

Volume 37, No. 2

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 13, 2016



Pauline Kynard - November 27,1956 - January 10, 2016

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Overlooked Resources II

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The Truth Contributor

... Health is a human right, not a privilege to be purchased.

- Shirley Chisholm



The Dental Center of Northwest Ohio is a 106-year-old organization providing high quality dental care for all, especially for underserved populations. The Center's great work has largely continued under the radar despite its noble commitment to addressing disparities in oral health and lack of access to dental care for African Americans and other minorities.

I recently spoke with Melinda (Lindy) Cree, the Dental Center's executive director and Lisa Lawson-LaPointe, development officer, about the Center's work and of some of the oral and systematic health challenges faced by African Americans.

This is part two of our conversation.

Perryman: We last talked about diversity in your organization and the ability of minorities to make a living in the dental health field.

Lindy: Yes. Salaries are probably anywhere from \$11 to \$24 an hour depending on the credentials that the assistant has, and it's not huge, but it's a respectable salary without a four-year college degree, and there is always work.

We're also now working with the Pathways Program, which is also a certificate health program where community health workers work with people who have chronic illnesses, heart disease, high blood pressure, those kinds of things, to make that sure they can get into a treatment plan, not only here, but elsewhere with a primary care physician or maybe even a specialist.

And that's one of the dimensions that we offer our patients that the average dentist doesn't do. We can help connect people with a primary care physician or, if they have housing issues, we can help them deal with that. Just about any area where disparities exist, we can help.

So we really do more than just look at the mouth, we look at the whole person. Many of our patients have barriers, whether its transportation or childcare or income, our job is to make sure that we help them overcome those barriers and get the care that they need.

Perryman: Can you talk a bit about structural issues within the medical industry whereby reimbursement rates and insurance don't exist for oral healthcare as they do for other medical needs? Why does this gap between medical health and dentistry exist?

Lindy: Dental schools and medical schools studied together for many years. However, in the 1890s, the schools were separated. Afterwards, it became like the mouth became disengaged from the rest of the body, and MDs learned very little about dental needs, dental disease, how the diseases spread, or the various conditions of the mouth. And even though medical doctors look in your mouth and look at your tonsils, they just

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glance right past the teeth as though they didn't exist.

And so I think that was the beginning of dental not being considered as part of physical health. Teeth were just separated, and frequently anything dealing with the head is separate from the rest of the body. We talk a lot about systemic health, but whether it is mental health, vision, otology or dental, they're separate from overall systemic health, and I think then the insurance industry including the government, began to look at them differently. And so, now these others are all optional under Medicaid for adults, they're not considered a required service and are not part of the 10 essential health benefits that must be offered under the Affordable Care

However, I think research in the last 10-15 years is indicating that there is definitely a relationship between systemic health and oral health and that the mouth is the gateway to the body, and over the next 20+ years, I suspect we will see more of an integration of oral health back into systemic health.

They are looking now at problems with preterm labor and delivery and how low birth weight can be traced to periodontal disease. Also, if you have a lot of plaque in your mouth, you're more likely to have heart disease because some people just make more plaque than others, so you find it in their veins, so there's a connection there. If you have infection in your mouth and you don't treat it, it travels to other places in your body. Do you remember several years ago, Deamonte Driver?

Perryman: I do. Driver was the 12-year old seventh grader from Prince George County, Maryland...

Lindy: Okay, that poor child...

Perryman: He died because of a tooth infection.

Lindy: Right, but it took two surgeries and the removal of portions of his brain for the MDs to realize that the source of the infection in the brain came from the tooth. Even if he had lived, they had removed parts of his brain that would have necessitated a lot of rehab in order for him to learn to speak and walk and write. And it's just so sad that for the lack of someone saying this child has a dental infection that they couldn't connect it.

And so that I think is one of the motivators to doing more of this re-

... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

January 18

MLK Unity Celebration: 9 to 11 am; UT Savage Arena; Music, speeches, lunch

January 23

Warren AME 2016 Annual Gospel Extravaganza: Youth and Young Adults; 4 pm; Praise teams, soloists, gospel rap and mime; Special guests Abundant Life Ministries: 419-243-2237

January 24

True Vine MBC 2nd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Cecil Jerome Graham; 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Cullian Hill or Greater Concord MBC

February :

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Presents Toledo District of FGBCF International "Fire on Friday:" 7 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Hart Ramsey of Northview Christian Church: 419-246-1850 or cozmtzionchurch.com

February 21

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Family and Friends Day: 10:30 am; Guest speaker Pastor Reginald Perry of Victorian Believers Ministry Virgin Islands and the BGSU Choir: 419-246-1850 or cozmtzionchurch.com

A Life Of Purpose:

Pauline Kynard (1956-2016), A Vanguard of **Toledo's African American Culture and History**

Guest Column

Little did anyone realize that an historical baton had been passed from legendary jazz pianist Art Tatum to our community's steward of culture and librarianship Pauline Kynard. It was the year 1956 - the season of Tatum's death and poetically, the same year of Pauline's entrance into the world.



This seeming connection was by no means a mere coincidence. For one could argue that Tatum was boldly intentional in his transition - knowing that his iconic legacy would be maintained, enhanced, and fiercely protected by one

This keeper of culture and history will deeply be remembered as the true emotional architect of the Art Tatum African American Resource Center at Kent Branch Library. Although she retired in 2012 after dedicating 37 years working her way from her teens as a page to a branch manager in the Toledo Lucas County Public Library system, it was her longtime supervision of the Tatum Center that the community recalls as being her most passionate imprint upon the Toledo area.

Her recent death on Sunday, January 10, 2016 in a Columbus hospital shook a community which felt that she left her life's journey far too soon at the tender age of 59. The statuesque Pauline, with high cheekbones, coupled with an unforgettable smile and twinkling eyes appeared far younger than her years. She was cut from what our grandmothers called good stock. The kind of beautiful being that peppered a room emitting good feelings and a sense of pride by simply entering.

Pair this sentiment with Pauline's commitment and dedication to African-American culture and there you have the very definition of a woman who made it her mission to uplift the story of her people with pride and dignity.

Although it was cancer that ultimately took our





dear sister, mother, grandmother and friend, Pauline's illness was incapable of robbing her family, siblings, children, friends and granddaughter of a beautiful life dedicated to knowledge, black culture, commitment to family and travel.

She was born Pauline McNeal on November 27, 1956, in Toledo. She graduated from Libbey High School in 1975 the same year she began her enduring library career. Her evolution occurred through her dogged pursuit of education. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and obtained a master's in library information science from San Jose State University, taking online classes and in person at the college in California.

Although she held several library positions, it was from 1991 to 2006, during her supervision of the Art Tatum African American Resource Center, where she was best known for her expertise and knowledge in African-American culture, history, art and literature. She also served as the former Chair of the Ohio Library Council Diversity Awareness and Resources Committee

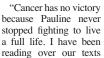
Joan A. Harris, president of the Tatum Center's Citizens Advisory Board, said that it will forever be Pauline's stellar efforts, dedication and community contacts that made the Center flourish to the present day:

"She worked tirelessly to develop our Center into an outstanding informational mecca in Northwest Ohio," recalls Harris.

Brett Collins, the current specialist of the Tatum Center, conveyed his grief over such a sudden loss and expressed that her death is a reminder of how "delicate and fleeting" life can be. Collins and the Board continue to enhance the Center with community programming and annual anniversary observances of the Center's namesake - the late iconic jazz pianist Art Tatum (1909-1956), who was reared in Toledo

It was the 1980s, the era that many recall as the development of local black librarianship with names like Judy Jones, Mott Branch manager, Dorcel Dowdell, retired Main Library manager and several

others that would begin their careers together and remain cherished friends over the years. Judy was one of Pauline's closest friends and shared these reflections:





for the last year, and I found this post from Pauline that defined how she lived her life: 'She is forever a champion and my hero. She fought not just for herself, but as an example to her children and granddaughter to never give up and to live life to the fullest'," said Jones, who admitted that since the news she had to search deep for her voice to honor her late friend. She added that Pauline's educational accomplishments broadened her perspective.

In a recent Blade news obituary, another dear librarian friend Faith Hairston, manager of Kent Branch Library, said the Tatum Center started in 1989 and expanded under Pauline's guidance, gaining a reputation for its collection of art and literature and documentation of local African-American history and cultural programs.

"The work she did really established the center as we know it today," Hairston told The Blade. "She helped to build the book collection. She helped to build the art collection, not only the art in the Art Tatum Center but in bringing in artists from throughout the community.'

Dowdell, retired Main Library manager, recalled the impactful role that Pauline Kynard played in the establishment of the Art Tatum African American Resource Center:

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Judy Jones, Former Mayor Mike Bell, Kynard



Perryman... continued from page 2

search. There was a woman in northern Michigan, she had an oral surgeon that was willing to extract a tooth that was abscessed, but before they could find a hospital that would accept her Medicaid, she died. That's not right. It should not happen in this country.

So it's time, and I think we're seeing that momentum in health now, to bring the mouth back to the rest of the body. There are now doctors, dentists that are practicing here in Toledo that are both MDs and DDS's, and they're bringing the areas back together so that when we look at a person we look at the whole person.

We are now reimbursing pediatricians through Medicaid to apply fluoride varnish to strengthen teeth of children under the age of five. When I started here 16 years ago, that was unheard of, but we are now training pediatricians to look at teeth and to notice them. We did a training here in Toledo with some faculty from the Ohio State Dental College last May that we encouraged nurse practitioners and pediatricians to attend and explained what some of the disease processes are in the mouth of young children so that they could start looking and making appropriate referrals.

There is now the recommendation of both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association that a child should have the first dental visit by the first birthday or as soon as the first tooth erupts. Not because the child has a lot of dental problems, but as a preventive measure. Most infants go to the pediatrician seven times in the first year of life, but many pediatricians and even dentists will say, "Oh, you don't need to go to the dentist until you're between three and five."

Well for a lot of children, especially at risk children, that's way too late, because once bacteria gets a hold in the mouth at one, two or three, it's there for a lifetime. So I think it's beginning to turn around, but it's going to take us a generation to make that happen.

Perryman: For oral health education to become incorporated as a holistic curriculum?

Lindy: Overall, yes. It's amazing, you wouldn't have a gaping open wound on your arm walking around like that. That's essentially what tooth disease is. A cavity is a hole, like you would have on any other part of your body. Most people would go and they would get that taken care

of. Why? For fear of infection. But they can't see in their mouth, and it doesn't always hurt.

Perryman: Well, talk about, oral health and today's challenges for African Americans.

Lindy: Well, challenges definitely exist. I think for a lot of our patients if they come to the dentist, if they have a job and it's a job paying lower wages, they may have to take time off work without pay. So I think there are definite disparities in terms of the obstacles involved, including that of just getting to the dentist.

Perryman: And in your studies in public health, are you seeing higher incidences of cavities, of specific oral diseases in African Americans or lower income people, elderly, blacks and Hispanics compared to whites and general population?

Lindy: All of those are at risk populations, and a lot of it, is you learn what you live. So, we have a large population of people who their parents didn't go to the dentist and their parents' parents didn't go to the dentist, and so that's just the norm in the family. So prioritizing oral health in situations of generational poverty is a huge, huge problem.

I also think that people, all people, but particularly people in a more at risk environment, if the teeth don't hurt, they don't worry about seeking dental care.

And then, there are issues related to nutrition, drinking soda versus water, what's available on the food stamps programs. You can get soda pop on the food stamp card, but you can't get toothpaste or a toothbrush. So there are lots of different issues, including lots of different myths and things in there.

Unfortunately, for a number of years most oral health education was done in the dental chair when you went to the dentist, so if you didn't go to the dentist you didn't know, so you'd listen to your grandmother and if she said put a little bourbon on that child's gums when they're teething, you put a little bourbon on their gums.

So, the Dental Center of Northwest Ohio is attempting to bridge the gap. Oral healthcare, preventive care, oral cancer screenings and cleanings are all so important in reducing the large disparities.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdlperryman@centerof-hopebaptist.org

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The Truth Gallery 1811 Adams Street 419-242-7650



Stories about Police-Community Relations Endorsed by City, Toledo Police Department, and Area Schools

StoryCorps Project to Launch at MLK Celebration

By Lynne Hamer, Ph.D. Special to the Truth

On MLK Day, citizens of all ages and all walks of life will begin sharing their stories about police-community relations in Toledo and beyond. At least, that is the intention of the newly formed StoryCorps in Toledo Project, which is being launched to contribute to the national StoryCorps project (www.storycorps.org).

Nationally, StoryCorps interviews can be about any topic; however, the new StoryCorps in Toledo project is focusing first on stories about police-community relations. This is clearly a timely topic, and one in which all individuals' experiences need to be heard, valued, and eventually understood.

The goal of StoryCorps in Toledo, in choosing this topic, is "to improve relations between police and community by increasing trust through sharing and listening to the personal experiences that make us human." The project plans to collect and archive 100 or more interviews in the next three months, and to have a citywide event in May to share examples of the stories. Most important will be including stories from all points of view.

Linda Alvarado-Arce, director of the City of Toledo Board of Community Relations, has brought the City of Toledo, Toledo Police Department, and several other entities together to develop the StoryCorps in Toledo project for the 2016 Martin Luther King Day Celebration. Though the project will officially begin at the celebration, it will continue far beyond that day.

Alvarado-Arce said, "StoryCorps is about everyone and anyone having the opportunity to tell their stories and share their stories for generations to come. The stories are also being used to make change in the present, as telling them creates a colorful picture of what Toledo currently has in regards to diversity, history, and cultural wealth."

Alvarado-Arce learned of the StoryCorps project from Mary Ellen Edwards, Ph.D, and Lynne Hamer, Ph.D, of the University of To-

ledo Program in Theory and Social Foundations of Education (TSOC). She then took the StoryCorps model to Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson and Chief George Kral of the Toledo Police Department. Both endorsed the project enthusiastically.

One member, JeTahn Avery, is Hub Director for Pickett Academy. Avery joined the Story-Corps team because of the educational value of the project. "It is the perfect opportunity to share our loving words with generations to come," said Avery.

In his role as Pickett Hub director, Avery sees potential for involving community members in the school in meaningful ways, and added, "I'm hoping my community members will participate and share stories that inspire all."

Another team member, Erma Blakely, is a local minister and proprietor of the \$1.50 Store on Nebraska Avenue. Blakely brings to the project deep and wide connections in the Junction/Kwanzaa Park neighborhood and in broader Toledo. Blakely was inspired to join the StoryCorps team because, she said, "People my age need to share what we've been through, and how we've been blessed, so younger people can learn from our experiences and take that blessing forward."

Sergeant Anita Madison represents the Toledo Police Department on the committee. She has found there is much excitement among officers and community members alike to share their stories. For her own part, she said, "It is exciting to share my story on how my community helped shape the police officer I have become."

Madison and Blakely interviewed each other about the relationship between police and community for StoryCorps in Toledo. Madison asked Blakely for the interview because she had fond memories of running down the street from church to visit the store that

was located at that time on the current site of Blakely's store. By the time Madison had children of her own, Blakely had opened her store and Madison's children frequented it.

During the course of the interview, the two women discovered that they had lived within a block of each other, on Pinewood. They also discovered a shared love for being part of their communities, and a shared belief that God's inspiration guided them to work in their communities.

Blakely commented, "One reason I like being in the store is that the Lord placed me there to be a light." Madison agreed, and emphasized that though police are often charged with "cleaning up" a neighborhood, that is wrongheaded: "police and business people must work together," she said.

Madison and Blakely's videotaped Story-Corps interview will be featured as part of the MLK Celebration on January 18. Produced by fellow committee member Les Robinson, of Les Robinson Productions, the video is intended to inform and inspire attendees to bring a colleague, neighbor, or loved one to interview as part of the Toledo project.

Nationally, StoryCorps began in 2003 with the mission "to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives" (www.storycorps.org). Key to StoryCorps is that people interview each other, in a conversation about a topic that is important to them and their relationship. A StoryCorps interview is a conversation between people who love and respect each other, and so come together to make a recording.

However, the recording isn't just for the two of them: it is a piece of national history as well. Every recording that is submitted to StoryCorps becomes part of its permanent collection in the U.S. Library of Congress in

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Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Laura Freeman

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

Leaders come from surprising places.

The quiet girl that sits the next row over may know how to inspire people. The know-it-all in your class could own a business in the future. The kid everybody picks on might become president. But in the new book Women Who Broke the Rules: Coret-

c. 2015 Bloomsbury \$16.99 / \$19.99 Canada 48 pages

ta Scott King by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Laura Freeman, you'll read about one woman who didn't necessarily want to be a leader. She only wanted to sing.

Born in April 1927, Coretta Scott grew up on her family's farm

and was "a bit sheltered" as a girl. Still, she was very aware that some things were unfair, which always made her angry. Everybody in Marion, Alabama, knew Coretta was a fighter, that she had "the guts to climb up and over the Rules," and that she had a temper, but there was one thing that calmed her: music.

Because her mother was the church pianist, Coretta was encouraged to sing solos as a very small child. She was known to rush through chores so she could spend time with her music. In high school, she was the school's most promising singer-musician. Later, she landed a scholarship at an Ohio college where she studied music and education, "in case a career in singing didn't work out." From there, she attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

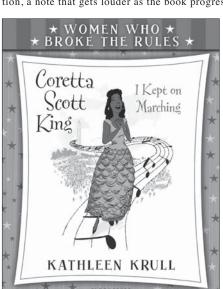
Six months after arriving in Boston, she was introduced to a man named Martin.

At first, Coretta didn't think much of Martin Luther King, Jr. He wasn't her type, and he was awfully outspoken. On the other hand, he spun dreams of a wonderful future. Their dates led her to a church, to a concert, dancing and eventually to marriage.

But being the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. wasn't always a happy life. Coretta worried about Martin constantly, though she was proud of him. Their work together on boycotts was making change, but there was always danger. She could do what she needed to do, though – as long as she had her music.

I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King.

So many biographies of King begin with her marriage to Martin, but author Kathleen Krull starts much earlier, putting an emphasis on Coretta Scott King's lifelong love of music and her desire to have a career, despite that woman generally didn't do that sort of thing then. That gives the story a tone of determination and quiet inspiration, a note that gets louder as the book progresses. I especially like



that Krull writes at length of Coretta King as a child, which will resonate with young readers who likely won't have any first-hand memories of this remarkable woman.

remarkable woman.

Don't feel guilty for enjoying this book before you give it to your nine-to-12-year-old. It's a quick and pleas-ant story you'll both like; in fact, if she needs a biography to read this spring, you can put Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King in the lead.



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Saturday January 23, 2016

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Need-Based Scholarships Are Available for Private Schools and Home School

Special to The Truth

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year for need-based scholarships for kindergarten through eighth grade worth up to \$1,500 for children to use at a nonpublic school or \$500 for home school expenses. Families need to reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood or Wyandot Counties.

NOSF is a partner with the Children's Scholarship Fund and awards need-based scholarships to provide parents with a choice for their child's education. The Children's Scholarship Fund was founded in 1998 by the late Ted Forstmann and the late John Walton who saw a need for educational alternatives for families.

Since 1999, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$11.4 million in scholarships to 13,400 students, part of that includes \$4

million in matching funds. All funds raised locally by NOSF are matched by the Children's Scholarship Fund and are used for scholarships in NW Ohio.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is the only privately funded need-based scholarship program in northwest Ohio that awards scholarships to children who otherwise might not be able to afford private schools for kindergarten through eighth grade and who do not qualify for an Educational Choice Voucher. Eligible families are required to demonstrate their financial need as measured by standards similar to the Federal School Lunch program.

Interested families can find more information about the program and apply online on the NOSF website at www.nosf.org. For more information please contact Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048(419) 720-7048. Deadline to apply for the 2016-2017 school year is Friday, April 29, 2016.

Pauline Kynard... continued from page 3

"One of the reasons why the Art Tatum Resource Center has such a deep and rich collection is because Pauline and I traveled to African-American bookstores in Detroit and Cleveland during the early years of the Center's development," recalled Dowdell.

"Pauline was passionate about the Center's collection and programs. As the manager of Main Library, I wanted to be an example not only to Pauline, but all of the African-American staff at the library. I was so proud to see her graduate from library school and how her career progressed through the years. She never stopped striving to be the best manager she could be. In the days and weeks to come, those of us close to her will remember so many things we shared. She loved her family and the library. I can still hear her asking, 'Darcy (her nickname for me), what do you think about this? Dowdell added.

Pauline was also known for her programmatic thrust in propelling successful annual Kwanzaa celebrations and standing-room-only Black History Month events.

In 2003, this article's author - a former *Blade* journalist who interviewed Pauline numerous times on black his-

tory, captured a moment of introspection during coverage of one of many Kwanzaa celebrations hosted by the late Pauline Kynard. Here, Pauline reflects:

"Throughout the year, I usually concentrate on one or two of the (Kwanzaa) principles, depending on what I'm doing in my life. This year, I've been especially concentrating on the principle Nia, or purpose, and asking myself questions around having more purpose in my life and career," Pauline said.

Her life was indeed already full of purpose.

Political analyst and radio personality **Schylar Meadows** described Pauline as a steward and cultivator of the black community whose legacy will forever be the Tatum Center.

Longtime NAACP leader **WilliAnn Moore** said of Pauline's passing: "We have lost a great mind and contributor to the Toledo community."

Perhaps it was Kathleen Greely, of The Interna-

tional Black Summit, Inc., who explained Pauline's life most profoundly:

"In every black commUNITY there is someone that holds the space for commitment to commUNITY and sharing the kind of research that makes teachers and parents proud of what their youth submits or recites in class or on stage. Ms. Kynard has been responsible for a great many good grades and great proposals.

"She was our modern-day vanguard - the unsung hero in the Toledo commU-NITY that worked in the right place at the right time. I would not be surprised if there are hundreds of children (some that have now become adults), that have expanded their literary works or interest in literary arts due to the life or time spent at Kent or Mott Branch Library having worked with Ms. Kynard."

At press time, family members were making funeral and service arrangements with The House of Day Funeral Services www.houseofday.com. Surviving are her daughter, Shanika Kynard; sons, Shaun and Shamar Kynard, who works at the Sylvania Branch Library; sisters, Tamara McNeal and Denise "Cookie" Wraggs; brothers, Bobby and Roland McNeal, John and Jerry Johnson, and Roger Daniels, and one granddaughter whom she was devoted to named "Nene."

Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Governmental Affairs and Media Strategist, compiled this special tribute for The Truth newspaper on behalf of Pauline Kynard's Library family.



Education Section • Education Section

Books 4 Buddies Sponsors East Toledo Event

Special to The Truth

Books 4 Buddies believes education is a global responsibility, last week they proved it.

Books 4 Buddies (B4B), a nonprofit literacy organization, sponsored its Books/Buddies/Blankets event last Wednesday for the residents of Birmingham Terrace on the city's east side. The community center became a global hub as artifacts from Africa, international students from seven countries, and a storyteller from The Democratic Republic of the Congo transformed the space.

B4B President and Co-Founder Laneta Goings received homemade, kidsized blankets from Bud Hite, executive director of the Correctional Treatment Facility. The felt blankets of assorted colors, with coordinating wraparound ties, were made by residents of the treatment facility.

Book Ambassadors, the young men representing B4B, then teamed with area international students from the American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES) to distribute the blankets and books to children who were present. This occurred after the ACES students themselves received orange B4B t-shirts and wristbands like their American counterparts. They immediately put them on, symbolic of both their global responsibility to educate and their inclusion into the B4B family.

The students participating included three B4B ambassadors: Ivan Dye, Mondo Arce and Andrew Hoppenjans, all of St. John's Jesuit High School. The ACES students participating were Ferial Alagha (Palestine), Mariam Cisse (Mali), Muhaimina Omar (Tanzania), Alex Peralta (Spain), all of Scott High School, Loay Alarab (Lebanon) of Start High School, Joseph Kebbie (Sierre Leone) of Toledo Technology Academy and Marina Denali (Brazil) of Clay High School.

Local ACES coordinators Tracee Ellis of Toledo and Val Virag of Oregon attended with their international students.

The students, staged in a semicircle around the children, read to youngsters as they munched on cookies, mini-candy bars and other fun treats provided by

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Antoine Kabwasa spins a tale or two





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Education Section • Education Section

Unleash the Next Generation of Homeowners: Renegotiate Student Loan Debt

By Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)

Drive through the neighborhoods of Ohio. You will observe thousands of vacant homes devoid of a generation of aspiring young homeowners.

The opportunity for this generation to buy a first home has been thwarted by sluggish income growth in the job market often made worse by the overcharge of student loan debt. That debt has put homeownership out of reach for millions of creditworthy borrowers.



All across America, this story repeats itself. Millions of habitable homes sit unoccupied.

In 2014, the percentage of houses sold to first-time homebuyers dropped to 33 percent, the lowest level in three decades. These separate but related conditions retard economic growth, depressing home purchases across our country. These trends must be reversed. Debtors must become equity stakeholders.

The current, slow recovery is the first since World War II in which housing has not led our economy forward. At the end of last year, nearly 17 million homes sat vacant in the United States.

That's enough empty homes to house the combined populations of Ohio and Indiana. Vacant structures also drag down adjacent property values and contribute to a downward spiral in neighborhood stability and worth.

Last year, more than 57,000 homes sat vacant in my congressional district alone. Just in October 2015, there were more than 5,300 homes in my home state of Ohio that remained on the

market for nine months or longer. Those homes have a combined value of \$1.9 billion. These under-invested assets represent a vast, untapped source of wealth creation for families and our nation.

Meanwhile, student debt in the U.S. currently totals \$1.3 trillion. More than 40 million Americans have at least one outstanding student loan, a number that is up significantly from 29 million Americans just 10 years ago. Student loan debt is weighing down millions of young families, effectively locking out their buying power to purchase their first home, the most common way in which Americans have grown wealth in previous eras.

There is a lending instrument already in widespread use that could serve as a bridge for creditworthy student borrowers to become homeowners: the home mortgage. This common tool has the power over time to transform the stream of student loan repayments by creditworthy individuals into homeownership.

Building a road forward for student debt holders through the home mortgage instrument would require cooperation of three federal departments: the Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Treasury Department.

This presents a surmountable challenge. An initial test of this concept could take the form of a pilot project directed through HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Creditworthy federal student debt holders could be connected with available housing properties held by or serviced through the federal government or local county land banks.

By arranging prudent financing alternatives that recalculate terms, debt-to-income ratios, mortgage interest rates and other factors, the FHA could transition shorter-term student debt into longer-term home ownership. The economic and financial gains are potentially even greater in the long run as housing values rise.

Over time, participants would help restore neighborhoods, transform their debt to equity, buoy property values locally and improve the FHA ledger simply by maintaining and investing in a home.

The status quo has created a permanent debtor class of millions of student borrowers. This is not in the public interest. Instead, America needs home equity stakeholders. If America continues to do nothing, thousands more student debt holders will live, work and eventually retire without ever escaping the burden of their debt. At the same time, first-time housing purchases will continue to be retarded, and our neighborhood housing stock deteriorates.

Congress has the power to release the debt stranglehold on the next generation.

Let's transform student loan repayments into equity stakeholders. We have the resources, the power, a compelling economic interest and a moral responsibility to do something about unshackling the aspiring generation. Let's get started.

Kaptur has represented Ohio's 9th Congressional District since 1983. She sits on the Appropriations Committee. This article is reprinted with permission from The Hill newspaper





Education Section • Education Section Sect

OACTA Announces 2016 Law Student Diversity Scholarships

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA), is pleased to announce its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program open to incoming second and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, Pan Asian and Native American students enrolled at Ohio law schools. Incoming second and third-year female law students enrolled at Ohio law schools are also eligible regardless of race or ethnicity. Other criteria for the scholarship include:

- · Academic achievement in law school;
- · Professional interest in civil defense practice; and
- Service to community and to the cause of diversity.

Up to three scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each will be awarded to successful applicants. Applicants are required to submit a completed application, law school transcript and a cover letter addressing the following: academic, personal and professional accomplishments, and why they should be selected as a recipient of the scholarship. Appli-

cants may submit up to three letters of recommendation.

The completed application and all other requested material must be received by April 15, 2016. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Winners will be announced in June, 2016. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the OACTA Annual Meeting in November. The 2016 OACTA Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application can be found at www.oacta.org.

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys is an organization of attorneys, corporate executives and managers who devote a substantial portion of their time to the defense of civil lawsuits and the management of claims against individuals, corporations and governmental entities. The mission of OACTA is to promote fairness, excellence, and integrity in the civil justice system by providing resources and education to attorneys and others dedicated to the defense of civil actions. OACTA believes that a diverse membership makes a stronger organization. OACTA encourages diversity in all aspects of its activities and is committed to nurturing a culture that supports and promotes diversity.

How to Create Family Fun Using Technology

Special to The Truth

From long weekends to birthdays to rainy days in the house, family time together is what you make of it. Now more than ever, technology can help us get creative with how to make time with family more meaningful, and then help us capture all the fun so the memories last far longer than just a moment.

Here are a few ways to use technology to power some family fun with your loved ones.

Make Things to Share

Interactive computers such as Sprout by HP are recreating what it means to make things by merging the physical and digital worlds. Sprout is what HP calls an Immersive Computer; it comes with a touch screen, touch mat, overhead projector, HD camera and 3D scanner.

With Sprout, you can grab items from the real world -- like your child's birthday cake or lunchbox -- and easily scan them into the device. There are several different free apps available that can help you create, learn, interact and share.

Do-It-Yourself Decorating

If you're in the mood to get crafty with the family, you can make non-traditional items such as party favors out of leftover sprinkles from birthday cakes you bake for loved ones. JoJotastic.com blog-

LEGAL SERVICES

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[2] JOB DISCRIMINATION INCLUDING AGE, SEX AND RACE

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ger, Joanna Hawley, doesn't throw away leftover ingredients; instead she recycles them for a decorating project. Take her lead by throwing some sprinkles on the touch mat to scan, print and cut the

...continued on page 13





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Education Section • Education Section

StoryCorps... continued from page 5

Washington, D.C. In this way, every personal history can become a permanent part of U.S. history.

Until recently, would-be historians had to travel to official Story-Corps Collection Booths to record and submit stories. But last year, StoryCorps developed an app available on any smart phone. The app guides participants to develop interview questions, select a partner, record their interview, save it for themselves, and submit it for archiving in the Library of Congress. This made it possible for individuals and groups to contribute from virtually anywhere, any time.

The StoryCorps in Toledo collection will be part of this national history collection. It will also be housed in the Local History Division of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

Branches of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library will also host story recording sessions. Everyone is encouraged to think about who he or she would like to interview, and bring that person to a session at a library, or contact StoryCorps in Toledo to set up a session.

Committee members see the project as contributing to national healing as well as local understanding. "Nationally, I hope to see people connect with one another for strength based on the stories recorded," said Avery.

Committee member Rahwae Shuman, Toledo educator and chairman of the Toledo Truth Telling Project, sees StoryCorps as a vehicle for the truth telling necessary for national healing. "Truth telling is a revolutionary act," said Shuman. "It is an essential component of justice. Without truth, justice is impossible. The truth reconciles opposing factions. We need truth in America today."

The StoryCorps in Toledo project has potential to expand throughout the City and to continue far beyond its current focus on police-community relations. Toledo has been and is a city of immigrants. That is why organizations including Welcome Toledo-Lucas County have signed on to help make sure stories are recorded and shared now and in months and years to come.

But for now, StoryCorps in Toledo hopes to convince all Toledoans, of all walks of life, and with both positive and negative experiences in police and community relations, to share their stories. As Blakely said, "People want their stories heard." StoryCorps in Toledo is ready to listen.

StoryCorps in Toledo is the outreach/community engagement event featured at this year's MLK Day Celebration. StoryCorps in Toledo is led by representatives from the City of Toledo Board of Community Relations, Toledo Police Department, Pickett Academy and Robinson Elementary (TPS) School Hubs, University of Toledo Program in Theory and Social Foundations of Education, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Welcome Toledo-Lucas County, Les Robinson Productions, and \$1.50 Plus Store, in cooperation with U.S. Library of Congress StoryCorps Project (www.storycorps.org). Contact JeTahn Avery, Pickett Academy Hub Director, at 419-944-5043 to volunteer to help with StoryCorps in Toledo.

The MLK Celebration will take place Monday, January 18, from 9-11 am, in Savage Arena at the University of Toledo, with a free community lunch following. Community members can sign up to record their stories and can learn more about the StoryCorps in Toledo project before or after the celebration. Look for tables in the Savage Arena lobby. Or call or text Avery at 419-944-5043 to arrange to record an interview, or for your organization to host a recording event.



Contact: Lynne Hamer, Ph.D, UT Program in Theory and Social Foundations of Education, 419-283-8288 or 419-530-7749 or lynne. hamer@utoledo.edu



Les Robinson, Erma Blakely, Anita Madison, and JeTahn Avery

Books 4 Buddies... continued from page 8

LMHA. Young Kebbie was especially entertaining as he read "What is a Dinosaur?" His enthusiasm, his expressive eyes and a smile reminiscent of the diamonds found in his West African country, left the children craving more.

The highlight of the afternoon however, was the storytelling of "Papa" Antoine Kabwasa of The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although dressed in western attire, it was not hard to imagine "Papa" Antoine in ancestral garb, as he held an African shaker filled with beans, in his right hand. The periodic sound from the shaker blended nicely with his thick accent as he captivated his audience with two stories from his homeland.

The first, "Why the Gorilla has no Tail", (he was too preoccupied when they were handed out), was an interactive narrative complete with dance steps and prompts for audience participation. The next, "Pali Pali the Bird and the Mask", was more traditional in style and fit well with his grandfatherly manner. Both stories taught a lesson and both mesmerized the approximately 50 people in attendance.

Books/Buddies/Blankets were primarily for the children, but no one left empty-handed. Even their parents received buckets full of cleaning supplies and other practical household items.

Thanks to Melanie L. Johnson, Family Service Coordination Specialist at LMHA, Captain T.O. Walker, Lucas County Sheriff's Department and Dr. Christine Smallman, Blade in Education Director, for all their hard work in making this an awesome event.

Even in Toledo, education is our global responsibility.





YWCA Announces 2016 Milestones Honorees

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio has announced its 2016 Milestones Honorees and, in doing so, has reached its own milestone – for the first time in the 21-year history of the awards, three of the seven honorees are women of color.

This year's honorees are Baker O'Brien for arts, Kathleen Zouhary for business, Julie Rubini for education, Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson for government; Pam Oatis for the sciences, Celia Williamson, Ph.D for social services and Adrienne Green for volunteerism.

Hicks-Hudson, Green and Williamson are African American.

Hicks-Hudson, a native of Hamilton, OH, who arrived in Toledo after earning a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a law degree from the University of Iowa, has long been involved in government service – both on the city and state level – in a variety of positions.

She won election to Toledo City Council in 2011 and while serving as president of that body was thrust into the mayor's office upon the death of then Mayor D. Michael Collins in early 2015. She won election in her own right this past November with a vote total exceeding that of the second and third place candidates – both former mayors – combined.

Green, a native of Washington, DC who earned a degree in industrial engineering from North Carolina AT & T, is an operations leader in building solutions at Owens Corning. She relocated from New York to Toledo over 10 years ago, where she had led the project management group in Research and Development for Johnson & Johnson.

During her time in Toledo, Green has been a ProMedica Toledo Hospital Board member, a Read for Literacy executive board member and has been an active member in other women organizations (The Toledo Chapter of the Links, vice president for Membership; Zonta International, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated). She is a lifelong volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and past board chairman for the local affiliate.



Celia Williamson



Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson



Adrienne Green

Family Fun... continued from page 11

images into your favorite shape. Then, tie each piece to ribbon and voila, festive party favors to hang on the wall for any birthday party!

Beat Rainy Day Boredom

Spending time at home can be a nostalgic, cheerful experience. But between baking cookies together and watching movies, there are bound to be stretches of free time -- especially for the kids. Borrow a few tips from LunchboxDad.com blogger, Beau Coffron, who uses creative boredom busters to keep the kids busy! Like Beau and his family, you can explore apps like Crayola DJ to brighten up a rainy day. The kids will love interacting with the projected turnstiles on the touch mat to show off their musical skills.

Direct a Family Video

Give the traditional family

video a new twist by recording quirky moments and piecing them together on apps like Video Capture. Lunchbox Dad likes the eye-catching Dream-Works Story Producer app that lets you create and direct your own How to Train Your Dragon animated film. You can even choose the difficulty level. Try challenging the family to see who can get the fastest time!

Don't Forget To Share

When used imaginatively, technology can unite the family to inspire new, meaningful traditions.

Celebrate your creations on social media by sharing the hashtag #GoMakeThings and see what others have created with their families!

Courtesy StatePoint

Green is currently chairman of the United Way of Greater Toledo Women's Initiative, an affinity group for the local chapter since 2001 that mobilizes women to become leaders, philanthropists and advocates on issues concerning women and children.

Celia Williamson, Ph.D., University of Toledo associate professor of social work, has made it her life's work to educate the community about the dangers of prostitution and the way children and women are victimized by the cycle of violence and drug addiction.

The research of the former social worker, who graduated from Woodward High School and earned degrees in social work from UT, Case Western and Indiana University, resulted in the formation of Second Chance in 1993, an outreach program to assist the victims of prostitution.

Her efforts have included working with the Ohio State Trafficking Commission and developing statistics for trafficking victims, creating a prevention video and curriculum for use in schools and agencies that assist children and serving as the chairman of the Lucas County Trafficking Coalition

Williamson has also used conferences, roundtable discussions and theatrical productions to educate not only the Toledo area but also the world about the needs and risks of those victimized by the commercial sex industry.

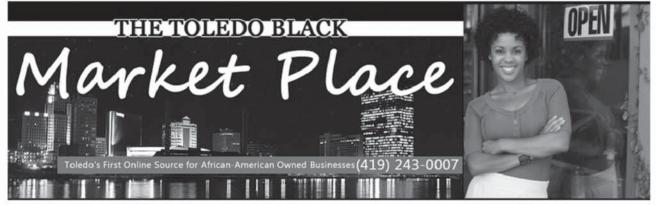
The YWCA 21st Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon will be held at the SeaGate Convention Center on Thursday, March 10 at 11:30 a.m.

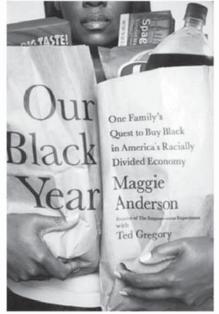
"The members of the YWCA and I are honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award," said Lisa McDuffie, YWCA president and CEO. "We invite the community to join us for this awards luncheon and help us pay tribute to this year's Milestones Honorees."



Celia Williamson, Julie Rubini, Kathleen Zouhary, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Pam Oatis, Adrienne Green













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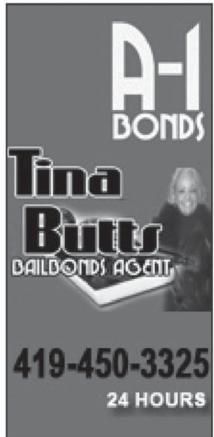
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January 13, 2016

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PROCUREMENT ASSOCIATE

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is seeking experienced applicants for Procurement Associate. Visit www.lucasmha. org/Employment and click on the appropriate job link for details. Deadline: 01/17/16. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. An Equal Opportunity Employer.



HVAC/R TECHNICIAN

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is seeking experienced applicants for HVAC/R Technician. Visit www.lucasmha. org/Employment and click on the appropriate job link for details. Deadline: 01/10/16. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. An Equal Opportunity Employer.



Special Notice

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted January 4-8, 2016 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

Must be 18 years of age or over,
 Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
 Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for a Manager of Resident & Special Services and a Service Coordination Specialist. For complete details, visit www.lucasmha.org/Employment. Only online applications received at the above website by 01/10/16, will be accepted. These are Section 3 covered positions 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, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



Facilities/Construction Positions The Toledo Zoo

Facilities Field Superintendent

Provide field management support consisting of organizing, coordinating, scheduling, and inspecting the work performed by employees, contractors, and their subcontractors as they relate to all types of capital and operating projects for the Toledo Zoo, ensuring compliance with contract documents, rules, regulations, ordinances, and procedures. Using project design and contractual documents prepared by the project manager or project management team for a specific project, ensure that all field activities comply with the design intent and that work is coordinated to meet project completion and organizational objectives

Facilities Construction Project Manager

Position has full accountability for implementing and managing multiple mid to large size capital projects and various repair and maintenance projects for the Toledo Zoo, ensuring compliance with rules, regulations, ordinances and procedures. Reports to the Director of Facilities & Planning. Facilitates design, plans, bids, contracts, manages, budgets, and supervises the construction of new construction projects, and capital repair and maintenance projects ranging from approximately \$10,000 to \$10,000,000.

For a complete job description for each position, visit www.toledozoo.org/jobs. Resumes must be submitted to resume@toledozoo.org by January 19, 2016. The Toledo Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace and offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION/ HUMAN RESOURCES

Metroparks of Toledo has an opening for an Employee Resources Coordinator starting at \$14.35 with benefits, up to 35 hours per week, weekdays, at Wildwood Metropark. Duties include administrative support, coordination of hiring activities, record keeping, benefits administration. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view the job description, position requirements and apply online by January 15, 2016. EOE

Associate Veterinarian The Toledo Zoo

Under the direction of the Chief Veterinarian/ Director of Animal Health & Nutrition, this individual is responsible for providing care to all zoo animals. The essential functions include: performing routine, preventative, emergency and surgical care, prescribing medication, and conducting clinical pathology and post mortem evaluations. Will mentor veterinary students and interns and also review and develop veterinary protocols. As necessary will assist in managing the commissary operations, evaluate nutrition programs and diet formulations and provide input on animal behavior training, exhibit design and emergency escape protocols. Effective interdepartmental communication skills necessary to assist veterinary department staff, curators, zookeepers, and other staff in attaining relevant goals. The minimum criteria requirement includes a Doctoral degree in veterinary medicine and one year of practical experience in a zoo facility. Must be able to obtain a State of Ohio Veterinary License, USDA veterinary accreditation and a DEA license. Being boarded by the American College of Zoological Medicine is preferred or must become boarded within five years of hire. The Toledo Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace and offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

For consideration submit a resume along with credentials to resume@toledozoo.org.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY16-25, (Project # 1020-16-151) for Root Bridge Replacement for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/ or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 21, 2016. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Richard McGuckin of DGL Consulting Engineers at 419-535-1015. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$1,015,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$1,015,000.00.

AKA Chapter Installs New Officers and Rolls Out Vision for Next Two Years

The Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® held the first meeting of 2016 with newly-installed officers and committee chairmen at the Kent Branch Public Library on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

Under the direction of new President Felicia Dunston and Vice President Morgannia Dawson, the vision and strategic goals for the 2016-2017 term were rolled out. Following the meeting, chapter members gathered to enjoy a time of fellowship and a light brunch.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc ® was founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by black college women in America. The sorority has a current membership of over 250,000 worldwide.

This year, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® will celebrate "108 years of Service to All Mankind." Zeta Alpha Omega, along with undergraduate chapters, Alpha Lambda at the University of Toledo and Iota Iota at Bowling Green State University, will host a Founders' Day Observance, "Celebrating New Dimensions of Service" on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. This event will take place at the Radisson Hotel, at The University of Toledo, 3100 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, OH 43614. The guest speaker will be Schylbea J. Hopkins, 26th Great Lakes Regional Director and the guest soloist is Marcia Bowen-Jones. The chairman for this event is Angeline Murry and the co-chairman is Dr. Debra Fulton, DDS.

For tickets, please contact Angeline Murry at (419) 262-1093(419) 262-1093 or visit our website at http:// www.zetaalphaomega.com/



Seating left to right: Denise Black-Poon, Great Lakes Educational Advancement Coordinator; Pam Green- Jones Correspondence; Lisa Dubose, Parliamentarian; Felicia Dunston, President; Morgannia Dawson, Vice President; Katrina Barry, Secretary; Janece Woulard, Assist Secretary,

Standing left to right: Margaret Huntley, Chaplain; Julia Holt, Door Keeper; Desiree McGee, Financial Secretary; Rochelle Watkins, Graduate Advisor; Barbara Tucker, Member at Large; Pamela Wilson, Courtesy; Nicole Williams, Attendance Registrar; Jacalyn Brown, Treasurer; Mary Dawson, Historian and Donnetta M. Carter, Public Relations



Committee Chairmen - Standing left to right: Donnetta Carter, MLK Impact Day; Deborah Washington, Ph.D, Sisterly Relations; Clara Petty, Fundraising; Andrea Price, Standards; Debra Fulton, DDS, Protocol; Frances Collins, Ph.D, Leadership; Katina Johnson, Strategic Planning; Iris Pat Page, Audit; Paula Martin, Environmental Ownership; Mary Dawson, History and Cheryl Wallace. Health Promotion

