



Volume 32, No. 9 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* April 15, 2015

# Fair Housing's 40th!



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# Black Lives Matter Day – April 18

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



*If we have learned anything from the '50s and '60s, it is that we need an organized, collective response to our oppression.*

- Toni Cade Bambara

## A chat with Brother Washington Muhammad

America has a race problem. Unarmed black men and women continue to die at the hands of police throughout the nation. The neo-Nazis plan a rally in Toledo. Yet, Black Lives Matter, at least to people like Brother Washington Muhammad. I was privileged to have an inter-faith dialog with the Toledo activist concerning a positive social justice response to these and other obvious issues that confront Toledo's black community.

**Perryman:** You have scheduled an event to coincide with or to counter the planned neo-Nazi rally by the National Socialist Movement on April 18. What would you like to communicate to readers of The Truth?

**Muhammad:** What I wanted to communicate was what we call Black Lives Matter Day 418. And that's going to take place Saturday, April 18th at the Frederick Douglass Center in the parking lot. And it's awesome the way the young people that I've been working with, how they're processing social justice in a different way that myself or some of my elders may have done it. And I just so much want to sit behind everyone that's organizing this, and I thought it would be excellent to have a conversation between you and myself discussing this day.

I thought that just the dynamic that one of our premier reverends, pastors, in the city and Brother Washington Muhammad having a conversation about something that's going to bring peace to our community. And that itself, I thought, was an awesome idea in itself.

**Perryman:** Yes, two men of faith, but from different perspectives, coming together to dialogue around peace is awesome. Well, tell me about #blacklivesmatterday418. And you made a statement about the way young people today process social justice in a way that's different than their elders or the previous generations. That is powerful. Tell me about how they do it and the young people you're talking about.

**Muhammad:** At one of our meetings, we were talking about the neo-Nazis coming to Toledo, and one of the things that I said was, well - I was telling them what I think as an older person. I told them that I think that we shouldn't say anything about it. I told them that I think that we should be indifferent to them coming. And I left it at that, and I thought that that was a good idea since I was probably the oldest person in the room.

And another person - - another young person had a different idea. And he said, well, why don't we have a positive community day and call it Black Lives Matter Day? And he went on to say that if we have a positive day, a positive event on the same day, then we don't have to talk about the Nazis, but we can invite the Toledo young people to something positive that's happening.

And a lightning bolt went off in my head because I was light years from thinking of something like that. But immediately it made so much sense that it's okay to not go there, but also we have a responsibility to provide something else, the same way we tell our young people not to join gangs, not to

sell drugs, but we haven't set up the type of infrastructure that would allow young people to be involved with anything else. So they took this approach to it. They ended up putting a hash tag before the Black Lives Matter Day and having the 418 at the end, so that whenever it's talked about in social media it is almost like a free advertisement, and it gets other people to talk about it because of the hash tag.

So from there we had a couple of locations that we wanted to look at. I think we wanted to look at Scott. We wanted to look at Smith Park. We wanted to look at Ottawa Park. But we ended up settling on the Frederick Douglass center, which ended up being the best location, central city. It's historic. It's right in the middle of our neighborhoods. It's not close to the Nazi event downtown.

And from there everyone just started doing their part, finding out where we can get T-shirts, finding out if there's any socially conscious rappers or artists in the city, finding out who would be willing to speak at this event. And we've just ended up getting just a great show of support of local talent that's willing to stretch their creativity to rap or sing about social issues.

There's just been an awesome growth curve for me to realize the way that I used to approach social justice was mobilizing people, going to confront

... continued on page 5

## Community Calendar

### April 15-19

Beulah Baptist Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Perry Harris III; 15th through the 17th – 7 pm services with guests 1) Rev. Clark and United Vision, 2) Bishop Holt and Bethesda Christian Center, 3) Rev. Reed and Shiloh; 19th – 10:45 am and 4 pm services – guests Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr and Calvary Baptist: 419-944-5262

### April 17

Indiana Ave MBC 50th Pastoral Anniversary Banquet: For Rev. John E Roberts and First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts; Ramada Inn Secor; 6 pm

### April 17-19

Calvary MBC Women's Ministry 18th Spring Retreat: 419-531-9443

### April 18

"Saving Our Girls: Women (All Ages) Only Meeting; 9 am – doors open; 10 am – webcast with Min Louis Farrakhan; 1698 Nebraska: 419-255-3234  
Black Lives Matter Day: 1 to 6 pm; 1001 Indiana Avenue; Food, singers, rap, games, speakers: 419-266-6840 or 419-973-0248  
The Junction Community's Earth Day: 8 am to 1 pm; Frederick Douglass Community Center; Tire collection, neighborhood cleanup, community outreach; "Inviting all hands on deck"  
21st Annual Take Back the Night: UAW Local 12 Union Hall; 6 pm; Featuring the Clothesline Project, the Bandanna Project, the Silent Witness Project: 419-322-5205 or 419-464-8058

### April 19

Indiana Ave MBC 50th Pastoral Anniversary Morning Service: For Rev. John Roberts and First Lady Bernice Roberts; 11 am; Closing Appreciation with Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC – 3:30 pm  
NANBPWC – Toledo and Maumee Bay Clubs' Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists: 4 pm; St. Paul MBC  
St. Paul AME Zion "Praise and Worship with Talley and Friends:" 5 pm; Featuring Lesley Talley in concert

### April 20

Healthy Lifestyles Expo: First Presbyterian Church of Maumee; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; Healthy food samples, healthy brain challenge games, hands-on experiences, exercise programs, aromatherapy: 419-708-7589 or 419-392-3921

### April 23

Networking Reception: 7 to 9 pm; Our Brothers Place; Sponsored by AS-SETS Toledo; Featuring Brian Collins of Columbia Gas: 419-251-9870

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Marticia Hurst – Office Manager

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

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# I Feared For My Life....!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

Notice how every time that there is a white cop shooting a black man, the shooter almost always pulls out the tried and true police script and says, with mournful eyes and a contrite face that, "I feared for my life!"

That phrase is supposed to be a cop's get-out-of-jail-free card and, at the very least, a not-guilty decision from a sympathetic grand jury.

If you saw the horrendous video of the white officer in North Charleston, S.C. shooting an unarmed black man in the back (eight shots were fired and five hit their mark) you knew what was coming next.

And it did. The white officer said he was following appropriate procedures and then, as if on cue, he uttered the expected phrase, "I was afraid for my life!"

However, the shooter did not realize that a passerby had a video and was taping the incident of the shooting including the officer going to the body and asking the dead man to, "put your hands behind your back!"

Of course being dead (one bullet pierced his heart), the fallen man could not comply and probably, according to the shooter, he was obstructing official business or at the very least, resisting arrest.

It is amazing and quite puzzling how the dead simply cannot or will not comply with basic police orders!

But, I digress.

If there ever was a more potent and appalling case to make for police reform, this is the poster child for those changes in how and when police can use lethal force.

Now, remember, this man, Walter Scott, age 50, was brought to the attention of the shooter due to his Mercedes Benz having a broken tail light. Yes, a broken tail light.

When the soon-to-be-dead man pulled into a nearby parking space, the shooter confronted the soon-to-be-dead man about the tail light and apparently, the soon-to-be-dead man ran away since he thought that he was going to go to jail for possible warrant(s) for failure to pay child support.

At some time in this scenario, the soon-to-be-dead man and his executioner met and maybe words were exchanged but by any account, the shooter indicated that he first shot the soon-to-be-dead man with his Taser and, with that, the soon-to-be-dead man took off running away from the officer.

No fight...no weapon on the soon-to-be-dead man. Just a 50-year-old black man trying to get away from what he thinks is going to be an arrest for failure to make child-support payments.

However, the shooter has a different agenda. An agenda that involves death to those who drive with broken tail lights on a Mercedes Benz and especially death to those who dare to defy a police officer and leave his presence without his permission.

The soon-to-be-dead man, not taking into account that he was dealing with a shooter who had murder in his heart, decided to make a run for it and wouldn't you know it; the shooter got spooked and mad and thought, "How dare this soon to be dead man, diss me and run away!"

In the course of running, the soon-to-be-dead

man, with the lines of the Taser gun still stuck into him, never dreamed that driving a Mercedes Benz with a bad tail light and not being current on child support payments would mean that you forfeit your life with this trigger happy cop.

So what does Mr. Shooter do?

Simple. He unsheathes his gun and as if he is training his sights on a mangy rabid dog who needs to be put down for the good of the community, Mr. Shooter becomes judge, jury and executioner and decides to take down this law breaker.

A law breaker who posed no threat to the safety of the shooter or to anyone else around. It was simply a case of a soon-to-be-dead black man dissing a white cop when the soon to be dead man decided to leave and leave in a hurry, in spite of just being tased.

As he is leaving, still with the evidence of the Taser strings attached to him, the soon-to-be-dead man, is probably thinking, "Oh well, they got my car, my license plate number...they will come to my house or serve me with a warrant anyway, so I will leave."

However, the shooter had other plans. The shooter unleashed the power of the State of South Carolina and plugged Walter Scott with eight bullets flying towards him. The death angel sped to its given appointment and claimed another victim.

To the surprise of the victorious shooter, he and the death angel had company. A bystander was recording the whole execution and eventually gave the video to the horrified family.

The shooter, thinking that no one saw his criminal actions and thinking what he was doing was under the shield of a safe defense such as, "he said, she said", was about to be exposed.

Imagine the shock of this shooter when the video hit the news and he saw himself murdering an unarmed black man when the soon-to-be-dead man was running away from the officer.

Imagine the surprise of the shooter when he realized that the gig was up and he could not play the role of the put upon cop who was defending himself against a frenzied black man who had a gun or a knife.

Did the video show the cop later trying to "plant" the spent Taser gun on the dead man?

Time will tell what cover-up acts were hastily put into play but the whole time, the shooter did not know that he was being watched in broad day light by the seeing eye of a cell phone camera.



Lafe Tolliver

Can you image what the outcome would have been without the testimony of the video? Result: inconclusive evidence ... not guilty.

Credit this murder charge being placed against the shooter due to a brave bystander doing the right thing and recording this hellish act of murder.

Thankfully, the City of North Charleston charged the shooter with murder and did not wait for weeks or months to come to a decision since the video vividly made the case for a murder charge.

What this nation saw was a commercial-free public execution which lends credence to accounts by black folks nationwide that such merciless killings of black people by some corrupt police officers have been carried out and covered up for hundreds of years.

Was the shooting based upon race? Question: If that had been a 50-year-old white man driving a Mercedes Benz with a busted tail light and even with warrants for not paying child support, would his family be making funeral arrangements at this time? Answer: choose any one of the following answers: (1) No; (2) No; (3) No; (4) All of the above.

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

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# 21st Annual Community Gathering to Raise Awareness of Violence against Women and Calls Community to Solidarity

*Special to The Truth*

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, hundreds of people from throughout northwest Ohio will gather at the UAW Local 12 Union Hall on Ashland Ave, for Toledo's 21st Annual Take Back the Night event. Several anti-racist events are being held in Toledo on April 18; Take Back the Night stands in solidarity with those events and invites all to join us or any of the other events happening in Toledo that day.

The event opens at 6 p.m. with a resource fair featuring the Clothesline Project, more than 200 shirts created by local survivors of violence against women, the Silent Witness Project, a group of silhouettes honoring northwest Ohio women who have been murdered by their partners or former partners, and the Bandanna Project, which arises awareness to end sexual violence against farmworker and immigrant women in the workplace. A community rally starts at 7 p.m. with speakers and musicians addressing violence against women, followed by a women's march, a women's survivor speak-out, and a men's program.

Take Back the Night events are held in communities around the world. In Toledo, Take Back the Night takes place in a different neighborhood each year, demonstrating that violence against women happens everywhere. The goals of TBTN are to raise awareness about violence against women, to support survivors of violence against women, and to emphasize that everyone has a role in creating a community free of violence. By walking in the streets together to take back the night,

women are also symbolically taking back their homes and lives from violence.

"Take Back the Night reminds us that for too many women, neither homes nor streets are safe places," says Diane Docis, a member of the TBTN organizing collective. "Millions of women are stalked every year. A woman is battered, usually by a male partner, every 15 seconds. One in six women in the U.S. have survived rape or attempted rape--more than 80 percent committed by a perpetrator who knows the victim. And even women who haven't survived violence must live everyday with the threat of violence. By taking back the night, we are saying, 'Enough. This is unacceptable.'"

The rally is followed by a one-mile women's march through the neighborhood around the union hall. The Women's March returns to the UAW Local 12 Union Hall for a women's survivor speak-out in which survivors of violence against women share their stories. During the women's march and speak-out, men are invited to attend a men's program to discuss how they can work to end violence.

The event is sponsored by community groups, social service agencies, UT Feminist Alliance and university departments.

Rape Crisis Center 419-241-7273  
Battered Women's Shelter 419-241-7386

## African Art Has Arrived!!

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[www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)



The Truth Gallery  
1811 Adams Street  
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*Perryman... continued from page 2*

whatever it is, and then after that just go home. That's all we've seen, so that's all we do. So we never thought about including arts and culture. We never talked about including social media. We never talked about including the youth in the discussion.

So we were able to do all of those things, so that the event has the face of a peaceful activity, the event has the face that it's a community based and community organized event, and the event has the fact that it's not a particular agency or house of worship that's planning this. This is just a group of people coming together in Toledo making some decisions as a group democratically to finally put something before the community. Also, it lets us know that we really don't have to wait for Brother Washington or Councilman this or that to do anything. Everything was in our power to do it ourselves, to work together ourselves, and I think that from this, other lay people like myself will get the idea, hold on. Why should we wait for somebody to do something that we can do for ourselves?

And I think since the Martin Luther King Day protest event that has been the call from all of the young people. If we're going to do something, we're going to do it smart. If we're going to say something, we're going to say it smart. We make sure that everybody that's in front is at least 35 or younger. Everybody in front does not have to be black. Everybody that's in front doesn't have to fit into some type of box of acceptability that I always think - - in my mind I would always think, well, the leader's got to be a black guy. He's got to be older. He's got to be straight. He's got to be this. But the reality is our young people don't see with the same chip on their shoulder as we do.

But we can still get the work done. It still gets done, but they don't have that same racial chip on their shoulder. They don't have that same gender chip, political chip, or religious chip on their shoulder. I think that's from us as brothers and sisters. We can learn a lot from that because if we're working together on a particular principle, then all of our titles really go out the window.

And just by us modeling working together, some of the young people might say, well, Reverend or Washington, where do you go to church? Reverend or Washington, where did you learn that? But I don't evangelize or try to convert, but if we unify on some basic principles that are right and respectful, I think on that we move things forward.

Perryman: You bring up some interesting points. One is the barrier to collaboration that exists, particularly among the leadership in our community. Some of the baggage that we bring to the table, as you mentioned, is that we can't work with so-and-so because ideologically they believe this or they believe that, or theologically they believe a certain thing, and I can't go for that, we often say.

And then we have - - you talked about the jealousies or about the titles, and we have these jealousies. If somebody else is getting the credit, then I'm not going to be involved in it. You want to elaborate on that a little more?

Muhammad: Yes. Unfortunately, I kind of take it back to slave seasoning and how we were spoiled as men in the way that we engage in planning and organizing. So we take the model of divide and conquer. But the sad thing is we're divided amongst ourselves. And I think that we've even used that and inserted it into our religious dogma. So that the young people at our houses of worship have inherited this.

So the young people that are coming along, whoever I hated or whoever the pastor, imam, or reverend hated, then the young people in the churches and houses of worship, they grow up to hate this person also. And from there you'll get these like, well, I'm not going to work with Reverend Perryman because of him being a Christian. We only work with Muslims or vice versa. But in reality it should be based on the capacity. Do we have a capacity to organize? Who's the best organizer? Who's the best at social media? Who can we put out there as the spokesperson? Can he talk? Is he attractive? Ev-

erybody knowing their part, and those are the things that move us forward.

And I'll give a good example. Every year they'll either have the Jamie Farr or the U.S. Senior Open at Inverness. That's all on Dorr Street. This is an awesome event. It's a national, international event. But the thing is that the hundreds of volunteers are volunteers from all walks of life, from all stations. But they come together each and every year to put on this grand spectacle that has never ceased to amaze or fail. Every year this happens.

And everybody that's involved does not attend the same church. They don't attend - - not the same politics, not the same club, or race or anything like that. We can do the same. But, I'm a firm believer that us in religion, we've taken on the attitude that it's a competitive business now. It has nothing to do with saving souls. It has everything to do with marketing and one upmanship. And that pits us against each other.

Perryman: Well, the competitiveness of churches and houses of worship is an intriguing topic. And this comes particularly at a time when more and more people are not affiliated with any religious institution, so that makes the competition even that much fiercer. And at the same time, there's been a distancing between the poor and the black church because of that cultural and generational disconnect that you talked about earlier, where today's young people don't feel comfortable because of a conflict in the cultural norms between young folk and previous generations. And also the inner city is changing demographically as far as race.

Muhammad: That's correct.

Perryman: In addition, the inner city is becoming more ethnically diverse than it has been in the past. So you make an excellent point as how do - - we instead of cannibalizing one another, how do we go out and bring in those others who are either poor and overlooked or who are unchurched?

Muhammad: I think one of the things that we have to do is each church or mosque has to have a product that they have the capacity to deliver. For 27 or 30 years, we've had a youth program called SETT, Self Expression Teen Theater. Our minister has founded the program, and for years it wouldn't be a Nation of Islam program, but it was a program that a lot of us in the mosques that were certified and had the capacity to offer the community at little to no cost, and we were known for that. We have a vehicle.

So regardless if the people joined the mosque or not, at least they knew that we were serving young people and their family. And in order to reach out to the unchurched, we have to provide something to them that they can use. Otherwise, we'll be within the four walls of our mosques and our church, and we'll be talking about this. We'll be saying, well, they know where we are. It's up to them. No. It's us that have been enlightened. It's us that have been saved. We're able to go out there with something, not just with Jesus, not just with Muhammad, going out with - - and I tell this to the guys in the barbershop.

Sometimes we do ourselves a disservice by walking into the barbershop, telling somebody that they need Muhammad. I don't know anything about them. I don't know their family. I don't know their name. I don't know their family makeup or anything about them, but I'm telling them that they need something. That's like going to a doctor, and before you even talk to him, he writes you out a prescription.

Perryman: You've got a diagnosis and a prognosis without even examining them.

Muhammad: Right. And it's arrogance on our part to do that without even knowing, and it's a turn-off to everybody that we engage, and I've sold myself in there because I've learned that that doesn't work. And all it does is it feeds my ego because I can talk about my God. I can talk about my Lord. And I recognize that they may not know about my Lord and my God, but I leave out of there feeling good because I seemingly have taught somebody, I may have even insulted them or told them where they're going to go after they're dead. But we end up leaving the people even broken, more broken. We end

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*Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor*



## LeRoyna Drayton: Bail Bondsman Helping People Every Day

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

"I look at it as if this is what I was put here to do," LeRoyna Drayton says of her relatively new calling as a bail bondsman.

Two and a half years ago, Drayton left her job as a palliative nurse with Hospice of Northwest Ohio to open her own business. The inspiration for the move occurred during a fundraiser for a political candidate when she met Anthony Horn, owner of a number of bail bond agencies around the state. He convinced her to take a look at the business and she has had no regrets in taking his advice.

"It's been awesome," she says of her experience, "to be a light in a dark place."

"I get to meet and interact with people from all walks of life and become a counselor and a financial advisor. My job is so fulfilling," says the former nurse. "I never had a job that when I wake up in the morning I'm so willing to get there."

Toledo Youth Commission, The City of Toledo, The Lucas County Commissioners, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce present...

LUCAS COUNTY  
**YOUTH JOB FAIR**  
Saturday, April 25, 2015  
The Seagate Centre HALL C  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**for ages 16-21**  
Free Admission Come Dressed to Impress!  
Register online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)  
For additional information contact (419) 245-1417.

This is not the first entrepreneurial experience for Drayton. Some years ago, in her spare time away from her duties as a nurse, she opened a clothing store – LeRoyna's School Apparel and Shoes – that was in business for about five years. That eventually proved to be too time consuming. With the bail bonds business, however, it was immediately interesting and profitable enough for Drayton to devote her full energies to the practice.

Last fall, in fact, proved to be especially interesting as Drayton managed to cobble together the largest bond, worth \$1.15 million, in the history of Lucas County.

Drayton, a Toledo native and Devilbiss graduate who attended both the University of Toledo and Mercy College, comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Her father, back in the heyday of Dorr Street, operated at various times a U-Haul business, a towing service, a carry-out and an ambulance service.

As with any business, the bail bonds business has its operational challenges. Aside from simply promoting the business to drive revenues, the biggest challenge for a bail bondman is forfeitures – not a pleasant issue to address under any circumstance.

"I have forfeitures but the minute I get on the phone they show up," says Drayton. "I take care of forfeitures."

And she takes care of business constantly, helping families cope with the direst of circumstances as she provides a lifeline to those in need.

"I get to help people every single day," she says.



Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section

## History Of The Fair Housing Center

In 1975, the Fair Housing Center was founded on the principles of community, tolerance, and justice. It was a commitment to these principles that ignited the Women of the Old West End Neighborhood Association and several other concerned citizens and community groups to establish an organization that would combat discriminatory housing practices.

Over the past 40 years, the Center has carried out its mission through the investigation of over 11,500 complaints, resulting in awards of over \$30 million for victims of discrimination. During this time, the Center has also demonstrated a talent for setting national precedents in the enforcement of fair housing laws and expanding housing opportunities for millions of Americans.

The Center conducts multiple educational outreach programs, provides housing and foreclosure prevention counseling services, advocates for the rights of victims, investigates and litigates allegations of housing discrimination. The Center's staff is one of the best in the country, and their achievements have been recognized at the local, state and national levels.

Members of the Center's staff have given presentations at conferences sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission,



the Ohio Fair Housing Congress, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Center for Community Change, the Alliance of Allied Insurers, the National Association of REALTORS®, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Staff members have been invited by the Senate's Bank and Lending Committee as well as the House of Representatives' Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs to testify concerning issues of equal housing opportunity, including lending and insurance discrimination. Additionally, staff members serve on local, state and national committees.



Michael Marsh

## The Road To Fair Housing In Northwest Ohio

- **1953**, Vann v. Toledo Metropolitan Housing Authority, Judge Franklin represented Mr. Vann in this suit which fought illegal patterns of racial segregation in public housing.

- **March 1963**, Group complains that Parkside integration effort was fast turning into complete segregation of the neighborhood. Parkside moves to bar real estate solicitations.

- **April 1964**, Clergy launches drive for integrated housing and asks worshippers to pledge to welcome persons of any race as neighbors.

- **March 1967**, Fair Housing legislation passed by Council to stop panic selling. The ordinance later loses on a referendum vote.

- **1971**, Old West End residents organize to combat housing discrimination. Residents lay the foundation for organizing fair housing enforcement zones throughout the city.

- **1974**, Jaimes v. TMHA dealt with the failure of TMHA to promote the development of public housing outside the City of Toledo and with racial segregation of public housing tenants in existing public housing developments. Litigation resulted in a court order requiring TMHA to develop an affirmative action program regarding tenant assignments.

- **1974**, The Toledo Community Housing Resources Board (TCHRB) is established.

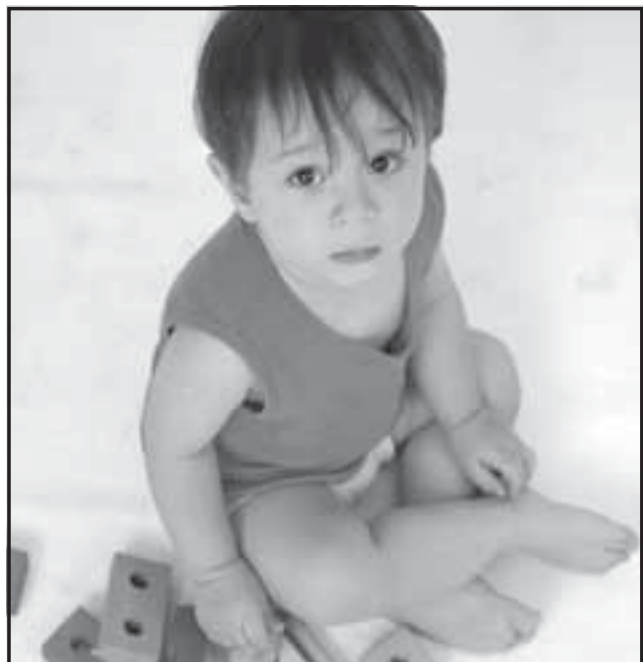
- **1975**, TCHRB establishes the Fair Housing Center.

- **1977**, The first lending redlining lawsuit is successfully litigated in Toledo by Joe Tafelski in Harrison v. Heinzroth.

- **1978**, FHC and the Greater Toledo Housing Coalition files the country's first challenge under the Community Reinvestment Act with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The protest, filed against First Federal Savings and Loan, prompted fair lending awareness among the banking community and resulted in a conditioned approval of the lender's application.

- **1983**, The Center investigates and litigates the nation's first sexual harassment housing complaint, Shellhammer v. Lewallen. The complaint, successfully litigated by C. Thomas McCarter, clearly established sexual harassment as a violation of the Fair Housing Act.

- **1987**, The highest award ever granted in a race harassment case was ordered by then Magistrate Carr, in Rudolph, et al, v. Taberner, et al. This complaint, again litigated by C. Thomas McCarter, resulted in a \$625,000 award and a stiff prison sentence for Mr. Taberner.



**Lucas County Children Services responded to 4,271 reports of suspected child abuse in 2014.**

**Nearly half of them were for children under the age of five.**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. If you believe a Lucas County child is at risk of being abused or neglected, call LCCS at 419-213-2273 (CARE).



... continued on page 8

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Fair Housing... continued from page 7

- **1987**, The standards for establishing a prima facie neighborhood redlining complaint were decided in *Old West End Association v. Buckeye Federal Savings & Loan*. This case was successfully litigated by Steve Dane.
  - **1988**, *Fair Housing Center v. Lexington Apartments* set a national precedent by providing free rental units for the homeless.
  - **1990**, The federal court in this district set the precedent for acceptable and unacceptable standards for "significant services and facilities" for senior citizen housing complexes in Grey, Wainer, and the *Fair Housing Center v. P.K. Mobile Home Park*.
  - **1993**, *Fair Housing Center, et al. v. Nationwide Insurance Companies* is the first complaint filed against an insurance company based on testing evidence. The complaint was settled in 1998.
  - **1996**, The Center along with the National Fair Housing Alliance, settled systemic complaints filed with HUD against the nation's largest homeowners insurer, State Farm. This precedent setting agreement has literally changed the way homeowners insurance is written throughout the country.
  - **1999**, *Preferred Properties, Inc. v. Indian River Estates and Duane J. Tillimon*: The Center assisted Preferred Properties, Inc., a non-profit that develops and manages rental housing for persons with disabilities, in filing this case in June 1999. In March 2000, a federal jury awarded Preferred Properties a total of \$156,000 (\$31,500 in compensatory damages and \$125,000 in punitive damages) and found that a local developer should have sold land to Preferred Properties to be developed as housing for persons with disabilities. This was the largest jury award of punitive damages in a fair housing case in Northwest Ohio.
- During the late 1990s and early 2000s**, the Center entered into partnerships with major insurance companies, including State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide, Liberty Mutual and Farmers Insurance. Through these agreements, insurers altered their underwriting guidelines, which had disparately impacted African American and Latino neighborhoods. The partnerships have resulted in over \$10 million in investments to Toledo's urban communities.
- 2009**, The Center entered into an agreement with a local subur-


## April's Fair Housing Events

- **11 a.m. on Saturday, April 18** - Join the Toledo Fair Housing Center as we MARCH in celebration of 40 Years of Fair Housing and Civil Rights! March will begin promptly at the corner of Robinwood and Islington (rain or shine!). Following the march, there will be a dedication and unveiling of the Toledo Fair Housing Center MURAL at Collingwood and Delaware. Free and open to the public. Mural by artist Yusef Lateef. Info: 419.243.6163 or 419.243.6163.
- **7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23** - (6 p.m. VIP Reception/6:30 p.m. General Reception) Toledo Fair Housing Center 40th Anniversary Gala and Premiere presented by Westfield Insurance at the Valentine Theatre, 401 Adams St. WGTE Toledo Stories documentary premiere. Honorary Chair is Bob LaClair, President and CEO of Fifth Third Bank - Northwestern Ohio. Dress: Business attire. Tickets available at the Valentine Theatre Box Office at 419.242.2787 or 419.242.2787 or [www.valentinetheatre.com](http://www.valentinetheatre.com) (VIP - \$150; Lower Level Seating - \$40; Balcony - \$20) Info: 419.243.6163 or 419.243.6163.

ban municipality regarding a reasonable accommodation request in zoning. Along with monetary relief totaling over \$100,000 for the named complainants in the case, the agreement also stipulates that all licensed group homes moving into the township within the next 99 years will receive a 10-year property tax abatement.

**2013**, The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), the Toledo Fair Housing Center, and twelve additional fair housing organizations entered into an agreement with Wells Fargo to resolve a housing discrimination complaint filed with HUD. This is the first-ever agreement regarding the equal maintenance and marketing of Real Estate Owned (REO) homes. The agreement is the result of a federal housing discrimination complaint filed in April 2012 with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The complaint alleged that Wells Fargo's REO properties in white areas were much better maintained and marketed by Wells Fargo than REO properties in African-American and Latino neighborhoods. Wells Fargo provided \$27 million to NFHA and the fair housing organizations to benefit 19 cities and promote home ownership, neighborhood stabilization, property rehabilitation, and development in communities of color. NFHA and the 13 local non-profit fair housing organizations will manage the funds and provide a range of grants for items such as down payment assistance to owner-occupants seeking to purchase homes in targeted neighborhoods and renovation efforts for homes that languished in foreclosure, including creative programs to increase homeownership and neighborhood stabilization.

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Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section

# Five Tips to Avoid a 'Break the Bank' Summer Vacation

*Special to The Truth*

Vacations are good for you. But they can also be tough on the wallet.

For more than one-third of Americans, the cost of a vacation will be one of their largest expenses in the coming year, according to Wells Fargo's recent "How America Buys and Borrows" survey.

How can you avoid vacation sticker shock? One option is sitting in your wallet, as certain credit cards offer rewards with virtually every purchase.

Here are five tips for how you can use your credit card to turn your vacation dreams into reality.

- Read the terms and conditions thoroughly and understand how you can earn and redeem rewards. Some cards offer cash back while others offer points. Some credit cards allow customers to redeem for a variety of options, while other cards -- such as those offered by some airlines and hotels -- connect you to reward redemptions for their specific product. Know what, if any, fees or charges occur when redeeming and whether your rewards ever expire.

- Some consumers track rewards and redeem them regularly. Others rarely think about them. If you fall in the second category, check your rewards balance. You may have earned enough rewards to offset vacation costs like airfare, hotel stays or gift cards to merchants you plan on visiting while vacationing. Alternatively, you may prefer to redeem your rewards as an account credit and use the cash while traveling.

- The average vacationer spends just over \$1,300 for travel, including food, lodging and transportation, estimates the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. By responsibly using your rewards credit card for vacation costs, rewards can add up. You can redeem them later -- perhaps, for next year's vacation!

- Traveling with your credit card offers a safer way to pay because if a card is lost or stolen, a quick call to your bank can stop charges to your account. In addition to rewards programs, many cards offer little known perks that may help make your travel smoother. For example, some credit cards offer 24/7 concierge services that can help you plan your trip or even make dinner reservations.

Your card may also offer rental car insurance, no-fee currency con-

versions, competitive currency conversion rates, and travel protections like insurance for lost or damage luggage. To learn more about these benefits, read your credit card agreement.

- Look for special travel offers from your rewards program. Also, check to see if your credit card offers special travel deals that come with additional rewards from specific retailers. To learn more about available offers, cardholders can typically check their rewards program website. To review Wells Fargo's available offers, visit [www.MyWellsFargoRewards.com](http://www.MyWellsFargoRewards.com) and [www.MyWellsFargoRewardsEMM.com](http://www.MyWellsFargoRewardsEMM.com).

As you plan vacation, keep budgeting and money management basics in mind. Be sure to let your bank know you're going out of town, and consider using free tools -- like online banking or your bank's mobile app -- to stay on top of your finances. That way you'll come home refreshed, with no worries about having derailed your financial goals.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## St. Paul MBC's 98th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate 98 years of service May 9, and 10, 2015 at the Radisson UTMC Hotel, 3100 Glendale. On May 9 we will host a banquet with live entertainment and food. The ticket donation is \$50.00 per person and \$400.00 for a table. Tickets may be purchased by calling Deacon David Taylor at 419-243-1954.

On May 10 we will have a glorious time in worship and invite you to come and fellowship with us at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 1502 North Detroit Avenue, Toledo Ohio where the Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. is Pastor. Interested, but cannot make it? We invite you to purchase a congratulatory ad in our St. Paul Family Reunion Souvenir Booklet. For further information or to purchase an ad, please contact Sister Barbara Tucker at 419-244-7062



## 2015 SUMMER CAMPS

Join the fun of learning about the latest technology in various industries, as well as pursuing possible career choices.

### Toledo Technology Academy SUMMER CAMPS

Open to all students in 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades

Choose LEGO Camp or STEM Camp

<b>Session 1:</b> June 8 - June 11 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	<b>Session 2:</b> June 15 - June 18 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
---	--

Toledo Technology Academy Summer Camps are designed to focus on robotics and STEM activities. Students should register for one session in either LEGO Camp or STEM Camp. Cost is \$40 per student. Each camp is limited to 20 students, so register today!



### Construction Careers Academy SUMMER CAMP

Open to all students in 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades

June 8-12 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Rogers High School

Construction Careers Academy Summer Camp explores the various skills and technologies of the construction industry. Students will experience practical learning with hands-on activities. Don't wait because space is limited!



### Digital Marketing Camp

Open to TPS Career Technology students enrolled in Business or Marketing

June 8-12 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Digital Marketing Camp will take TPS Career Technology students enrolled in Business or Marketing to the next level with hands-on activities using the latest technology in marketing, studio production and graphic design. This camp has a maximum enrollment of 25 students, so be sure to register today!

SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO SIGN-UP TODAY!

Pick-up registration forms at host school or contact Career Technology Department: **419.671.8301**  
email: [careertech@tps.org](mailto:careertech@tps.org)

ATTENTION PARENTS: REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2015

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## Social Security Column

### Let Social Security Help Jazz up Your Retirement Plan

By Phil Walton, Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH  
Guest Column

April is Jazz Appreciation Month, a perfect time to move your feet and revel in the smooth beats of one of America's most beloved musical genres. Ella Fitzgerald, the "Queen of Jazz," known for her scatting style, had a vocal range spanning three octaves. Other great jazz icons include Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Herbie Hancock, and Wynton Marsalis.

These jazz greats not only have music in common, but they either received, receive, or will be eligible to receive Social Security retirement benefits. Wynton Marsalis, at age 53, is approaching retirement. Herbie Hancock, at age 74, is already old enough to receive full Social Security retirement benefits. A lot of planning and preparation made these artists successful. If you want to be successful in your retirement years, financial planning is important for hitting all the high notes.

You don't have to scat like Ella, or blow your horn like Wynton, Dizzy, and Louis, to plan for retirement. If you're making retirement plans, you'll want to visit Social Security's website to use our retirement planner at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire). You'll find detailed information about your Social Security retirement and what you may want to consider as you prepare for your future.

Our *Retirement Estimator* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator) will give you an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefits. You can plug in different retirement ages and scenarios to help you make a decision. If you're ready to apply for retirement benefits, just go online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline).



Creating a secure *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) is another way to fine tune your retirement. Your account will allow you to verify your posted earnings and get retirement estimates for ages 62, 67 and 70. Opening a my Social Security account is safe, easy, and only takes a few minutes. Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" may come to mind as you visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to jazz up your retirement planning!

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5<sup>th</sup> Annual

Sexual Assault Awareness

2K Walk

It's  ... to ACT! 

When: Saturday, April 25, 2015

Where: Ottawa Park (Across from the Toledo Hospital main entrance)

Registration: Starts @ 10 am until noon

\$10 Registration Fee is required (includes T-shirt)

Walk Begins @ Noon

Program will be held in the Amphitheater 12:30-1:30

Support Victims & Survivors of Sexual Assault

Sponsored by: Releasing Abuse to Promote Empowerment (R.A.P.E.)  
For more information, contact Director Alexander @ 419.460.1994  
E-mail: [stepstoh healingwholeness@yahoo.com](mailto:stepstoh healingwholeness@yahoo.com)

Perryman... continued from page 5

up leaving the people more discouraged and more unlikely to join a church. But you got to have something to offer them that they can relate to, a product that can be simple but culturally specific and something that is sustainable by the church.

**Perryman:** Well, provide me with some program details for #blacklives-matter418. Who's going to be there? What young people are going to be there? And who is the makeup of your group? Are they university students, community residents?

**Muhammad:** Well, it started out as for the Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo. It started out as a group of college students. However, some of the professors and some of the colleges learned about what they were doing, and they joined on. Some of the friends of the professors that noticed what we were doing have joined on. Some blacks in Toledo that have always been socially conscious but never had the right vehicle to participate in ongoing activities, they found out. So we ended up having a group of people that really don't look like activists of years past.

When you think about Black Lives Matter, what automatically should come up in my head is a group of angry black people, and that's what comes up. Right. And I still have to fight against that, the gravity of stupidity. I still have to do that, so I'm not too far from that. But what ended up happening is because of the - - I think that it's also a spiritual thing because of whom it attracts when you say Black Lives Matter. And more people want to help. They don't want to lead, so maybe some of the whites want to help. They don't want to lead. Some of the whites who would love to be with us in our prayer meeting, that's fine, but they don't want to lead, and that's okay. But it's just an interesting collective of concerned people.

On that day, of course, I will be speaking and a lot of our cultural community, artistic community, is going to be well represented there. But we're taking a different approach, too, when we talk about Black Lives Matter because it normally centers around police brutality. But I was talking with the young people. When you talk about black lives, we have so many - - there's so many institutions that affect us, so we're going to be speaking not only on law enforcement, but on education. That's an important component to the black community.

Economics, that's very important. Health - - that's important in our youth. Those things are very important. So when you say Black Lives Matter, that just doesn't mean stick it to the cops. No. There are many other things that are in play in the lives of black people in many different domains, for those of us that work, for those of us that are in school, those of us that are just active in the community, those of us within the church structure. Those are all different domains that we either play or socialize in that make up who we are, and all those institutions and systems affect what we do. So we just can't say Black Lives Matter just leave it at speaking about the police.

So we end up taking a different spin on that to make it our own rather than looking at what's happening in Ferguson and imitating what they do. That's fine for them, but Toledo is a different animal all itself. We're not going to be blocking traffic here. We're not going to be walking into the police station here. We're not going to be occupying city council here. We don't have a history of doing that, so we're not going to get in front of ourselves with things that we know will not work for Toledo, and it will end up being aggressive.

You don't want to be the aggressor. You always want to be the person that's saying things that are built on principle. Just us showing up together is a threat enough. So you don't have to sell any wolf tickets. The fact that we're showing up in unity is enough. I don't have to say those extra things that I end up having to come back and apologize for.

**Perryman:** Thank you.

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



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# Preferred Properties Celebrates Bridge Point Village Apartments

Special to The Truth

Preferred Properties, Inc. (P<sup>2</sup>), a leading non-profit affordable housing provider celebrated its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bridge Point Senior Village Apartments on March 24. This new multi-family development located at 2005 Suder Avenue offers 11 newly constructed one-bedroom apartments under a universal design concept and has accessibility, mobility and sensory features to benefit seniors age 62 years or older.

The building was completed at a total development cost of over \$2 million dollars and the last in the country, with significant funding provided from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program. Other major funders include the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and the City of Toledo. The project itself created 20 local construction jobs, and supports six recurring local jobs from the operation of the development.

The BPSV Ribbon Cutting Ceremony event was well attended, and most activities were held inside the new interior community room, hosting five key speakers as funders and community partners. The agenda was led by Yvonda A. Bean, executive director, then followed by remarks from honorary speaker Mayor Paula Hicks- Hudson; and key note speakers Pamela Ashby, Cleveland Field Office Director for the U.S. Dept. of HUD; Tom Kroma, director of Department of Neighborhoods for the City of Toledo; Kelan Craig, business manager of Planning, Preservation and Development for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency; Michael Marsh, executive director from the Toledo Fair Housing Center; and Charlotte O’Neil, board president of Preferred Properties.

Board members, staff, guest speakers, builders, architects and residents were among the crowd of attendees to enjoy learning about the history of this project, apartment tours, and admire the grounds! Yvonda Bean, “today’s reality marks the culmination of an idea that began nearly 15 years ago by her predecessor Lew Ellis. The subdivision has morphed into a mixed community creating housing not only for seniors, but also individuals with disabilities.”

As Bean extended an appreciation to the project architect for the building’s design, one resident excitedly exclaimed “Oh thank you, we love this building!” The development is reflective of P<sup>2</sup>’s mission to create affordable and safe housing opportunities for the disabled, seniors, and others in need who can be integrated within the community.



Yvonda A. Bean, Kelan Craig, Michael Marsh




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# Toledo Ballet Scores Triple Header

By Orange Rogers

Guest Column

Toledo was treated to a beautiful, original production of the classic Alice in Wonderland by Toledo Ballet at the Valentine Theater on March 28-29th. The two originally scheduled shows were sold out and a third performance added.

Clearly, Toledo Ballet is a strong player in our local culture scene. As well as reaching thousands of Toledoans of all ages through their lovely staged productions, Toledo Ballet continues to be a major educational force through its school, enculturating students from age three on up.

Alice was a gorgeous show flawed only by the perfection of the damaging stereotypical portrayal of black males. It was here that the show's originality failed; there is nothing original about recycling stereotypical characters that have been around for 150 years.

In this post-Ferguson, post-Staten Island, post-Dayton Walmart, post-Cleveland city park awareness that "Black Lives Matter" and that those in leadership positions in our society need to figure out the issues, that sensitivity did not make it to this stage.

Three excellent African-American dancers were featured in this production—all of them male. Three African-American male character types were assigned in the production: the Sambo, the Drug Addict, and the Violent Mur-

derer. Hmmm.

Put into the role of the Sambo to the character of the Knave, Sam Gandy was arguably the most gifted dancer in the show. He hand sprang and back flipped across the stage at multiple points in the show, while embodying a graceful ease and the smooth musicality of a Fred Astaire or Bill Robinson.

"The Knaves Pas de Deux" followed by "Who stole the tarts?" showcased Gandy's ability to cross genres seamlessly, incorporating hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, gymnastics and classical ballet. These were highlights not only of the second half, but of the whole show.

Apparently envisioned as a day laborer, throughout the show Gandy juggled a 4x6, while clad in plaid shirt, overalls, and straw hat. This portrayal was clearly built on the antebellum Happy Sambo. While it did not diminish the beauty of Gandy's performance, it did make this audience member squirm.

In case the cultural reference wasn't clear, this masterful dancer's "Who stole the tarts?" was set to a musical number piece reminiscent of a down-South hoedown which immediately brought to mind the infamous "crows on a wire" scene from Disney's Dumbo. To the production's credit, the character ate no watermelon and did not stroll across the stage selling loosies.

Playing the role of Drug Addict to the character of The Caterpillar, Domonique Glover performed with the elegant grace of the experienced professional dancer that he is. To be fair, the character of the Caterpillar was blue, so the race of the dancer was not immediately apparent to the audience. However, Glover is a mainstay of Toledo Ballet, with a strong and recognizable style, well known from other roles.

As readers of Carroll's Alice will recall, the Caterpillar lounges languidly smoking a water pipe and dispensing bits of confused advice to the little girl trying to make her way through the garden. In the ballet, Caterpillar and Alice perform a brief, beautifully executed pas de deux before Alice goes on her way. In its update of Alice with all the artistic license it took, it would have been great if Toledo Ballet could have left out the hookah and given Cat a whole different character—whether keeping him blue or not.

Finally, what stereotypical treatment of black men would be complete without a Violent Murderer? Toledo Ballet took advantage of the Carroll role of Executioner to cast this part. The multitalented Antonio Winfree played the role well, exhibiting excellent acting technique and stage presence, and bringing to this ghoulish part a dancer's grace.

However, Winfree's talents could have been put to use in several other roles in the story, most obviously that of Bill the Lizard which would have allowed him to share much more of his dancing ability. The Executioner's part was small, and though Winfree did a fine job, it could have been done by many different dancers—unlike, it can be argued, the parts of Knave and Cat.

It was an interesting and unfortunate choice, then, for the producers to put one of the three black men in their company into this role, when any thinking person in 2015 should realize they should think twice before carelessly coupling violence and black. The producers then emphasized blackness and physicality by costuming this character shirtless. What were they thinking?

Of course some will say as a critic I am looking for racism. Well, duh!! The point is, that it is so very easy to find—and actually, I wasn't looking for it nor expecting it, though I do look at the world through a lens critical of racism.

Indeed, the racist casting was subtle enough to my mis-educated mind simply to make my enjoyment of the production just a little less complete while the show was on. But hours later it woke me up in the middle of the night, my dream life having worked out the tripartite characterization, showing me in dreamy diagrams how neat and complete the job was and forcing me to get up much earlier than I had intended and to type this column.


The only thing that gives me hesitation in sending it off is that I would not want the three dancers identified to feel in any way criticized. But I am fairly certain that they, being the clearly thoughtful young men that they are, have already recognized the roles in which they were cast—or is that caste?

Let me be clear: the performances by Gandy, Glover, and Winfree were outstanding and there is no fault to be found with them. And I am quite sure that these intelligent young men also recognize themselves as kindred spirits and culture warriors with the performers who have gone before them—Bill Robinson, Sidney Poitier, Paul Robeson, and other—achieving artistic and social greatness while working in racist industries.

But do their fellow dancers know this? Do the students in Toledo Ballet know it? Do the children and adults in the audience know it? We can hope they do, but culture is so subtle, so omnipresent, that if they aren't being taught to think critically about the creations they make and enjoy, probably they do not. Meanwhile, the unacknowledged racism of our U.S. culture continues to wreck havoc.

While beautiful and clever in many, many ways, sadly, the Toledo Ballet production must overall receive a big thumbs down. Indeed, its cleverness and beauty make it even more insidious: it is tempting to brush off the depiction as accidental, inconsequential in the face of the accomplishment of the production. But we cannot be mistaken: it has consequences.

*Orange Rogers is a freelance journalist and patron of the arts living and learning in the southeast Michigan/northwest Ohio cultural corridor.*



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# Explore the Cosmos like Neil deGrasse Tyson by CAP Saucier

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Nighttime is absolutely your favorite time.

Some people choose to hang out with friends after dark. Some go to movies, listen to music, or just go to sleep. But you – as soon as it's dark, you lay down somewhere quiet and look up. That's where the stars are, and in the new book by CAP Saucier, you can learn to *Explore the Cosmos like Neil deGrasse Tyson*.

Born a few days before the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began, Neil deGrasse Tyson likes to say he's the same age as NASA. By the time he was nine years old, he was "in love with the night sky" and at 11, he knew he wanted to be an astrophysicist (a scientist that studies the universe). He was so fascinated by planets and stars that he almost got in trouble with a telescope when he was a teenager.

Tyson's parents both stressed to him that skipping college was not an option and so, though he wasn't a great student in high school, Tyson went to Harvard, then to the University of Texas and to Columbia University. Why, you might ask, didn't he become an astronaut? Back then, the program wasn't open to African Americans, so being an astronaut never even entered his mind.

In finding beauty in the night sky, Tyson is not alone.

More than 2,500 years ago, the Greeks looked upward and tried to understand what they saw. Other cultures studied the heavens, too; Ptolemy tried to count the stars, and stopped at a thousand. In recent years, we've learned more about the cosmos than ever before, but there's still so much we don't know.

To study the stars, you need to understand light and physics. You'll need to know about galaxies and Nebulas, which look different and have descriptive names. You'll want to find out the truth about black holes, and why you never, ever want to be "spaghettified."

And above all, says Tyson, stay in school, learn math, and go for the best education you can get. Even if you don't end up studying stars, that's always a good path to take.

I was pleasantly surprised and a little daunted, both, by *Explore the Cosmos like Neil deGrasse Tyson*.

The delight comes in the biography part of this book. Author CAP Saucier lets us explore the life of Neil deGrasse Tyson, from his childhood to his fascinating career today and what he thinks about the future of space exploration. Along the way, we're given an education on the universe and what's in it.

That part, however, can be formidable; the language is more advanced than I would have liked to see in a

c. 2015  
Prometheus Books  
\$14.99 / \$16.00 Canada  
177 pages

book for middle-graders. Kids who tackle those sections will need a better-than-average understanding of astrosience, since those pages aren't otherwise very kid-friendly.

I think maybe a science-loving nine-year-old could try this book

but it's really better-suited for someone older. For a sharp child with her head in the stars, *Explore the Cosmos like Neil deGrasse Tyson* is pretty cosmic.



Explore the Cosmos Like Neil author pic  
CREDIT: photo by author's husband



# Ashford Fundraiser Brings Supporters to Davis Building

Dozens of supporters turned out for a Ruth Ashford fundraiser on April 13 at Salon Onyx in the Davis Building in downtown Toledo. Ashford is running for the District 4 City Council seat in a May 6 special election. The seat opened when Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, the previous office holder, took on her current duties after the death of D. Michael Collins in February.

Ashford, a first-time candidate for elected office, is a former financial analyst with the State of Michigan and a long-time Toledo resident. She is running against endorsed Democrat Yvonne Harper, endorsed Republican Alfonso Narvaez, and independent incumbent Scott Ramsay.



Alina Dunbar, Ruth Ashford, Kim Highsmith



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Standard booking fee for Profit and Non-profit, Event Planner available upon request  
Catering Referral Services Available upon request  
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3215 Lagrange Street, Toledo, OH 43608,  
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[marubyskitchen.com](http://marubyskitchen.com)



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**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**



**Charleston House of Toledo**  
A Premiere Consignment Shop for the Economical Conscious Woman

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

April 15, 2015

Page 15

## Clarence Smith Community Chorus Spring Concert

39th annual spring concert for the Clarence Smith Community chorus at Christ Presbyterian Church; 6 p.m. Donations - \$10 adults; \$8 for children and seniors. For more information call 419-535-0933 or 419-243-1958

## GIRL FRIEND LUNCHEON

Phillips Temple CME Church • 565 Palmwood Ave  
Saturday, April 25 • 10:30 am – 3 pm

Presentations on finance, nutrition, breast cancer, hair care and more!

**\$20 for adults, \$14 for ages 10-18**

*You will leave empowered!*

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Is now accepting resumes for

### Senior Pastor

Send resumes to  
NHMBC, 833 Nesslerwood Ave., Toledo, OH  
43610

or nhmbc@bex.net

Attention or Subject: Pulpit Committee

## Silver Sneakers Fitness Classes

Studio Fitness offers Silver Sneakers Chair Zumba, Strength & Balance & Dancercise fitness classes at **NO Cost** to seniors 65 and older.

**Chair Zumba Classes:** Monday, Tuesdays, & Thursdays at 9:00am.

**Strength & Balance Classes:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 11am.

**Dancercise Classes:** Wednesdays & Fridays at 1:00p.

Studio Fitness is located at 1413 Bernath Pwky off Airport Hwy across from TGIFridays. Parking is available. For more information contact Karen at 419-870-2318/419-870-2318.

## Request for Proposals

### Flooring Installation and Replacement Services

RFP#15-R009

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Flooring Installation and Replacement Svs. Received in accordance with law until Fri., May 7, 2015, 3 PM ET. Pre-Prop. Conf.: Apr. 22, 2015 11AM ET** 425 Nebraska Ave. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446/419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).

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



Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for Operations Shift Supervisor(s). Operations Shift Supervisors represent the Company and Complex Team on a 24/7 basis. Shift Supervisors lead the Unit Operators to complete assigned tasks and drive Refinery operation to meet oil flow targets in a safe, reliable and environmentally sound manner. The Operations Shift Superintendent ultimately contributes to increasing facility effectiveness, viability and bottom line potential by helping to achieve mechanical and operational reliability. Shift Supervisors work the DuPont rotating 12-hour shift schedule.

This position requires a High School Diploma or equivalent and a minimum of 5 years refinery experience. Strong knowledge of refinery operations is required as well as strong supervisory, leadership and communication skills.

All interested candidates may apply by going to [www.pbfenergy.com/careers](http://www.pbfenergy.com/careers). Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

EOE/M/F/D/V

## Residential Care Specialist

Contingent

Contingent Residential Care Specialist needed to work every other weekend, holidays and weekdays as needed to provide services to adults with serious mental illness. Position will work primarily at the Teneyck Towers location providing services to assist the client to live independently including monitoring, crisis intervention, assistance in daily living skills and recreational activities.

Applicants must possess current CPR, CPI and First Aid certification. Experience in mental health or direct care is preferred.

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources -RCS  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Website: [Unisonbhg.org](http://Unisonbhg.org)

EOE

## Search-Lite Community Baptist Church

Is now accepting resumes for

### A Youth and Young Adult Pastor— Part-time

Send resume to:  
Search-Lite CBC  
200 East Broadway, Maumee Ohio  
c/o P.O. Box 80426 Toledo, Ohio 43608  
or [search-lite10@bex.net](mailto:search-lite10@bex.net)

Attention P. Williams: Church Administrator

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Middle-grounds Metropark Bid Package No. 01 Improvements, 111 Ottawa Street, City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, April 24, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held **April 15, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.** local time at 305 Morris St., Toledo, OH 43604 – All bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of new park construction and includes site removals, erosion control measures, mass excavation and earth moving, concrete / aggregate pavement & walk installation, park pavilion, site lighting, landscape plantings, irrigation, site utilities, bank stabilization, at-grade boardwalks, boardwalk overlooks and bridges. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Tuesday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at [www.newfaxcorp.com](http://www.newfaxcorp.com). Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$40 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, [jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com).

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

Stephen W. Madewell, Director

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# Authors! Authors! Everywhere!

*The Truth Gallery Presents a Book Signing for the Ages*

## Alvetta: John Moore's Tribute to His Life's Partner

John Moore is a man of no mean accomplishments.

John has had a successful career as a banker and as a university administrator. He has served on numerous boards and has been a member of a number of professional organizations. He has had a personal life that was also a resounding success – particularly his marriage.

John wed his wife, Alvetta, when he was 19. She was 16.

Not many gave the young couple a chance. He had not yet entered college; she had not finished high school; she was pregnant – not a recipe for success at any time, even in the mid 1950's.

The marriage was not always sunshine and flower but it definitely endured – for more than 50 years. Alvetta, however, was diagnosed with brain cancer during their 51st year of marriage and survived for only 14 months.

In *Alvetta*, John Moore chronicles his wife's last year of life and the weight of the loss of his partner.

The book was quite a departure for the author who had penned an earlier work entitled *A Positive Attitude Is a Muscle: A Managed Stress Survivor's Manual*. It's the basis for his many workshops and seminars.



Saturday, April 18, 3 to 5 pm

## Ophelia J. Thompson The Poet LaFe ~ Ophelia Thompson

Dance instructor, author, artist, poet, musician, vocalist, motivational speaker and storyteller. She earned her undergraduate degree in Music Education from Albany State University; her master's degree in Educational Administration, Guidance Counselor Education from The University of Toledo.



The Poet LaFe retired after 30 years in the field of public education as a teacher, counselor and administrator, Toledo Public and Toledo Christian Schools, Toledo, OH. Published two books of poetry through grant, Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, OH. She performs her poetry and music in the greater Toledo area, throughout north-west Ohio and metropolitan Detroit, Michigan.

### RAG DOLL DANCING

Dancing, prancing, life enhancing intimate moves can be romancing; smooth execution, floating along precise motions some weak some strong.

When the male partner knows how to lead, rather than his ego to ravenously feed; when he considers the feminine side, and gently allows her to float and glide.

Dancing can be a beautiful thing, prancing that allows the heart to sing; it can also be an ugly fight, if a man usurps with all his might.

It is sad if the man doesn't have a clue that eloquent dancing requires two; and the woman has a gentle part in the equation, when he jerks and pulls with hard persuasion.

### BUT

When the two are as smooth as oriental silk, gliding and flowing like chocolate milk; fancy prancing, heavenly romancing the music is perfect while the couple is dancing.

Excerpt from Poem #1916 by Ophelia J. Thompson, Poet LaFe  
Copyright ©2009 written 2-19-09

## Sir Haunz & Gertrude's Great Escape: Joyce Lewis Realizes Dreams with Publication of First Book

Sir Haunz & Gertrude's Great Escape: Joyce Lewis Realizes Dreams with Publication of First Book



As a child, Joyce Lewis hated to read and could not understand how a book such as *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss could help her realize

her dreams, she explains all these years later. How ironic it is that Lewis, who hated to read so much as a child, achieved one huge dream several years ago when her first book was released by Zoe Life Publishing of Canton, MI.

And how appropriate it is that her first book is a child's book and a tale of youngsters learning to make their own dreams come true.

Lewis's book, *Sir Haunz & Gertrude's Great Escape*, is a story of two children whose father has lost his job due to the downsizing of his automotive plant. Their parents make a difficult decision to send their children to live with relatives while they try to get back on their feet.

Tragedy strikes and the children are left homeless in Chicago and have to learn to fend for themselves. Haunz discovers that he has a gift and he uses it to overcome obstacles as the children finally escape hopelessness and poverty.

Joyce, a gifted playwright as well, has been in performance over the last year with her play – *I Am Black and Beautiful*

## Violet Renee: Author's Romance Novel Features Lots of Love, Laughter and Lies

Ronnie Blackmon is all man with no apologies. His profitable investment firm in the magnificent Sears Tower\* make the wealthy want a man with his investment prowess on their team. He sincerely loves his beautiful wife Tia and would never replace her. But he went out on his creep and forgot to wrap it up resulting in the birth of sweet little Nina. He just can't seem to resist the lovely feminine flavors that are always in his face wanting a taste of his sexy bad boy persona. His bases are loaded with a wife, mistress and baby mama and he juggles them like a pro believing he is entitled to whatever he wants whenever he wants it.



Tia Blackmon is living the good life in Chicago with a stunningly handsome, successful young husband, three adorable children and a profitable career in commercial real estate. That is until her husband dropped kicks her with his confession of having fathered a baby girl with a clerk. And if that wasn't bad enough, he passes the baby girl off as his brother's secret love child sending Tia's temper into overload. Murder may be the case they give her as she confronts her wayward husband and mayhem ensues.

Question is, will Ronnie be able to maintain the love hold he has on his wife or will she escape the pain and humiliation of his philandering with the handsome, wealthy blonde beach boy in Miami? *Love, Laughter and Lies* is a humorous tale of love and relationships with hip hop flavor and old school drama that will keep you reading until the jaw dropping end.

## John Scott: Playwright's Gotta Write

"As someone who has produced and directed John Scott's work, I consider him to be one of the best contemporary playwrights," wrote Douglas Turner Ward, co-founder of the legendary Negro Ensemble Company.



A Scott High School graduate who earned a bachelor's degree at South Carolina State College, Scott began writing early in life. By the time he returned to the area to earn a master's and doctorate from Bowling Green State University, he had already penned a number of plays, plays which would gain considerable interest from New York.

Ride a Black Horse and The Good Ship Credit were produced Off-Broadway. Pieces of a Man, Currents: From the Rivers of Our Fathers and Hats, Handkerchiefs and Fans were produced on public television.

Theatre luminaries such as Morgan Freeman, Mary Alice, Howard Rollins, Roger Robinson, Barbara Montgomery, J.A. Preston, Loretta Devine, Ester Rolle and Bill Cobbs have performed on Scott's plays. And his plays have been produced in regional and university theatres from Florida to California.

His retirement from BGSU, where he founded the ethnic studies department, 15 years ago hasn't slowed him down a bit. Recently John released a little black book entitled *My Little Black Book*. It's a memoir and a close look into his experiences in love, libations and famous people encountered over the years.

Join us for a book signing of outlandish proportions - renowned local authors available to sign and talk about their works - Playwright John Scott, Novelist Violet Renee, Memoirist John Moore, Children's Book Author Joyce Lewis, Poet LaFe  
*The Truth Art Gallery, 1811 Adams Street 419-243-0007 or thetruthtoledo.com*