including news from the Reddick family that Rev. Shirley Sparks (sister) retired from the City of Toledo after 46 years. Richard and Alice Duck will be celebrating their 10th year wedding anniversary September 18, 2014.

Food, family and fellowship is what all of the family members look forward to and they love to come together for reunions each year. They all vowed to keep this wonderful tradition going for many years to come.

