

# I Can't Breathe

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*Perryman's Take - Page 2*

**We must deplore the demonization and criminalization of our own, which we perpetuate when we readily accept media and police versions of killings. Stop believing that if a person was killed under the cover of law that they “deserved it.”**

# Righteous Indignation

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

*The Negro question will trouble the American government and the American conscience until a substantial effort is made to settle it upon the principles of justice.*

– Charles W. Chestnut



The recent grand jury decisions not to indict police officers Darren Wilson for the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson and Daniel Pantaleo in New York for the death of Eric Garner, are lamentable. I mourn, along with the families of Brown and Garner, the heart-breaking decisions of a criminal injustice system, which viciously heaped pain upon the unbearable sorrow of losing a loved one.

I am also outraged.

Statistically, unarmed black men, women and children are brutally killed by police at extraordinary rates compared to others. Often, like Brown and Garner, these executions evolve out of police harassment and occur as a result of a minor or fictitious offense, such as selling loose cigarettes or because “you fit the description.”

The irony is, while unarmed blacks are dying violently in great numbers, seldom if ever, are their killers held accountable in courts of law. This frequent and regular obscene devaluation and disrespect of black humanity “makes me wanna holler and throw up both my hands.”

Tens of thousands of others are also “mad as hell” and are participating in multi-racial, multi-cultural and intergenerational protests throughout the country, including a National March Against Police Violence in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

Could civil unrest come to Toledo?

It seems that local residents are more outraged by recent police shootings of dogs than the killing of Brown and other blacks, but unrest is certainly a possibility. The “skeletons of unarmed or nonthreatening blacks killed by police” lie in the closets of both the Toledo Police and Lucas County Sheriff’s departments.

However, local relations between the community and police have greatly benefited from the work of former Toledo Police Chief Derrick Diggs.

Despite dwindling resources and manpower, Diggs was able to ease tensions in the community, lower crime rates and reduce internal affairs complaints by wedding together data-driven and community policing strategies. Diggs was also highly visible in the black community. Currently, Sergeant Anita Madison is doing a great job working in community affairs as are Officers Flo Wormely and Ben Tucker, the highest-ranking black police officer on the force.

Since the chief of police generally sets the tone for the quality of police – community relationships by the way he or she re-

sponds to police misconduct or lack of professionalism, it will be interesting to see how TPD moves forward under the leadership of George Kral, incoming chief.

Some describe Kral as an “administrative chief” rather than a “chief that has rapport with and can reach out to the community.” Other insiders complain that the “real” police chief is Mayor D. Michael Collins, who is “trying to run both TPD and the City of Toledo but has no clue.”

We shall see. George Kral is a man of integrity and an “honorable person” according to his peers.

Nevertheless, there are eye-opening lessons revealed by the failure-to-convict grand jury decisions of the police officers involved in the killing of Eric Garner and Michael Brown.

First, prosecutors are elected officials who partner with police in a system designed to “mete out justice.” For that reason, it is highly unlikely that prosecutors will ever make a serious attempt to get a criminal conviction on a police officer.

Also, as an “elected” official, prosecutors are beholden to those who fund their political careers. Therefore punishment, in the criminal justice system, is judged on the basis of market-based decisions and money rather than by social equity outcomes.

Additionally, an efficient mechanism of enormous peer pressure is deeply embedded in the culture of police departments. This culture uses psychological and even physical intimidation to maintain a blue wall of silence concerning wrongdoing by police officers.

Yet, rather than responding with violence and destruction of property, there is a bright path out of the dark criminal injustice in Ferguson and New York. It is a road that can lead the black community forward to equal protection under the law and affir-

... continued on page 5

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### December 13

Clarence Smith Community Chorus “A Christmas Celebration of Christmas:” Annual Christmas Concert; Mt. Pilgrim Church; 6 pm; Featuring Bel Canto Choir of the Children’s Choir of Northwest Ohio and the Positive Force Christian School of Dance; 419-535-0933 or 419-243-1958

### December 17

Philips Temple CME Monthly Food Pantry and Free Clothing Drive: 10 am to 1 pm: 419-242-7906 or ptctol@sbcglobal.net

### December 21

United Church of God Kids’ Church Celebration: 10 am to 1 pm; Kids’ Church ages 4 – 12; Praise, pizza and puppets: 419-509-2024 or 419-810-6335

Central MBC Choir Christmas Concert: 11:15 am; Classic tunes of the season and gospel songs; Marty Harris of New Life COGIC will be guest musician: 419-244-6096

### December 25

Merry Christmas!  
Thomas Temple COGIC Annual Free Christmas Dinner: 1 to 3 pm: 419-55-3447

### January 1

Happy New Year!

### January 24

Warren AME 2015 Annual Gospel Extravaganza: 4 pm: “Praising God by Loving Our Neighbor; Featuring Young Voices of Greater Toledo and praise dancers, soloists & musicians: 419-381-1558 or 419-243-2237

# Rep. Williams: New Task Force Will Foster Healthy Relationships Between Police and Communities

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, State Rep. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) together with Governor Kasich and other elected officials announced the creation of the Ohio Task Force on Community and Police Relations. The task force will be charged with making policy recommendations that seek to build trust between Ohio communities and law enforcement. Rep. Williams issued this statement following today's announcement:

"Securing a community's trust is critical to ensuring the success and effectiveness of local law enforcement. This taskforce will help to foster an environment of mutual respect, allowing officers to build stronger bonds in the neighborhoods they patrol. This translates into increased cooperation from community members in investigations and crime prevention activities.

"I understand that the topic of race relations can be difficult to ad-

dress, and I commend those who have taken part in working to improve mutual understanding between law enforcement and the African American community. An open dialog helps cities take steps to change long-standing beliefs and heal from experiences and actions that have shaped the current conditions in race relations.

"Admitting there is a problem is the first step to addressing any issue. The creation of this taskforce is an imperative step in the right direction, and I am committed to devising constructive strategies that keep our communities safe."



*Rep. Sandra Williams*

# Senator Brown Provides Sponsor Testimony on Bill to Create Sales Tax Holiday in Ohio

*SB 303 would eliminate sales tax on qualifying energy star products for one weekend in April*

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) provided sponsor testimony on SB 303 in the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee. SB 303 would establish a three day sales tax holiday for qualifying energy star products starting on the first Friday in April each year.

"I believe establishing this sales tax holiday in Ohio is good for business, good for consumers, and good for society," said Senator Brown. "By passing SB 303 we can help encourage increased economic activity, provide consumers with short and long term savings, and reduce pollution and energy consumption."



*Sen. Edna Brown*

Energy Star is a voluntary program administered by the federal Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to identify and promote energy-efficient products. The goal of the program is to reduce energy consumption, improve energy security, and reduce pollution through voluntary labeling of products that meet the highest energy efficiency standards.

If SB 303 is passed into law, Ohio would join six other states who currently have established sales tax holidays for energy star qualified products.



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(Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FM0040. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families)



# A Journey Through Healing Holds Annual Memorial Service

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Eleven years ago, Bea Daniels, founder of A Journey Through Healing, held her first holiday memorial service to help others with the healing process that follows the loss of a loved one. This past Saturday, Daniels' annual event brought out dozens of followers to The University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus for an afternoon of tears and remembrance.

This year's service leader was Rev. Timothy V. Pettaway, Sr. Saxophonist C.J. Manning provided the musical interludes and readings were presented by Marya Chechz and Thelma Autman.

The highlight of the annual ceremony, of course, is the candle ceremony

during which those gathered are invited to the front to light a candle to commemorate the passing of a loved one.

Daniels, who founded A Journey Through Healing upon the death of her mother, felt there was a need to help others who deal with similar situations. The mission of the company is to provide the tools that will help those grieving to travel through their grief and loss. Daniels accomplishes this mission by providing workshops, in addition to the annual service.



## African Art Has Arrived!!

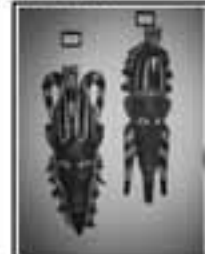
Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



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# NANBPWC, Inc Holds 50th Anniversary Celebration

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Thursday, December 4, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. Toledo Club, held its 50th Anniversary celebration at McMasters Hall of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

The evening featured entertainment by the St. Paul Baptist Total Praise Dance Team, the Clarence Smith Community Choir, the Jesup W. Scott High School Dance Team and the Interfaith Mass Choir.

The Toledo Youth Club presented awards to Jordan Collins – first place national essay winner – and to Paula Smith – first place national oratorical winner.

Barbara Tucker, financial secretary, arranged for the donation of dozens of new and gently used books to Pickett Academy.

The NANBPWC was founded in 1935 to promote and protect the interests of women business owners and professionals. The club encourages youth and young adults to achieve economic independence. The International Affairs Division operates in Africa, the Caribbean and the global community building socio-economic relationships among women.

Denise Black Poon is the president of the Toledo Club; Wanda Terrell, the first vice president; Frances Collins, Ed.D, the second vice president and Toledo Youth Cub advisor.



*Martha Jude, Denise Black-Poon, Barbara Tucker, Frances Collins, Ed.D*

*Perryman.. continued from page 2*

mation of the dignity of black humanity.

- We can introduce police accountability legislation and demand that the same systems that preach personal responsibility for African Americans are held accountable for their inhumane practices and the desecration of black lives.

- We must deplore the demonization and criminalization of our own, which we perpetuate when we readily accept media and police versions of killings. Stop believing that if a person was killed under the cover of law that they “deserved it.”

We must strenuously advocate for the Department of Justice to open a local office and become more involved in police and criminal justice matters. This takes biased decision-making out of the hands of local officials who may be connected socially or economically to police or have other unapparent conflicts of interest.

Finally, if we are going to achieve equality and fairness in our social, political, and criminal justice systems, we MUST:

Demand that the politicians we elect represent our interests rather than the interests of the marketplace or raise the holy hell of righteous indignation.

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



*Award winners Jordan Collins and Paula Smith*

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# “Cultural Competence” – The Importance of Knowing and Respecting Ourselves and Others in Schooling

By Lynne Hamer, Ph.D, and Willie McKether, Ph.D  
The Truth Contributors

We hear the words “cultural competence” bandied about, but when it comes right down to it, do we have a shared understanding of what this phrase means?

As academics trained in the folklorist tradition (Hamer) and in anthropology (McKether), we tend to think a lot about culture. While the concept of culture has well over 200 meanings, it all comes down to “a way of life,” including important aspects of life such as how we dress, how we worship, the food we eat, the music we listen to, how we raise our families, and how we educate our young--just to name a few.

Importantly, culture is something that changes over time and, critically worth noting, it varies from one ethnic group to another.

National, regional and local data show that the overwhelming majority of teachers in all schools—public, private, and charter—are white, female and middle class and thus bring white, female and middle class cultures and worldviews to their teaching.

Clearly, being a white female teacher with a middle class background is not a bad thing, but data also show that it can present challenges to these teachers when they are assigned to teach children who come from a different ethnic group and socio-economic class, and when they have not had lots of practice thinking about culture and cultural competence.

In conversations number two and number three, participants in the “Community Conversations” group zeroed in on the importance of cultural understanding or, even further, **cultural competence for students, parents, and especially teachers**. The group’s definitions of “cultural competence” included:

- “the need to show love and care”
- “having the wherewithal and desire to get to know the culture of people you are working with, then working to find common ground by starting where they are”
- “to have the skills to create relationships with students to help them be successful”
- “being able to function in the culture you are working in by being knowledgeable about it”
- “having empathy and sensitivity to others’ cultures”

Pretty great definitions. As a group, we also thought it was important to be mindful that “culture” isn’t just black and white: cultural groups are based not only on the construct of race or ethnicity, which is often defined as including language and religion as well as national origins. Thus in Toledo, both African American and Latino cultural groups are prominent, as well as groups strongly identifying as Irish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Syrian, Lebanese, Mexican, and many others. Cultural groups also include those based on gender identity, sexual orientation, shared disability, regional origin and neighborhood.

As one participant very accurately pointed out, “There’s more to culture beyond black and white.”



Lynne Hamer



Willie McKether

We automatically do the black/white division when in this community there are many others.”

Educator and educational theorist Gloria Ladson-Billings has done more than most scholars to define cultural competence and put it into practice, preparing teachers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in a

program that could serve as a model here in Toledo. We compared our definitions to Ladson-Billings’s (2001) description of what makes a teacher culturally competent:

Teachers who are prepared to help students become culturally competent are themselves culturally competent. They...

- must be aware of their own culture and its role in their lives.
- do not spend their time trying to be hip and cool and ‘down’ with their students.
- know enough about students’ cultural and individual life circumstances to be able to communicate well with them
- understand the need to study the students because they believe there is something there worth learning.
- know that students who have the academic and cultural wherewithal to succeed in school without losing their identities are better prepared to be of service to others.

Interestingly, when we compared the Community Conversation group’s definitions to Ladson-Billings’s, we found participants were saying many of the same things in more specific words. What is striking is that in both our group’s definition and Ladson-Billings’s, “cultural competence” isn’t defined superficially based on holidays celebrated or ways of dressing, but on appreciating ourselves and others as complex individuals, noticing what makes us and them tick, and responding to those things.

We would emphasize that definitions of cultural competence go beyond applying to only teachers. Parents and students also have a responsibility and obligation to become culturally competent in habits and customs that increase opportunities for school success.


At the very least, becoming culturally compe-

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# It's Never Too Early to Foster a Love for Learning

*Special to The Truth*

It may be too soon to start thinking about sending your baby off to kindergarten, but kids are never too young to develop a love of learning. The way you play with them during the early years can enrich their development substantially, say early childhood experts.

"Brain development is never more rapid than in the first few years, so these formative experiences during infancy and preschool are extremely important," says Lise Eliot, Ph.D., an early childhood development expert and member of the Expert Panel at VTech, a leader in age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children.

Certain games and toys can truly engage children, giving them a head start in learning. Whether your child is an infant or preschooler, there are many ways to encourage growth and development through playtime.

## Language

Children use words to express themselves, but also to learn about the people and world around them. Reading helps build their vocabulary, so read to your children daily until they can on their own.

Also, consider toys like the Lil' Speller Phonics Station, which features fun sounds, melodies and animations that reinforce vocabulary and encourages interactive learning. With help from the toy's Spelling Bee feature, kids can learn to spell more than 200 common three-letter words.

## Math

Math can be fun, especially if the foundation is set early. Help kids learn to count while identifying objects. For example, "how many doggies are in the park today?"

New toys, such as the Chomp & Count Dino from VTech, can also help kids get excited about math. Play in food or counting mode and the dino responds with sounds and phrases, introducing colors, numbers and shapes. Kids can answer the dino's questions by feeding a specific food or number of pieces to show what they've learned.

## Music

Music can stimulate a baby even before they're born, so be sure to

continue the exposure to help form a well-rounded education. Baby and toddler music lessons can improve verbal skills, motor skills and increase confidence.

For an at-home alternative, consider the Grow-Along Music Center, which lets children pretend to be musicians. As they sing into the microphone, five colorful lights correspond to children's voices, or they can play with wacky voice-changing and amplifying effects. Rock out with three instrument buttons that play guitar, drum and saxophone sounds.

## Get Moving

Physical activity is a key building block to coordination and motor skills, and hones brain pathways for smooth, purposeful movement. If little ones are too young to play catch, simply sit on the floor facing each other and roll a ball back and forth. For infants, soft building blocks and other toys can encourage motor development.

You can also encourage movement with toys like the Sit-to-Stand Smart Cruiser, which transforms from a floor play toy with detachable steering wheel activity panel to a ride-on toy. It features driving, learning and music modes that introduce animals, opposites and first words.

More early learning tips are available at [www.vtechkids.com](http://www.vtechkids.com).

It's never too early to instill a love of learning in children. The sooner you get started, the more you can help enrich their development.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## Cultural Competence... continued from page 6

tent requires us to know our own histories, to be proud of our family culture, and recognize that our history and culture are who we are. We must find it interesting enough to study our background, recognize it, think on it.

We must recognize that as we move, make new acquaintances, start new jobs, and learn new things, our own culture changes. And then, knowing ourselves, we must find our fellow human beings interesting enough to want to understand how their history and culture shapes who they are. Once we know ourselves, and open ourselves to knowing others, then we can work together to create new and beautiful cultural ways—including ways of "doing school."


"Cultural competence" sounds technical and foreign. But in actuality, it is what we are doing when we respect and appreciate both ourselves and others, and then work together toward common goals.

One Community Conversations participant summed it up succinctly at the end of conversation number three. She wrote, "I wanted to say that there are 25 people in this group who defined 'cultural competence' very well. My question is, Why is it so many other people do not understand cultural competence? I did not know what the words meant but hope I have practiced it in my life."


Readers might want to read more from the work we quoted by Gloria Ladson-Billings (2001), *Crossing over to Canaan*, which is condensed in an online article in *Rethinking Schools*, available at [http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/15\\_04/Glb154.shtml](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/15_04/Glb154.shtml)

The authors of this column are both faculty at the University of Toledo and facilitate the group "Community Conversations for School Success." Lynne Hamer is Professor of Educational Foundations and Leadership and currently directs UT@TPS, and Willie McKether is Associate Dean in the College of Language, Literature and Social Science and Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology. Everyone is welcome to join in the Community Conversations, which take place alternate Mondays, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Kent Branch. The next conversation will take place November 24.

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# Maritime Academy of Toledo's CTE Program Grooms High School Students for Lucrative Jobs

By Matt Zaleski  
Special to The Truth

In case you haven't noticed it, northwest Ohio is in the middle of maritime industry resurgence. From new seaport development with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, to the new National Museum of the Great Lakes, to a unique education-to-work program at the Maritime Academy of Toledo aimed at putting cadets to work in the maritime industry after graduation.

The Maritime Academy is a tuition-free, public community school offering college prep courses for cadets in grades five – 12 in a nautical-themed environment. While not a military school, the students are referred to as cadets. The cadets have the opportunity to earn rank with their achievements and successes.

The Maritime Academy's Career Tech Education (CTE) Program, one of the first of its kind nationally and the first in the State of Ohio, was started in 2009. The CTE Program is possibly one of Toledo's best kept secrets despite recent success stories.

According to The Maritime Academy, the CTE Program was developed for cadets who wanted a career in the maritime industry. The CTE Program features three years of intensive study in Deck, Engine, and Culinary careers aboard ship. Cadets learn the various career paths in the maritime profession.

In addition to their studies at the Maritime Academy, cadets also attend Owens Community College where they receive hands-on training in welding and other trades aboard ship. In the final year of the CTE Program cadets go through U.S. Coast Guard approved courses like STCW Basic Safety Training which includes Personal Survival Skills, CPR and

First-Aid, Social Responsibility, Basic Firefighting Training, Crisis Management, and Crowd Management.

When cadets graduate from the program, they have 30 semester hours of college credit, as well as a Passport, Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC), Merchant Marine Credential (MMC), and a background check. After graduation, cadets are ready for entry-level positions aboard ship earning as much as \$60,000 a year.

"The Maritime Academy started out with a simple mission to re-introduce our area families to our greatest natural resource --- Our area waterways.

But shortly after we opened, companies in the maritime industry found out about the school. They quickly realized that we were training the next generation workforce in the maritime industry," said Renee Marazon, president, The Maritime Academy.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 20 percent job growth in the maritime industry by the year 2020 due to baby-boomers retiring.

Toledo City Councilwoman Theresa M. Gabriel had the opportunity to sail for a week aboard Interlake Steamship's Paul R. Tregurtha, the largest freighter on the Great Lakes, in September 2013. After talking with crew members Gabriel said there are plenty of job opportunities for young people.

"I talked with both men and women and was amazed at the number of positions available, the salaries they earned, the ports of call they visited, and the even the accommodations and the food they had aboard ship," she said.

## The Henry Brown Story

The Maritime Academy graduated its first CTE Program cadets in May 2012. In August, the Interlake Steamship Company in Cleveland came calling. They needed a relief worker to help cover vacation schedules. Henry Brown applied and was given the opportunity to sail the Great Lakes.

In 22 days as a relief worker, 18-year old Henry made over \$4,500. He did such a good job that Interlake invited him back to finish the shipping season. Henry is now in his third season with Interlake Steamship.

The interesting part was that Henry never had to relocate for this position. In the maritime industry, a worker's home town is his home port and his wages are taxed accordingly. So the taxable income comes back to northwest Ohio.

"The jobs are definitely there for our young people looking for an exciting lucrative career. We held a job fair in May 2013 at The Maritime Academy. Ten of our CTE graduating seniors had the opportunity to work in the maritime industry. One chose to go to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, MI, some chose to pursue other higher education opportunities, and some wanted to go into the military. The bottom line is the CTE Program is showing them a way up and helping them meet their respective goals," said Marazon.

The Maritime Academy regularly offers tours of their campus at 803 Water St. in Downtown Toledo. On Wednesday, January 28, from 6 – 8 p.m. the Maritime Academy will offer a community open house. That will include a tour, the opportunity to talk with teachers, and a chance to review the CTE program. For more information, call 419-244-9999 or visit [www.maritimeacademy.us](http://www.maritimeacademy.us)



Councilwoman Theresa M. Gabriel

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# ASSETS Toledo 44th Graduation Ceremony

Sojourner's Truth Staff

ASSETS Toledo held its 44th graduation ceremony on Friday, December 5, at the Toledo Mennonite Church. Fifteen current and aspiring entrepreneurs were awarded certificates by Steve Elzinga, board president, and Olivia Holden, executive director.

Rev. Jerome Graham of True Vine Baptist delivered the keynote address.

ASSETS Toledo is a Service for Self Employment Training and Support which provides practical, experience-based training for those starting or expanding a small business. Participants learn the basics of setting up and running a small business and are taught during a 13-week, 50-hour training course, which meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Participants complete a business plan workbook which will serve as a blueprint for their business. Hands-on-training is provided by local business professionals and volunteers in the community who teach from an experienced-based approach.

Graham is a graduate of ASSETS Toledo Class of 27 and is an active member of the Alumni Association. He is a marketing consultant at Urban Radio Broadcasting, LLC.

Class 44 graduates were: Jonathan Burke, Clara Brake, Dirk Broersma, Patricia Busch, Jacquelyn Coogler, Yvonna Easterling, Trisha Fench, Victoria Harris, Regina Jefferson, Vannessa Musawwir, Debra Russell, India Smith, Vivian Turski (honorary graduate), Patrick Worthy and Tim Utz



Olivia Holden, far left, and graduates



The students organized this event to honor what would have been Tyler's 17th birthday. As you may recall, Tyler McIntosh was murdered last July while walking home. Toledo police has not made any arrests in the case. Tyler's mother, Oleen Clinton, stopped by the school and thanked the students for this show of support. The Maritime Academy of Toledo Foundation has established a reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction in this case. The reward fund currently stands at \$3,500. If you have any information, you are urged to call Crimestopper at 419-255-1111.

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# Owens Designated as a 2015 STEM Approved College

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College has been designated a 2015 STEM JobsSM Approved College by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting individuals in transition with education and career opportunities, and creator of STEM JobsSM media, education and career resources for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math.

The 2015 STEM JobsSM Approved Colleges inaugural list is the first of its kind to rate universities, colleges, community colleges and trade schools on their responsiveness and relevance to high-demand, high-growth STEM occupations.

Owens was among over 1,600 schools participating in the STEM JobsSM survey process. Schools submitting surveys were scored on publicly available data and responses to proprietary questions around three key indicators of success: STEM job alignment, STEM job placement, and diversity in a school's STEM programs. The assessment and rights to the STEM JobsSM ApprovedSM Colleges designation were available to qualifying schools at no cost. Owens will be featured in the Winter 2015 issue of STEM JobsSM magazine, along with the entire 2015 list of STEM JobsSM Approved Colleges.

"We are excited and proud to prepare our students for a number of in-demand STEM careers," said Glenn Rettig, interim dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. "The workplace demand for skilled, creative, problem-solving technicians is greater than it has been in forty years, and the School of STEM can prepare students for a successful career in the field that interests them most. This recognition is a great acknowledgment of our efforts in providing valuable STEM programming."

For more information about Owens' commitment to students interested in STEM fields of study and careers, visit [www.owens.edu](http://www.owens.edu).

For additional information about STEM JobsSM or to request a free survey assessment, please contact us at [VictoryMedia.com](http://VictoryMedia.com) or contact.

#### About STEM JobsSM Ratings

The STEM JobsSM Approved Colleges survey measures how effectively schools align their programs to high demand, high paying STEM jobs, and how well they assist their students in achieving career aspirations in STEM fields. Ratings are based on a complementary and rigorous quantitative assessment that measures schools on criteria created by Victory Media with the assistance of an independent Academic Advisory Board. A complete description of our methodology, advisory board and services is available at [www.stemjobs.com](http://www.stemjobs.com).

#### About Victory Media

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Victory Media is a rapidly-growing, veteran-owned business leader connecting individuals in transition with education, business, and career opportunities. For more than 12 years, Victory Media has provided members of the military community with resources and information to evaluate civilian opportunities, while working with thousands of post-secondary schools, employers, and companies looking to get their opportunities, products and services in front of military families during critical life stages.

In 2012, we extended our reach by introducing STEM JobsSM tools, media and curriculum designed to engage students, along with their parents, teachers and guidance counselors, as they make education and career planning decisions. Using student-written articles, fun graphics and relatable content, STEM JobsSM helps students discover how to "do what they love" as a STEM-inspired career. STEM JobsSM now includes the STEM JobsSM Type Quiz for students, STEM JobsSM Approved ratings for schools and employers, and STEM JobsSM Ready lesson plans for teachers. For more information, visit [www.stemjobs.com](http://www.stemjobs.com).

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 West Toledo YMCA - 2110 Tremainsville Rd, Toledo, Ohio 43613

**PREJUDGING 11:30 AM - \$10**  
**FINALS 5:00 PM - \$20**  
**ADVANCED TICKETS - \$25**

For more information contact Ryan Rollison at 419-476-3494



## YMCA Central-City Youth Receive Funds for Shopping Spree

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, central-city youth, enrolled in Wayman D. Palmer Community YMCA Child Development after-school care programs or who participate in youth sports programs at the branch, each received money to purchase clothing for themselves during the YMCA's annual holiday shopping trip.

The shopping trip, and party to follow, was made possible by Edna Vena, who back in 1938, left a generous gift to the YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo to provide clothing for central-city children during the holiday season.

The children shopped at Walmart on Glendale Ave. from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. YMCA volunteers and staff were on hand to assist the children with their purchases.

After the shopping trip, the children returned to the Wayman Palmer YMCA, located at 2053 N. 14th St., for a holiday party with fun activities for the children that included a Christmas program and carols to enjoy. The children also met a special guest attending the party, Santa Claus.

# Choosing the Right Toys this Holiday Can Help Kids Meet Developmental Milestones

*Special to The Truth*

This holiday season, keep in mind the notion that what your children play with can have a large impact on their interests and brain development. So when it comes to a walk down the toy aisle, parents are becoming more discerning, leading smart toy-makers to design toys with a learning component that's equally as important as the fun.

VTech, a world leader in age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children, works with a team of child development experts to assess toys and provide feedback before reaching store shelves.

The members of VTech's Expert Panel are offering some helpful holiday shopping hints to parents looking to foster their child's love of learning:

- Add it up: "Mathematical foundations provide the building blocks for future mathematical success, both in school and beyond," says Dr. Francis (Skip) Fennell, mathematics educator.

"Toys that emphasize numbers, counting and beginning concepts with whole number operations will develop, support and encourage these crucial concepts and skills."

The Count & Chomp Dino, for example, introduces children to numbers, colors, shapes and foods.

- Age-appropriate: "Children's brains are developing at a remarkable speed," says Dr. Lise Eliot, an early childhood development expert. "Their toys should keep up with that growth."

Keep kids challenged with educational toys that are age-appropriate, so they are never bored or frustrated. Consider child-sized, kid-friendly tablets, such as the InnoTab MAX, that are packed with educational, stage-based learning content.

- Full STEAM ahead: Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (collectively known as STEM) have gained more visibility in schools, along with the addition of arts to form STEAM.

However, says Dr. Carla C. Johnson, science and STEM expert, "It is still crucial to cultivate skills in these subjects and implement them in everyday learning. Educational toys can help kids develop self-confidence in the use and application of these important disciplines."

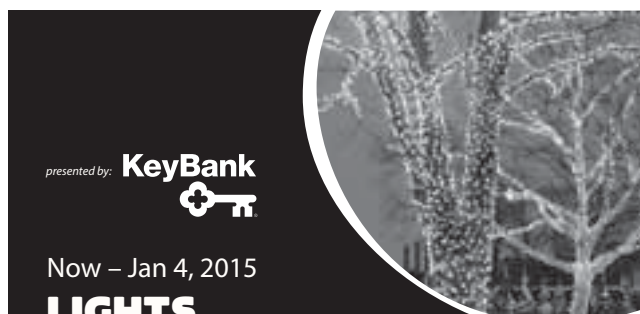
- Build vocabulary: "Children absorb new information like sponges. Take advantage of their blossoming interests with interactive toys that highlight letters of the alphabet, the sounds letters make and vocabulary," says Dr. Deborah Sharp Libby, early childhood language and reading expert. "Above all, don't forget the importance of reading to and with your children often!"

- Choose wisely: "Don't get carried away with the bells and whistles. You and your kids will quickly look past those. Instead, look for toys that actively engage your kids through technology, by deeply integrating games and learning," says Dr. Eric Klopfer, platform learning expert.

Remember, each child grows at his or her own pace, and there are few hard and fast deadlines when it comes to a child's milestones. For a detailed guideline, sorted by age group and area of development, along with other free parenting resources, visit [www.vtechkids.com/milestones](http://www.vtechkids.com/milestones).

With toys as tools for learning, you can help children as they reach their educational and developmental milestones.

*Courtesy StatePoint*



Now – Jan 4, 2015

## LIGHTS Before CHRISTMAS

Photo by A. Shirley

Smile all the way down the NEW outdoor ice slide at the Winter Village, twirl with the Dancing Lights and glide around the African Animal Carousel or Safari Railway (weather permitting). Selected evenings feature ice-sculpting, holiday carolers and more, all with a million+ lights.

[toledo zoo.org/lights](http://toledo zoo.org/lights)

Winter Village sponsored by: **Taylor**  
AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY

Wed. Dec. 31, 11am -1pm

## NOON YEAR'S EVE

All the fun of midnight, in a family-friendly event 12 hours earlier.

Free with regular Zoo admission.

[toledo zoo.org/nooneyears](http://toledo zoo.org/nooneyears)

sponsored by: **meijer**

**TOLEDO ZOO**



# Helping Hands of St. Louis in Urgent Need of Hams for Christmas Food Baskets

*Special to The Truth*

Helping Hands of St. Louis is in need of 150 boneless hams by Dec. 15. The East Toledo soup kitchen has received donations of 50 hams in the past week and needs many more to fill requests for 200 Christmas meal baskets. Ingredients for side dishes have been donated, but the baskets are in need of the main course.

Helping Hands gives out meal baskets to provide a way for the soup kitchen's regular guests to cook and eat a meal at home with their families on Christmas. Support of the community is greatly appreciated to make this effort possible.

en's regular guests to cook and eat a meal at home with their families on Christmas. Support of the community is greatly appreciated to make this effort possible.

Donations may be sent to or dropped off from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Helping Hands, 443 Sixth St., Toledo, OH 43605. For more information or to arrange a different delivery time, please call Paul Cook at 419-691-0613, ext. 2.

## Rep. Alicia Reece Introduces "John Crawford's Law," Asks for Meeting with Leading Toy Gun Manufacturers

Ohio State Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) this week sent a letter to popular toy gun manufacturers asking to meet regarding "John Crawford's Law," the lawmaker's bill to prevent fatal tragedies involving toy guns by differentiating toy guns from real firearms.

"The tragic shootings of John Crawford III and Tamir Rice have strained relationships between local communities and the justice system," said Rep. Reece. "John Crawford's Law is a small step our state can take right now to help prevent deadly encounters involving kids playing with toy guns."

Rep. Reece introduced House Bill 681 — "John Crawford's Law" -- legislation that would require all BB guns, air rifles and

airsoft guns in Ohio be brightly colored or have prominent florescent strips.

"I fully support Ms. Reece in her efforts to pass legislation that would make imitation and actual firearms more easily distinguishable," said John Crawford, Sr. "This legislation is necessary to make sure that a tragedy like the one that took my son John Crawford III's life never happens again."

The bill has 13 co-sponsors and was introduced with the help and support of the Crawford family.

A copy of Rep. Reece's letter is below:

December 8, 2014

Mr. Phil Dolci  
Crosmen Corporation  
7629 Routes 5 & 20  
Bloomfield, NY 14469

Mr. Victor Tresseras  
Gamo Outdoor USA  
3911 SW 47th Ave. Suite 914  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Dr. Robert Beeman  
Beeman Precision Airguns  
10652 Bloomfield Ave  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Daisy Outdoor Products  
P.O. Box 220  
Rogers, Arkansas  
72757-0220

Dear Sirs:

I write to request a meeting with you, fellow lawmakers and community leaders to discuss commonsense solutions that will prevent fatal tragedies involving toy guns. In the past four months in Ohio,

two young males — John Crawford, Jr. and Tamir Rice — were shot and killed by law enforcement officers after the replica guns in their possession were mistaken for actual guns. It was only after the tragedy occurred that officials realized the boys posed no threat.

I have introduced Ohio House Bill 681 — "John Crawford's Law" -- to require that all BB guns, air rifles and airsoft guns sold in Ohio be brightly colored or have prominent florescent strips. This bill models that of Senate Bill 199 in California, which became law after the fatal shooting of two teenagers by law enforcement officers who also confused toy guns for real firearms.


These tragic misunderstandings have strained relationships between local communities and the justice system. I hope you will agree that it seems appropriate that we develop a strategy to keep our kids and law enforcement officers safe by preventing confusion between perceived and actual threats with firearms.

With your input, I believe we can stop any future tragedies involving kids playing with toy guns and law enforcement officials. Your cooperation and concerns are important to resolving this problem, and I am confident that we can find common ground while making great strides toward developing a solution.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alicia Reece  
State Representative, Ohio House District 33  
President, Ohio Legislative Black Caucus



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# Memoirs of an Elf by Devin Scillian, Illustrated by Tim Bowers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Your mom and dad take their jobs very seriously.

They get to work on time and they do a good job. Sometimes, they might even stay late to finish a project because it's important to be responsible. That's a lesson they've taught you because you take your around-the-house jobs seriously, too.

You always do your chores right because people depend on you. But in the new book *Memoirs of an Elf* by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Tim Bowers, an important job is done correctly because *Christmas* depends on it!

c. 2014  
Sleeping Bear Press  
\$16.99 / \$17.99 Canada  
32 pages

It's Christmas Eve, a quarter to 10, and Spark Elf is getting antsy. In just two hours, he and his fellow elves Bobbin and Nutshell will help Santa deliver presents. The reindeer are ready, the sleigh is full, and because he feels "so good," Spark snaps an

elfie.

At quarter to 11, with an hour to go, it starts to snow and that makes Spark really happy. It would make him even happier if Santa would hurry up. Santa says Spark worries too much.

And then it's "launch time!" Guam and Fiji are first for gift delivery, fol-

lowed by New Zealand. Santa starts singing his favorite Christmas carol, and he stops to pet every dog. Santa loves dogs, and they love him, but that takes time and there's none to spare. As Santa plays with a puppy named Tugboat, Spark says it's time to go.

At halfway around the world and with the bag half-empty, the sleigh starts falling behind. Santa needs to step it up, but he's too busy enjoying the cookies that kids have left for him. Santa loves cookies – except ginger snaps. Those are the ones he gives to Spark, Bobbin, and Nutshell.

Spark would love it if you'd leave more gingersnaps.

With nine hours to go, they finish Mexico City. Four hours to go, and they're done with South America so Santa takes a minute to play with the toys. Spark urges him to hurry. It's almost Christmas morning...

And with a half-hour to go, they finish!

But there's something left in Santa's sack. It's something very important that someone will miss very, very much. Can St. Nick save Christmas in the nick of time?

Oh my, but there's all kinds of cute inside *Memoirs of an Elf*.

Spark Elf may be my new Christmas hero, in fact, because author Devin Scillian gives him a Type-A personality mixed with just the right kind of holiday sweetness. Spark is businesslike and efficient, yet he still appreciates the tiny things that make the Yule cool, and he's eager to share secrets with kids who are lucky enough to have this book.

But Spark isn't the only irresistible thing here: I was totally charmed by the illustrations from Tim Bowers. They made me want to read this book all over again.

This is not your traditional Christmas story, but reading it surely could become a new tradition for your family. It's meant for kids ages five-to-10, but *Memoirs of an Elf* is serious fun for anyone.





**THE TOLEDO BLACK**

# Market Place

Toledo's First Online Source for African American Owned Businesses (419) 243-0007




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Our Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy  
Maggie Anderson  
with Ted Gregory

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ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
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[www.ToledoBlackMarketPlace.com](http://www.ToledoBlackMarketPlace.com)

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Standard booking fee for Profit and Non-profit, Event Planner available upon request  
Catering Referral Services Available upon request  
"Come and enjoy comedy, spoken word, music, talent and more!"  
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BAIL BONDS AGENT

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ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

**WISADERS OF CHRIST** Present **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the urge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't sure how to begin? If so, this dinner/workshop/spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. You'll see on Facebook - I have a special video message for the women present!

**Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**



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419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462  
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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed  
Free Wi-Fi  
**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**



### Job Posting

**Position:**  
Youth Development Interns

**Program Hours:**  
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

#### To Apply:

Contact 419-861-4400 or email centerofhope-family@gmail.com for more information

### Clinical Therapist - Children's Partial Hospitalization Program

**Full-time**

**NEW! SIGNING BONUS FOR THIS POSITION!**

Unison is seeking Therapists to provide services to children with severe mental and emotional disorders in the Outpatient Partial Hospitalization Program. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing and coordinating treatment plans, and providing individual crisis management, group therapy, advocacy, and outreach.

Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree and current Ohio License as LSW. Master's Degree and current Ohio License as LSW or LPC preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

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

EOE

### Minority Breast Health Coordinator

Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio is seeking a part-time (26hrs/wk) Minority Breast Health Coordinator. The role will be the lead for minority health outreach and programs in target counties. The ideal candidate will have a public health, health education, community health background with 3 to 5 years of experience and strong leadership skills, excellent organizational skills, attention to detail with the ability to work independently. Pay is commensurate with experience. Please submit your resume to aubrey@komenwohio.org by December 12, 2014.

### CARE MANAGER

**Full-time**

Accountable for overall care management and care coordination of the consumer's care plan, including physical health, behavioral health and social service needs and goals. May provide health home services as needed.

Must be licensed in Ohio as an LISW, LSW, PCC, PC or RN. Prior experience as a care manager preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources - CM  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
website: unisonbhg.org

EOE

### Clinical Therapist-Children and Family Programs

**Full-time/Part-time (Multiple Positions Available)**

**NEW! Signing bonus for this position!**

Unison is seeking experienced therapists to provide services to children with severe mental and emotional disorders in various schools and other community sites. Work may include providing services in an early intervention and partial hospitalization programs. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing/coordinating treatment plans, providing individual crisis management, group therapy, advocacy, and outreach.

Qualified candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree, Ohio license as a LSW and a minimum of two years' experience working with children with mental health issues. Master's Degree and Ohio License as LSW, LISW, LPC or LPCC preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

Human Resources -CT  
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Website: unisonbhg.org

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### Management Aide

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for Management Aide. For complete details and application instructions, visit [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org). **Resumes must be received by Friday, December 19, 2014.** This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.

**Call to place your ad**

**419-243-0007**

**[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)**

### BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST/DRIVER

**Full-time**

This is a part-time (20 hr/wk) position that provides transportation services and assistance in engaging client population when they are receiving services. Position is Monday – Thursday and works afternoon/early evening during the school year and days over the summer.

Candidates must have a two or four year degree in psychology, social work, education or related field. Previous experience working with individuals with mental illnesses and driving large passenger vans is preferred. The individual must be at least 25 years of age, have a current Ohio Driver's License (CDL preferred) and have a driving record that would enable them to be insured under the agency policy.

Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources - BS/D  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
website: unisonbhg.org

EOE



This picture was taken of the men of the church as a historical remembrance of the men who took part in the 2014 Annual Men's Day.

Some of the participants in the earlier Men's Day activities were: Deacon Edward Barnett, Deacon Mack Boykin, Deacon Marion Edwards, Deacon Sam Freelon, Trustee Leemon Green, Trustee Lafayette McClora, Deacon Fred Myers, Trustee Willie Peryman, Sr, Trustee William Rife, Deacon John E. Roberts, Deacon Johnnie Scott, Deacon Robert Sampson, Rev. Dempsey Thompson, Trustee Jessie Wilkins.

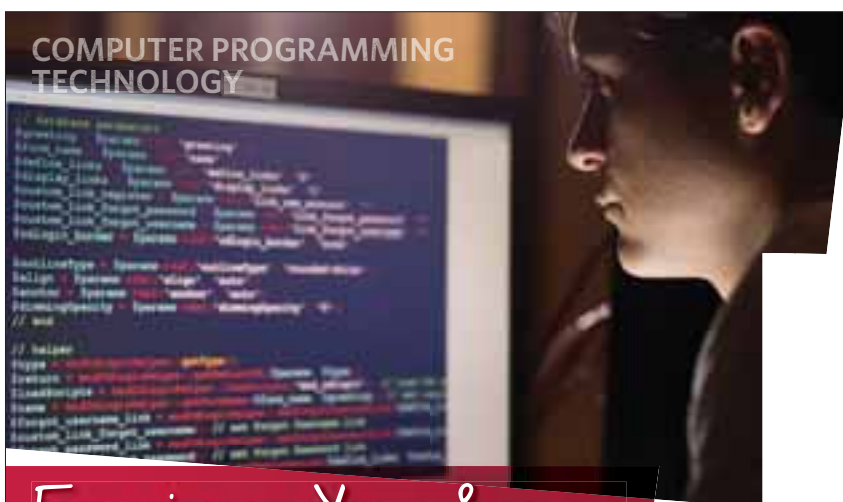
## L'apo Theatrical Productions, LLC Presents "Rhythm of an Individual Poetry Slam" (Poetry Slam & Book Presentation)

L'apo Theatrical Productions, LLC presents "Rhythm of an Individual Poetry Slam" hosted by Opal Dunlap, CEO of L'apo Theatrical Productions, LLC and newly published author of her book of poetry *Rhythm of an Individual*. She has been the writer, director, producer and performer in her four hit productions: *If There Is a Will, There Is a Way*, *Staircase to Heaven* and *God Knows My Needs* (play and movie). The Poetry Slam will present her book of poetry to the public and feature poets who will recite pieces.

The Poetry Slam will be on **Friday, December 12, 2014 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Kent Library (3101 Collingwood Blvd. Toledo, Ohio 43610). Free Admission.**

For more information visit [lapotp.weebly.com](http://lapotp.weebly.com). Email: [opal.lapotp@yahoo.com](mailto:opal.lapotp@yahoo.com). Add/Friend Opal Dunlap and Like L'apo Theatrical Productions on Facebook. Follow @OhhOpal on twitter.

Founded in April 2011, L'apo Theatrical Productions, LLC is a theatrical, professional and community service company. For more information visit [laptop.weebly.com](http://laptop.weebly.com). L'apo Theatrical Productions, LLC striving to be the head of companies in the entertainment world and is based in Toledo, Ohio.



*Focusing on Your Success.*

Owens Community College prepares you for in-demand careers.

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Classes begin January 12. • Apply Today! • [owens.edu](http://owens.edu)



Opal Dunlap