



Local and National News

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 39, No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 1, 2016

# 51st Annual Debutante Cotillion



Miss Debutante 2016 Daijah Blackburn (second from left) with 2nd Runner up Caitlyn Stuart (left) and 1st Runners Up Safiya Dzotsi and Myranda Duhart

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# Legislative Black Caucus Introduces Bill to Remove Slavery from Ohio Constitution

*Special to The Truth*

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) President and State Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) and members of the OLBC last week introduced a resolution to remove slavery references from the Ohio constitution, calling the references archaic and offensive to all Ohioans, including those whose ancestors were kidnapped and held captive as slaves.

"No slavery, no exceptions," said Reece. "Over 150 years after our nation abolished slavery, there can be no acceptable circumstance for slavery in our state, and our constitution must reflect that. In 2016, this General Assembly should give Ohioans the opportunity to take slavery out of our state's guiding document."



State Rep. Alicia Reece

Section six of the Ohio constitution's Bill of Rights says "there shall be no slavery in this State; nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime."

"Any form of slavery, regardless of the circumstance, is immoral and abhorrent and should not be condoned by the state constitution," said State Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron). "The people of Ohio should have the chance to remove the antiquated, offensive slavery reference from our state's founding document."

Should the resolution receive approval from three-fifths of both the House and Senate, a statewide proposal to remove the slavery reference from the state constitution would be put on the ballot this November.

"This issue is about more than language – it's about our values and what we stand for as a state," said House Democratic Leader Fred Strahom (D-Dayton). "A constitution is not just an arrangement of governing laws, but a set of fundamental principles that guides its people. Slavery has no rightful place in our state's founding document."

The OLBC also announced they will hold their decennial convention, required by the caucus' bylaws, from July 15 to 17 in Cincinnati.

"As we continue to grapple with modern day forms of slavery such as human

trafficking, it is important that our state constitution does not condone any form of involuntary servitude," said Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo).



Rep. Michael Ashford

"OLBC legislators will be introducing companion resolutions in both the House and the Senate that will remove the mentioning of slavery from the Ohio Constitution," said Ohio Sen. and Senate Assistant Democratic Leader Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus). "The implementation of this legislation is critical as we attempt to move Ohio forward. Having the following six words, 'unless for the punishment of crime' stricken from the Constitution will help rid ourselves of any vestiges of our dark and brutal past. We cannot continue to allow this exception to remain in the Ohio Constitution and we will not allow ourselves to go backward. We will fight this issue until the victory is won."

## Community Calendar

### April 11 – June 20

Mott Mane Mondays: A 5-week series providing participants with resources to aid in the care, styling and maintenance of African-American hair; Light refreshments provided at no charge; Mott Branch Library; Register at ToledoLibrary.org; Topics include 04.11 – Films and Forums, 04.25 – DIY Den, 05.23 – Natural Hair Salon, 06.06 – Expressions of Naturalism (poetry), 06.20 – SWAP & Shop: 419-259-5230 or 419-984-0395

### June 2

Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood Meeting: 6 pm; The Padua Center; "Neighborhood involvement in the garden"

### June 5

St. Martin de Porres Neighborhood 25th Jubilee Picnic: After 10:30 am Mass to 3 pm; On parish grounds: 419-241-4544  
Mt. Nebo 23rd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock; 4 pm service – guests Pastor Floyd Smith of Calvary Baptist and Pastor Clifford Mayes of Macedonia MBC

### June 8

Mt. Nebo 23rd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock; 7 pm service guest Pastor Tim Pettaway of Walk the Word

### June 12

New Prospect Baptist Church 51st Church Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest preacher Rev. Anthony Reed and Shiloh Baptist  
St. Paul SME Zion Church Concert: Praise and worship with musician Lesley Talley; 5 pm  
Joshua Generation Family Worship Center Friends and Family Day: 2:30 pm; Dinner served after worship  
Mt. Nebo 23rd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock; 9 am service guest Bishop TI Winfree of The Body of Christ Refuge; 11:30 am service guest Bishop Marshall of Smyrna Baptist of Columbus, OH; 4 pm service guest Pastor Kenny Flowers of Greater Mt. Moriah of Detroit

### June 17-18

St. Philip Lutheran Church The Hope Experience: 6 to 8 pm nightly; Friday night guest preacher Rev. Chris Bodley; Saturday night gospel jazz band; Fellowship, music, food: 419-475-2835

### June 18

United Church of God Women's Retreat: 10 am to 2 pm; "Revitalized by God's Spirit;" Guest speaker Mary J. Wood; Lunch included: 567-316-7360 or calvinucc@yahoo.com



*Save the Date!*  
*July 16, 2016*

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## Say, What Is You...?

By Lafe Tolliver

Guest Column

If you read the national papers and magazines, the "Bathroom Wars" are heating up.

What, you say, are the "Bathroom Wars?" It will be a contentious and pitched battle as to who will finally win this debate of, "What Is You?" and, "Why Is You In This Bathroom!"

What is 'you', boils down to this: There is a stir from the White House and down to the Outhouse (no pun intended) that persons should be allowed to use any bathroom of "his" or "her" choice or how they identify as to their sexual gender as opposed to the gender of their birth records.

So, what you are seeing is a movement by the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Queer and Transgender) community that they believe their civil rights are being violated if they can not rest their cans on the toilet seats of their choice or use the urinal of their own choosing.

Years ago, such a discussion would be filed under, Oddities From the National Inquirer but not today. Not today in a politically toxic environment where the catchword of the day is being, politically correct or politically obtuse...whatever one you choose.

Now, those who are deemed gender benders and are not sure of their sexual identities want the option to use whatever bathroom that fits their mood or fancy.

If you identify as transgender, you especially want the sole liberty to make that choice and dare anyone to bar you from using the bathroom stall of your choice.

And, if you are denied such access, you will scream and squawk and make up the fib that your civil rights are being violated!

In this author's humble opinion, it is a scam argument because two things are being inartfully presented. One, that this is a civil rights/discrimination issue and two, that a person who is sexually confused should be able to do as they please.

Well, first of all, transgender categorization is not recognized under any federal statute that prohibits discrimination based upon bathroom choices. The LGBTQ community is trying to graft onto current federal civil rights statutes an additional protected classification.

Secondly, the law does not allow any person to choose any restroom by which or in which to, "do their business" based upon their perception of what sexual gender they want to belong to.

The implications of this gender bending definitions of transgender choices and those who simply identify with a sexual orientation other than what they were born with is fraught with complications.

Such as? Who defines a transgender person and is such a person really a transgender? Also, can anyone simply raise their hand and say, "I feel like a male or a female and want to use the bathroom of the opposite sex." Would you need a medical card indicating that you are a transgender person or does society simply accept your word for it and allow you unrestricted bathroom privileges?

If so, what must be done to protect those who are genuinely male or a female from a pretender/offender or a person who is simply masquerading as a male or a female for the fun of it.

From literature that I have read, some in the LGBTQ community are essentially seeking a finding or a favorable opinion that the distinction between male and female should be obliterated along with any male or female pronouns such as: she, he, male, female, father, mother, his, her... etc.

Some see it as a way to "free" ourselves from the limitations of labeling people or being cut asunder from cultural norms regarding the narrowly defined channels of male and female.

If there is to be a cultural and political war over such gender bending and elimination of the roles of the sexes and how we label the roles of the sexes, the war

... continued on page 12

## Man's Best Friends Are Bigger Threats Than Transgender Persons

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Never let the facts get in the way of a good story- certainly our intrepid guest columnist doesn't.

In order to play into the hands of the fearmongers, who would have the general public believing that that transgender persons represent some sort of threat to the good order of our society, our columnist has opted to create his own wide range of "facts" - be they scientific, historical or theological.

Let's start with the scientific and the whimsical nature our columnist has ascribed to transgender persons - those who want to "use whatever bathroom that fits their mood or fancy." Since our columnist is either unable to research scientific information or is disinclined to treat people whom he does not understand with any modicum of respect - or both - it's time we enlightened him on a few facts about transgender persons.

Transgender does not describe sexual orientation or desire, it describes gender identity. A small number of humans, less than one percent, are born with sexual genitalia that does not line up with the inner identity. It is possible to be born with male genitalia and female chromosomes - and vice versa. Brain research now tells us that it is possible to be born with female genitalia, female chromosomes and a male brain. For most of the population, all three factors line up but for a few, there is a variation in one or two of these indicators.

It is also possible to be born with genitalia that are ambiguous or incomplete and when this happens, more in the past than now, surgeons would often make a calculated decision about whether the baby is a boy or girl and, based upon that guess, surgically determine the gender, often enough not matching genitals with similar chromosomes.

We are still debating the origin of homosexuality, whether it is primarily nature or nurture, but there is no debate about gender. Within moments of conception chromosomal variances occur.

Secondly, transgender persons are not sexual predators - the typical profile of a sexual predator is an adult male who is heterosexual and possibly married. There is absolutely no statistical data that links transgender persons to pedophilia. Our children, sad to say, are in much more danger from Christian pastors than they are from transgender persons.

And, thirdly, as we speak of Christianity, we are completely at a loss to figure out how where one pees has been an issue in the past for Christians. Scour the Bible as one might, nowhere is it mentioned that people ought to pee in any particular or designated place. Despite what our columnist writes about the "hundreds of years of history and thousands of years of Judeo-Christian thought and belief," no such history actually exists about bathroom practices.

Had our columnist done just a brief bit of research, he would have

... continued on page 12

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# Community Reacts to Proposed Changes to Board of Community Relations By-Laws

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The City of Toledo Board of Community Relations exists, according to its mission statement in part "to create a harmonious environment." Late-ly harmony has been a missing ingredient in the environment surrounding the decades-old board.



Cecelia Adams, Ph.D.

Recently the City of Toledo's Law Department has reviewed the by-laws for the BCR and submitted some changes that Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and others in her administration will be reviewing and possibly forwarding to Toledo City Council for their input.

The two key elements in the Law Department's proposals are a change in the way the executive director is appointed and the BCR's access to outside legal counsel. Currently the executive director is appointed by the city's mayor on "the recommendation of the Board" and serves until "removed by the Mayor on the concurrence of the majority of the Board."

The Law Department has recommended that the Board be omitted from the process and that the decision be made by the mayor alone. In addition, the Law Department has also proposed that the executive director's salary, and the salary of other Board employees, shall no longer be "fixed by Council." This proposal would place the executive director completely under control of the mayor.

As for outside legal counsel, currently the Board has the ability "to retain ... independent legal counsel aside from the City Law Department whenever the City or any of its officers or agencies is a respondent before the Board or is in an adversarial relationship with the Board."

The Law Department has proposed that that authority be eliminated altogether.

The thrust of the Law Department's proposed changes go to the heart of the independence of the Board of Community Relations to the delight of a few and the consternation of many.

"The Board of Community Relations has been basically autonomous," said Toledo Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, Ph.D. "I don't understand why these changes are being proposed at this time or why they need to be made. An autonomous group is more capable of being unbiased and objective. It could lose its objectivity if it reports to the administration."

"My hope is that this community understands and supports the importance of keeping this Board independent," said Lisa Canales, vice president of the Washington Local Board of Education; chairman of the Hispanic Affairs Commission for the City of Toledo; president of the Lucas County Hispanic Democratic Caucus and board member for the Ohio Hispanic/Latino Democratic Caucus. "This Board should always remain a voice for all Toledo citizens and not of any particular race or political party."

As a number of observers note, the key to the BCR's success in being able, as its mission statement says, to "intervene in conflicts and disputes by providing investigation, facilitation and mediation services," is its independence from the other parts of the City government.

Decades ago, a number of community leaders pulled together to ensure that the



Lisa Canales

BCR remained independent as a counterbalance to whatever the prevailing winds might sweep into elected office at the executive and legislative levels.

"Because we didn't want the administration to get into the Board," said Floyd Rose from his current home in Valdosta, Georgia. Rose was one of those who fought to ensure the independence of the Board years ago. "What would be the value of the Board now if any decision they make could be vetoed?" he asked of the possibility that such independence could be lost. "How is robbing the board of its independence going to solve anything?"

It's a sentiment echoed by others who were part of the struggle for Board independence in the 1960's in the aftermath of riots that devastated the central city.

"We were working to resolve race issues," said community activist Bernard "Pete" Culp of the reason the Board's independence has been so important in the years since. "Independence is very key when we are trying to resolve issues of race relations."

City Councilwoman Theresa M. Gabriel, another veteran of those days, also spoke of the need to maintain the Board's independence. "Times have changed but we still have some volatile issues between the races," said Gabriel. "I do not support or agree to decomposing the BCR."

The current full name of the Board is the Board of Community Relations and Affirmative Action. The Law Department has proposed dropping the Affirmative Action



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson

... continued on page 5

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*By-Laws... continued from page 4*

part of the name and, in fact, there is now a separate city government department responsible for the internal monitoring of issues related to hiring and equal treatment of employees.

Mayor Hicks-Hudson is mulling over the Law Department proposals noting that the changes have not come from her or her office.

"I want to hear from members of the Board and get their input," she said. "That's the way it should probably work and should be submitted to Council."

Hicks-Hudson did note that she feels that the procedure for the appointment of the executive director should probably not be changed – that is, appointed by the mayor with the recommendation of the Board.

She is not yet as sure about the elimination of the Board's access to outside legal counsel. "That historically made sense when the Board of Community Relations and Affirmative Action were together," she said. "I am not sure how important it is to have access to outside counsel given the current situation."

Part of that current situation, the mayor said, is the fact that the Board was originally "a creature of City Council under a city manager form of government." Now

that a strong mayor form of government exists, said Hicks-Hudson, "the whole idea is to update the by-laws to follow in line with the structure of the city charter."

The proposed change to the Board's by-laws are part of a regular review prescribed by the by-laws themselves. A section requires a review once every five years primarily to ensure that the racial and gender representation of the 26-member board reflects that of the community.

The Board members, through the office of Executive Director Linda Alvarado-Arce has also forwarded its own recommendations on proposed changes. Of overriding concern, said Alvarado-Arce, is ensuring that the board incorporate those of the disability community and the LGBTQ community.

However, Alvarado-Arce expressed concerns about the two key changes proposed by the Law Department. It's important, she said, "to have an outside voice" and that an executive director "doesn't have to worry about being fired without cause



Linda Alvarado-Arce

by the mayor."

It's also important, said Alvarado-Arce, for the Board to be able to hire outside counsel. She referenced the Flint, MI water situation as an example of when a Board such as hers would want to reach outside of a city's law department in order to investigate such an occurrence.

As she spoke of the overall value of the Board with its current independent status, Alvarado-Arce noted that such status enabled the Board to reach out to the community in ways that otherwise might not exist with a Board constantly seeking approval from the administration.

"We've been able to bring protesters into the mainstream," she says of the Board's efforts to work with the Black-LivesMatter movement and the LGBTQ community. "We are able to do something most cities struggle with; we are able to be proactive not reactive."

Over the next few days and weeks, the mayor's administration will be reviewing the changes proposed both by the Law Department and the Board while seeking further input from Board members.

"I worry about changes without any justifiable cause," said Councilwoman Adams summing up the concerns many in the community will have about altering the nature of the Board of Community Relations.

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# Temeaka Gray, PhD, , MBA, MSN, CNP, RN, VIP (Very Interesting Person)

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The question that has Temeaka Gray's attention and will for the foreseeable future is: "What works when we are talking about shared governance and communication?"

Gray, a nurse practitioner at A Woman's Answer, is an assistant professor at the University of Toledo teaching students within undergraduate, graduate and doctoral curricula in the nursing program. She owns Epiphany Consulting and Associates, LLC, is the chairman of the Diversity Committee at the UT College of Nursing and is a member of the UT Faculty Senate.

And, since she has so much time on her hands after dispensing with those duties, she naturally decided recently that she could take on a bit more. During a Sigma Theta Tau International (the Honor Society of Nursing) convention in Indianapolis, Gray applied for the 2016-2017 Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy, a highly selective, mentored leadership academy designed to foster academic career success, to promote nurse faculty retention, to encourage personal leadership development and to cultivate high-performing supportive work environments in academe.

Out of all the applicants from around the country, Gray was one of only 13 candidates accepted into the program for the year and the only African-American so honored. After acceptance she spent four days in Indianapolis undergoing extensive training with the help of leadership mentors and faculty advisors in order to "develop my own leadership skills, taking it to the next level" she says

Gray's long-term goal is to research the possibility of starting a dialogue about shared governance (collaboration in the nursing profession) and communication through the use of focus groups and surveys in order to uncover what people think of communication and how to best apply the lessons learned to everyday life – the media to use, the formality necessary to conduct effective communication, how communication aids in medical, legal and other academic departments.




*Temeaka Gray*

Gray earned her diploma in nursing from St. Vincent School of Nursing and her bachelor's from Lourdes College (now Lourdes University). She then went on to earn a masters in Business administration from Tiffin University, a masters in the science of Nursing from the University of Cincinnati and a doctorate in psychology from the University of the Rockies.


Gray has been an instructor at UT since the 2005/06 academic year rising to the position of assistant professor three years ago.

She is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses, STTI, the Order of the Eastern Star and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



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**Guest Speaker:** Jeffery L. Johnson  
Chief Minority Business Development Division

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**Time:** 1:00pm - 2:30pm

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Dr. Romules Durant, CEO/Superintendent, is pictured with this year's Valedictorians and Salutatorians.

Toledo Public Schools congratulates the Top 10 students from each of our high schools and extends best wishes to the entire Class of 2016 – your accomplishments stand as another shining example of why we are TPS PROUD!

### Bowsher High School

Bailey Allison Kohring  
Lindsey Ann Stockdale  
Andrea Mei-Wan Gassser  
Journie Louise Clark  
Caitlin Iris Yanney  
Makayla Nicole Price  
Caitlin Leigh Bibler  
Brandon Parker Swadling  
Sydney Rae Jarzeboski  
Jade Lynn Lathon

### Rogers High School

Kristen Fink  
Monay Sha'ron J. Wilson  
Becca Lustic  
Steven James Stull  
Akienreh Kechan Lee Johnson  
Payteon Tamera  
Daijah Lashae Blackburn  
Breonna D. Terry  
Noah Prossen  
Brianna Mechelle Smith-Pasker

### Scott High School

Blake Alyse Minter  
Kamaria Nicole Glover  
Mariam Cisse

Camari Sullivan  
Diane Erinette Hendricks  
Victoria Jones  
Alexis Moore  
Laqueisha Stribling  
Jemiah R. Peterson  
Ashley Miller

### Start High School

Meghan Elizabeth Vogt  
Miles Stephen Sibley  
Christopher Charles Dauer  
Austin Tyler Hill  
Haley Ann Nowowiejski  
Joshua Matthew Yeager  
Ethan Turner Pennywitt  
Victoria Faye Rinker  
Emily Marie Garza  
Emily Catherine Kerr

### Toledo Early College High School

Mariam Sami Abou-Dahech  
Marwa Issa Hassan  
Sarah Elizabeth Neeper  
Gabriella Renee Olivo  
Cassandra Larissa Fernandez  
Arianna Isabel Aranda  
Yasmina Ahmad

Diamonta Durand Seabron  
Xian Zhang  
Eireann Siobhan Garcia

### Toledo Technology Academy

Audrey Rose Ahrendt  
Olivia Synclair McFarlin  
Ryan Louis Danielak  
Dylan Patrick L ynn  
Michael Allan Thomas  
Samuel John Ciha  
Taylor June O'Toole  
Chelsea Garza  
Jacob William Vanwormer  
Jonathon Moscarello

### Waite High School

Kaitlyn Pearl Whitmer  
Brittany Marie McDaniel  
Jesus Porras  
Robert Lamar Lawson  
Anthony Abadia  
Brandon Michael Wagner  
Daniel Guadalupe Bautista Macias  
Hailey Shane Rollins  
Gregory Brian Matuszynski, II  
Bethany Renea Cox

### Woodward High School

Caleb Jon Fouts  
Lindsay Hackney  
Bryanna Jewell Nowak  
Kayla Mae Klempner  
Dylan Marshall Hill  
Colleen Jo Stamper  
Joseph Trevor Fields  
Ti-Jah Harris  
Hugo Fabian Rodriguez  
Alicia Wilma Flenoy

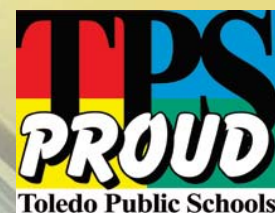
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### We also congratulate those students who received scholarships from the Toledo Public Schools' Foundation.

Edward Burzynski, Taylor O'Toole, Diamonta Seabron, Jose Merino, Andre Matthews, Devon Childress, Diane Hendricks, Semira Sawyer-Wilson, James Purley, Jada Bryant, Charlvon Gaston, Gregory Matuszynski II, Bethany Cox, Bryanna Nowak, KeJuan Johnson, Quanzelle Wyatt, Angela Byrd, Cassandra Fernandez, Camari Sullivan and Anthony Ashford



Thank you Eastern Michigan University for once again sponsoring our annual Celebration of Excellence dinner.



# AKA 1908 Playground Day

*Special to The Truth*

Double Dutch, jacks, fossil making, bird feeder construction, marshmallow insect crafts, coloring, goodie bags, and book give-a-ways were all a part of the AKA 1908 Playground Day at the Frederick Douglass Community Association on May 21, 2016.

This Playground Rededication and Community Day celebration was a collaborative effort between Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, the DCAn, The Junction Green Thumb Coalition, Power 109.9, Toledo Botanical Garden: Toledo Grows, Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Lucas County Juvenile Courts: CITE, the City of Toledo, Alternative Solutions, LLC and KPK Events Unlimited.

Swings were hung, flowers and trees were planted and fun was had by all in attendance. AKA 1908 Playground Day was celebrated not just in Toledo, Ohio on May 21, 2016, but in cities with AKA chapters across the United States. These playground restorations are an effort by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to

ensure that children have a safe and inviting place to play.

With the collaboration with the other nine agencies, under the direction of Alisha Smith, director of the FDCA, AKA members were able to restore and refresh a community playground. The ribbon cutting led by Felicia Dunston, president of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, was at high noon and launched the reopening of the FDCA playground into fun, excitement and memory lane.

This day was organized by Zeta Alpha Omega's Environmental Ownership committee: Vice-President/Program Chairman Morgannia Dawson, Committee Chairman Paula Martin, Co-Chairman Katina Johnson, London Weathers, Cheryl Phillips, Kimberley Fisher, Desiree McGee, Jacky Brown, Janece Woulard, Katrina Barry, Kristina Johnson, Treva Jeffries, Margaret Huntley and Dunston..



*The Ribbon Cutting*



## Summer 2016 updates effective June 5.

On Sunday, June 5, 2016, TARTA's summer route schedule will begin. As most routes will be affected by time changes, new timetables and maps are available at [TARTA.com/Summer2016](http://TARTA.com/Summer2016)



- **1/4 Ottawa Hills/Spencer Twp/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride**  
- routes 1 and 4 merging also adds weekend and holiday service in Ottawa Hills; timepoint at Franklin Park Mall only
- **2C Sylvania-Centennial/Franklin Park Mall** - schedule adjustments
- **3 North/South Crosstown** - morning schedule adjustments
- **8/29 Maumee/Waterville Call-A-Ride**  
- timepoint adjustments at Southwyck Blvd; Saturday hours adjusted for Maumee
- **15A Summit/Suder/Alexis** - schedule adjustments
- **15E Summit/Point Place via Alexis** - schedule adjustments
- **16 Alexis via Meijer** - schedule adjustments
- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile** - schedule adjustments
- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile** - schedule adjustments
- **24 Delaware/Kenwood via Westgate** - afternoon schedule adjustments
- **28 Indiana/Smead**  
- routing diverted from Dr Martin Luther King Jr Dr to Emerald Ave to serve the relocated Greyhound bus station
- **28/30 City Park/Indiana/Oakwood**  
- routing diverted from Dr Martin Luther King Jr Dr to Emerald Ave to serve the relocated Greyhound bus station
- **34 Detroit/Byrne/Western via UTM**  
- routing changes at UTM; stops added to the north side of Area 46 and Hospital Dr near the Emergency Department
- **39M Monroe/Centennial-Sylvania** - schedule adjustments
- **43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTM**  
- routing changes at UTM; stops added to the north side of Area 46 and Hospital Dr near the Emergency Department





# Debutante Daijah Blackburn Crowned Miss Debutante 2016

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The 51st annual Debutante Cotillion sponsored by The Toledo Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. was held Saturday, May 28, 2016 at the Stranahan Theater.

Miss Debutante 2016 was Daijah Blackburn. She will graduate from Rogers high school and begin her college education at Spelman College. Her sponsor was Edwin Mabrey, she was presented by David Blackburn, escorted by James Purley Jr, and received over \$170,000 in scholarships.

There was a tie for first runner up between Debutantes Myranda Duhart and Safiya Dzotsi. The second runner up and second place talent winner was Debutante Caitlyn Stuart. Debutante Isis Walker placed first in talent, Debutante Sheyenne Warren placed third in talent, and Debutante Taylor Coleman earned Miss Congeniality.

...continued on page 15



2016 Miss Debutante Daijah Blackburn



Debutante BriAnna Smith Pasker and father Jon Paul Pasker Sr.



Crowning ceremony



2016 Debutante Ball Escorts



2016 Miss Debutante Daijah Blackburn and her family



2nd runner up Debutante Caitlyn Stuart, Miss Debutante Daijah Blackburn, and first runner ups Safiya Dzotsi and Myranda Duhart

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# American Baptist Men and American Baptist Women Host Breakfast Forum

By *Tricia Hall*

*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

Fellowship, discussion, and home cooking was on the menu for the American Baptist Men and American Baptist Women Breakfast Forum held May 28, 2016 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

"Men and women we need to get together. You really don't know what someone else in the congregation has gone through all week. They come in on Sunday for release and then return to the same problems. The love we show in God's house should be shown at our jobs and in our homes. In order for us to unite, we must care about each other at all times," explained Rev. Vensom Simpson, St. Paul Youth Minister, who organized the event to focus on church ministries.

The forum opened with prayer and breakfast, which was prepared by Rev. Simpson and a team of volunteers. American Baptist Men President Thomas Kerby and American Baptist Women President Debrah Gardner welcomed all guests in attendance. In addition to Rev. Simpson's discussion, the forum also addressed how important it is for church leaders, especially pastors, deacon board members and trustees to take domestic violence seriously.

"Abusers aren't just outside of the church walls, but inside as well. We need to stop these batterers, even if they are serving on the deacon board. These men attend Sunday church and then go home and beat their wives," said Minister Augustine Abbott.

She handed out graphs and support documents which explained religion and abuse. "The church is the pillar in the community, but we have to be trained on how to deal with domestic violence. She has to trust you with her secret and know you won't gossip about her. The church can no longer council these couples together, it will only anger him more afterwards. We have to equip ourselves, because abuse is real, spiritual abuse is real. Spiritual abuse includes harassment, misuse of religion for selfish reasons which can often isolate the victim," explained Minister Abbott.

Minister Abbott is the Project Access program coordinator at Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, she volunteers to organize training for religious leaders and advocates.



*Bobbie McDole, VP of American Baptist Men, Rev. Vensom Simpson, Minister Augustine Abbott, Thomas Kerby, President of American Baptist Men, and Debrah Gardner, President of Am*



*Brunch*



*Minister Abbott*



*Fellowship Brunch*



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# A Person Of Faith

Throughout my life I have been taught some very valuable lessons, statements and saying that I have had the privileges of using throughout my life.

One is that you don't put snakes in your backyard and expect them to only bite your neighbors.

Two is you don't make moves with snakes, you don't talk bread with birds and you don't talk cheese with rats!

But the most important lesson I learned is from the Bible and I violated that one last week by writing an article in response to someone else's article and having it published. If we are to truly be Men and Women of Faith then I ask that you always remember and practice the following.

He Won't Work it Out Till I Talk It Out!

St. Matthew 18:15-17

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

How do you handle yourself when someone gossips about you? What about if a close friend or family member falsely accuses you? Do you try to talk it out with that one who offended you? Or do you harbor your hurt and have a "woe is me" party?

Jesus wants us to prayerfully arrange a meeting with that one who trespasses against us. We must be open and honest in the conversation if we want to gain them. It's not difficult if we've prayed before we privately tell them their fault between us. If we're calm and direct in our manner, they might hear us out. That's when we've settled the difference according to righteousness and gained that soul!

Brotherly love leads us to ask the Lord to help us be clear with our words. He'll open the heart of the other person to listen carefully. But we must not hold things in our hearts. It's imperative that we get it off our chest. Otherwise, ought, to, anger and rage will set up in us and Satan will have two victims.

In other words, we must be quick to "talk it out" and if they won't listen, we're told to confide in a trustworthy, mature Christian. Scripture suggests that we take two or three witnesses as we rehearse the matter with that sister or brother in sincere efforts to establish "the matter."

If it still isn't settled we must seek for God to work things out hoping that He'll further counsel us. He'll lead us to scriptures that detail acceptable behavior. He won't fail to work things out when we emulate Jesus and behave in a righteous manner. Having a clear mind, we can then confront and pray sincerely for the trespasser. Humble, obedient prayer, embedded in godly love, will move the "hand" of the Lord on our behalf. He'll work it all out for the good of everyone.

The wisdom we take away from such an experience will elevate our faith, wisdom and love. God then expects us to share our experience with someone else troubled by folk who mishandle others purposely or unknowingly. Think how pleased He is when obedience leads us to "talk it out" with Jesus before taking it to the insulting person.

The gospel song says: "...if you let Him, Jesus can work it out...that problem that I had; I just couldn't seem to solve; I tried and I tried but I kept getting' deeper involved; So I turned it over to Jesus and I stopped worrying' about it; Turned it over to the Lord and He worked it out."

Let us always keep one another in our prayers.

Larry J. Sykes

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You are invited to attend Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority's 2016 Fatherhood Initiative Celebration HONORING FATHERS throughout our communities who are the primary caregivers of their children. Enjoy a **FREE family day** of prizes, fun, and festivities on **Saturday, June 18, 2016** at the **Wayman D. Palmer Community YMCA**, 2053 N. 14th St., Toledo, OH from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**For more information or for family reservations call 419-259-9455.**

**Kids Creative contest**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES JUNE 13TH, 2016!**

**Kids Enter Today For a Chance To Win Cool Prizes!!!**

**To enter**, download the coloring page, print out the page, color it in however you like, and **return your entry to your LMHA Site Manager's Office and deposit in the entry box marked KIDS INITIATIVE CREATIVE CONTEST.**

ALL entries may also be mailed to:  
**LMHA KIDS INITIATIVE CONTESTS**  
**211 S. BYRNE ROAD, TOLEDO, OHIO 43615**  
Be sure to include child's name and age and/or grade, plus a parent or guardian's street address, phone number, and e-mail address so that winners may be notified.

**Coloring Categories:** Grades Pre-K - 6th  
**Essay Categories:** Grades 6th - 12th

**Judging:** All entries for both coloring and essay contests will be judged at contests and prizes will be awarded at the Fatherhood Initiative Celebration on **Saturday, June 18, 2016**. Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity.

Decisions are at the discretion of LMHA and are subject to change at any time. We reserve the right to award multiple winners and prizes, or no winners and prizes.

**Winners:** All winners will be notified by email, phone, or postal mail. The winner of each age group will receive a prize. Specific prizes will be chosen by LMHA, at our discretion.

All contests end **Monday, June 13, 2016**, or as otherwise posted on LMHA's website, [www.lucasma.org](http://www.lucasma.org).

For a complete list of winners, write to LMHA 211 S. Byrne Rd., Toledo, OH 43615, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or visit us online at [www.lucasma.org](http://www.lucasma.org).

For a complete list of winners, write to LMHA 211 S. Byrne Rd., Toledo, OH 43615, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or visit us online at [www.lucasma.org](http://www.lucasma.org).

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MEMBER FDIC

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

of the bathroom is the opening salvo in this intense fight.

You may have heard a smidgen of this fight already being profiled by some in the religious communities who want to end gender identification in the scriptures and that means obliterating God as, "father" and Mary as "mother" and other pronouns in the Bible that identify sexual roles or sexual identity.

So, for example, in the Lord's Prayer, if this argument was to have its sway, you would not say, "Our Father...who are in heaven" but rather you would take out the word, "Father" and replace it with something that is deemed less gender offensive to the crowd that is pushing that agenda.

The bathroom wars are being fought now because the stakes are high and the recent "recommendation" from the White House that all school districts should allow such bathroom choices by those who identify as being a member of the opposite sex indicates that the White House has a horse in this race.

If one takes this fight on the basis of privacy, the blow back to this White House initiative will be volcanic in nature since people are not going to meekly acquiesce to this recommendation.

Parents are not going to stand idly by and conjure up in their minds their sons or daughters being subjugated to a White House mandate that says that their precious children could be subjected to assault or abuse by another sexually confused boy or girl or worse...a predator faking his or her gender.

As a further insult to this issue of transgender and confused sexual identity is that the White House, ostensibly occupied by a Christian, is totally remiss in not calculating into this directive that God said in the Bible, (the same Bible that President Obama alleges allegiance to), he made them, male and female...no hybrids or confusion there.

Sexual distinctions are not a debatable abstract concept subject to revision or modification or a committee vote simply because a national movement or a political cause yearns for it to be different.

In God We Trust adorns our coinage and money and a symbol of Moses The Lawgiver is carved into the stone visage of the United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.

America is not ready by any stretch of the imagination to jettison hundreds of years of history and thousand of years of Judeo-Christian thought and belief to yield to the mandate of some gender confused people who want liberty to use anyone's bathroom!

Yes, it is about the issue of bathrooms and what that entails and what would be the dire outcome if such a mandate becomes the law of the land.



This bathroom issue is a Trojan Horse of immense consequences because if the lines between the sexes are blurred or obliterated and gender distinctions are seen as of no import, chaos will reign and issues of the family unit and child rearing will be thrown into anarchy and for what?

To pacify a miniscule number of people who think being hip, cool and liberal means

I share/you share our bathrooms because male and female distinctions should be viewed as no longer important?

The Devil is a lie!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

	
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*Man's Best Friends... continued from page 3*

found that the folks who segregated public bathrooms were the Victorians of the mid and late 19th century. Peeing places are not rooted in thousands of years of Judeo-Christian belief.

The issue of allowing transgender persons to use the bathrooms of their choice is not a matter of being "hip, cool and liberal." In fact, given the relatively small number of transgender persons and the lack of evidence that such persons are likely to be sexual predators, it is clear that those passing such bathroom laws to protect god-fearing Christians from the godless hordes who would destroy civilization are merely attempting to forestall the extension of rights to the LGBTQ community in general, especially in light of the Supreme Court ruling declaring the gay couples have the right to marry.

This is their petty, very petty, little get back.

Here's another little fact that would surprise our columnist - non-discrimination laws affecting bathroom use in the U.S. are not new. For over 35 years there have been laws protecting the rights of transgender persons to use the bathroom of their choice. Currently 17 states and over 200 cities have such ordinances. During that 35-year time frame, not one police department in the country has reported a crime perpetrated by a transgender person in such a bathroom. During that time only one such offense has been reported anywhere in the world - in Canada.

During that time social order may have gone to hell in a handbag, but certainly not because of the acts of transgender persons. Indeed the victims of crimes during that time have been transgender persons themselves who are all too frequently the target of bullying and violence by those who have no respect for human dignity and think that slurs such as "gender benders" are acceptable words to describe what they disdain and can't understand.

Surely somewhere in the Bible there is an admonition to treat all persons with respect and dignity.

Not one sexual offense in 35 years reported by any police department! Last year over 84,000 rapes were reported in the U.S. - none by transgender persons. Every year 450 people are killed by falling out of their beds. In the last five years, five people in the United States have been shot by dogs!

You have a much greater chance of being shot by a dog than of being sexually attacked by a transgender person in a bathroom.

But the bathroom laws are not really about bathrooms at all. It's a wedge issue at best, an attempt to camouflage the underlying intent of such laws which also, for example in the case of North Carolina, carry provisions limiting minimum wages, turn back the clock on hiring practices and, in general, handcuff the more progressive communities in a state in all manners involving civil and economic rights.

The effect of such laws is to inflame baser instincts, such as we observe in our columnist who now cannot see the forest for the trees that he thinks the wrong persons are peeing behind. Allow those wrong persons to pee where they will and "chaos will reign" and "anarchy," he declares. That is exactly the same sentiment expressed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney (the author of the abominable Dred Scott decision) when he spoke of the possible emancipation of the Negro.

What are all these godless transgender persons going to do? How are they going to bring anarchy and chaos upon the Earth?

Are they going to conduct Crusades in order to subjugate tribes and nations to their system of belief, as Christians have done so often in the name of their religion? Are they going to put heretics to death by fire at the stake? Are they going to invade Africa and for centuries subject the native population to kidnapping and slavery, colonialism and apartheid, as Christians did?

Are they going to displace and attempt to wipe out indigenous peoples around the globe? Or conduct pogroms against nonbelievers, forcibly evict them from their countries and eventually place them in concentration camps and gas them to death by the millions?

Are they going to enslave, segregate, lynch and impoverish peoples of color around the globe?

Are their leaders, their own shepherds, going to prey on the innocents of their flock with untold number of sexual depredations?

This planet has survived two thousand years of Christian savagery and brutality and general inhumanity, often in the name of God. If we can survive that, I think we can take pretty much overcome the horrors that might follow from letting a few people pee where they feel most comfortable peeing.

Me? I'm keeping my eyes open for those armed dogs.



# "The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation" by Natalie Y. Moore

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

Shut the door, and what's inside is familiar and comfortable. It's yours, and it's where you want to be at the end of the day. Or maybe not: in *"The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation"* by Natalie Y. Moore, you'll see how one city's housing affects black lives.

c. 2016  
St. Martin's Press  
\$27.99 / \$32.50 Canada  
250 pages

In 1779, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, a black man, founded what would eventually become Chicago. African Americans, therefore, lived in Chicago from the beginning but the "Great Migration" (early-twentieth-century flight from Southern racism) and a "secondary wave" (post-World War II) brought "more than 1 million" new black faces to the Windy City by the 1970s.

Almost from the start, those black Chicagoans were barred, via covenants and rules, from living in neighborhoods that were mostly white or perceived as desirable. Red-lined maps denoted areas where blacks could live, mostly on Chicago's south side. Moore says that new residents didn't see overt "whites only" signs in their new hometown, but "the city designed a way for blacks not to fully participate in the freedoms of the North."

Moore's own grandparents were part of the Great Migration, and settled in areas they grew to love. After Moore's parents were married, they bought a small house in a neighborhood full of middle-class black families, put their children in integrated schools, and shopped at local, black-owned businesses.

Still, then as now, "the black middle-class is not the same as white middle class." In this book, Moore cites examples: 70 percent of Chicago's "food desert" population is black; retailers seem reluctant to open stores in mostly-black neighborhoods; there's an often-unfair perception of high crime on the South Side, Chicago schools aren't at all well-integrated, and Moore herself was victim to discriminatory lending.

And yet, she says, "Change is possible" but it won't be easy or quick. It's entrenched - some residents of segregated housing

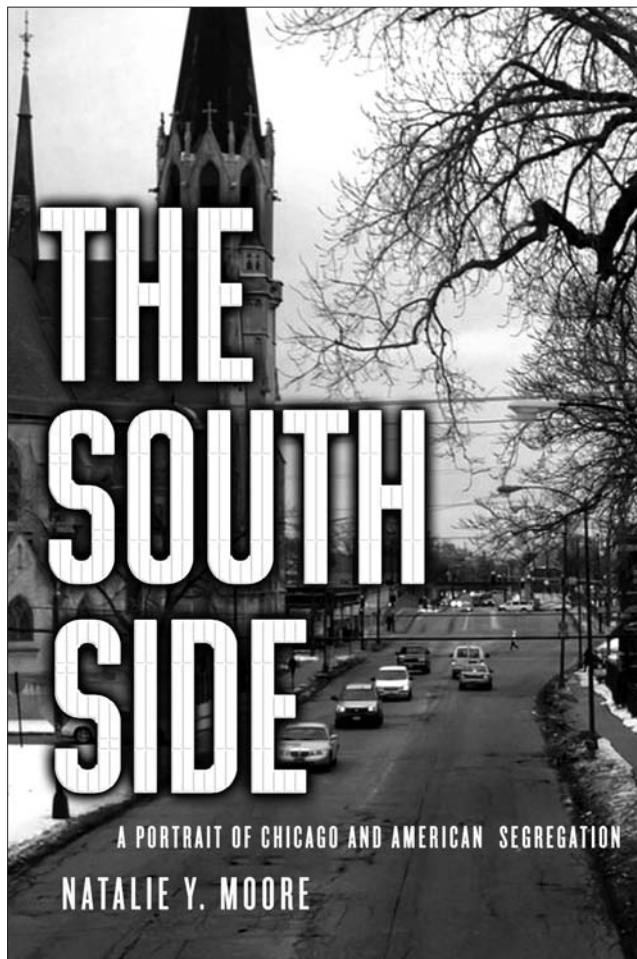
don't want to leave - and it's "a regional and a hyperlocal issue," but it *can* be fixed...

It took me awhile to see "The South Side" as more than a biography with incidental facts: author Natalie Y. Moore makes the first many pages of her book so very personal that it's somewhat hard to determine where it's going, other than with tales - albeit, interesting ones, particularly to Chicagoans - of Moore's family and upbringing.

Slowly, though, the reason for this book comes into focus, as does the reason why you should read it: Moore weaves her own experiences into that of black history and segregation in general. She shows how the government is involved, how segregation is mythologized, and what, more importantly, can be done to lessen it. On that note, the advice Moore

offers is rather Chicago-centric, but useable nation-wide.

Exploring this book, though it's good reading, is going to take patience; yes, it contains info you can use, but only if you endure the wandering. Only then, those with tolerance (of all kinds) may find that *"The South Side"* has a place on their bookshelf.



Natalie Y. Moore courtesy David Pierini

# CLASSIFIEDS

June 1, 2016

Page 14

## NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

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We are excited to announce that this year The Josh Project will be offering affordable swim to survive lessons to local area 3rd-4th grade youth ages 8-12!

Swim to survive lessons will be held at St. Francis De Sales high school. The 2016 program will consist of three two-hour days. Each day, participants will be required to complete classroom instruction coupled with pool experience:

- Attend a 1-hour classroom instructional session each day.
- Attend a consecutive 1-hour pool session each day.

Children can expect to learn the most relevant swim to survive curriculum and practice their newly acquired skills in the pool!

- Roll into water

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- 50-meter swim

8 weeks of programming are available!

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In order to streamline our registration process, we have switched to a group registration format. Students and their families can learn more about the history of TJP, our curriculum, water safety tips and register for lessons in "one-stop" at [www.joshproject.org](http://www.joshproject.org).

All registration forms and FEES are due at or prior to time of enrollment. Please visit the upcoming events page of our site for location information.

Thank you for understanding while we implement this new procedure.



## VAN DRIVER

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Component Department: Brothers United  
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FLSA: Exempt Terms: Fff 40 hrs. per wk,  
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Note: Applicant's resume must accompany  
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## GARAGE SALE

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Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Home  
electronics, & small appliances

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment facilities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age requirement and an annual income requirement of no more than \$21,350.00 for one person or \$24,400.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden apartments offer one bedroom, private patios, with individually controlled thermostats for heat and air conditioning.

Abundant Life #1 offers bathtubs, while Abundant Life #2 offers walk-in showers and pull cords for emergencies.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous facilities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).



Call to place your ad

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## NHA Seeks a Few Good People

The Neighborhood Health Association is hoping to acknowledge the contributions of past board members and volunteers. If you were a board member or volunteer in the past with NHA, the Cordelia Martin Clinic or the Mexican-Americans United for Health, give us a call. 419-720-7883, ext 216.



*Miss Debutante.. continued from page 9*

"Join me as we celebrate these women introduced into society. These ladies have put a lot of women and hours from January until now. We are so proud of you, and good luck on everything you do," said NANBPWC President Denise Black Poon during her welcome address.

In addition to Miss Debutante 2016, collectively the 20 young ladies earned almost two million in scholarships and will be enrolled at 12 different universities and colleges in Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee. The 2016 Debutantes: Daijah Blackburn, Jada Boles, Kiarra Brock, Jada Bryant, Angela Byrd, Staja Clark, Taylor Coleman, Isreal Douglas, Myranda Duhart, Safiya Dzotsi, Mariah Hicks, Jenea' Isaac, Micah Johnston, Blake Minter, Ladanna Mullings, BriAnna Smith Pasker, Caitlyn Stuart, Breonna Terry, Isis Walker, and Sheyenne Warren.

"I am proud of these women, and you should be proud of them. This is truly a lovely rite of passage," shared Rhonda Sewell, the 2016 cotillion presenter.

The 2016 Mr. Escort was Nathaniel Maddox, he received \$300. The additional escorts were James Purley, Joshua Banton, Jeremy Barker, Micah Conway, Victor Copeland, Kea'Shaun Phillips, Cameron Armstrong, Andre Matthews, Myles Johnson, S'DavLloyd Corggens, Richard Jackson, Ivan Dye, Rodney Braziel, Tre'Von Wade, Jon-Paul Pasker II, Justin Heil, De'Vinn Young, Kai Walker, and Isaiah Davis.

Additionally, Debs-in-Waiting (high school juniors) are part of the festivities to assist the Debutantes with sponsor gifts and present pearls to the Debutantes. That tradition continued with 22 Debs-in-Waiting from various Toledo-area schools.

Toledo Club NANBPWC Inc. officers and members: Denise Black Poon, president; BJ Tucker, vice president; Frances Collins, PhD, 2nd vice president; Ethel Scott, director of membership; Clara Brank, recording secretary and chaplain; Wanda Galloway, corresponding secretary; Sharon Green Gaines, parliamentarian; Barbara Tucker, financial secretary and district advisor; Wilma Brown, treasurer; and members Delores Bates, Denise Cardwell, Deborah Carlisle, Alexis Collins, Mary Dawson, Tyra Smith, Gabriel Garrett, Iris Page Jones, Tommie Lee McGhee, Sherry Reed, Marquita Scott, Donna Todd, Beverly Tucker, Lillie Watkins and Theresa Wilkins.



Judge Myron Duhart and Debutante Myranda Duhart



Debutante Bronna Terry and Escort De'Vinn Young



Talent winners 3rd Debutante Sheyenne Warren, 1st Debutante Isis Walker, 2nd Debutante Caitlyn Stuart and Ball committee members Beverly Tucker, Denise Black-Poon and Debor



The Waltz



Debs In Waiting



First Lady Brock, Debutante Kiarra Brock and Rev. Brock



Henry's Jewelry Miss Congeniality winner Debutante Taylor Coleman

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## Ebenezer MBC's 64th Annual Women's Day

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

"Doing the Things That Are Needful" was the theme of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church's 64th Annual Women's Day held on Sunday May 21. The women in the congregation gathered adorned in white and yellow to celebrate the occasion.

The morning service began with a devotion offered by Shirley Oliver of St. Mark's MBC and Mother Curly Hankins, Tine Dunn and Margarette Dean.

The conductress of service was Evangelist Debra Everett. After musical selections, a benevolent offering and words of encouragement from Hankins, the speaker, Jean Lark of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church spoke to the day's theme.

The 4:00 p.m. service speaker was Minister Brenda McFall of The Armory Church.

Elder J.L. Jordan is the pastor of Ebenezer. Tammy Mays served as chairman of the Women's Day Committee and Eunice Davis as co-chairman. The Program Committee was comprised of Tammi Calhoun, Sharon Graham, Tammy Mickels and Debra Everett. The Finance Committee members are Mary Ballard, Delorse Johnson, Mary Sumrow and Vera Sanders.



Pastor J.L. Jordan and Sis. Jean Lark



Finance Committee members Mary Ann Sumrow and Mary Ann Ballard



## New Light MBC's 67th Annual Women's Day

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The women of New Light Missionary Baptist Church wore purple and white on Sunday, May 22 to celebrate the church's 67th annual Women's Day.

The morning service opened with a devotion offered by Eloise Jamison, JoAnn Jones, Vanessa Walker and Victoria Colbert of Union Grove MNC.. Rochelle Strong of Jerusalem Baptist served as mistress of ceremony. After the welcome by Latrina Stewart and a response by Tonya Roach of Friendship Baptist, Akisha McCarter spoke of the history of Women's Day.

The speaker was Ann Colbert Battles, one of the two remaining charter members of the church, who addressed the day's theme "Touched by the Master's Hand."

Rev. Gerald O. Fletcher is the pastor of New Light.

The chairman of the Women's Day Committee was Cynthia Battles and Latrina Stewart was the co-chairman. Gail Washington and Rebecca Battles served on the Program Committee; Betsy Hill, Vesta Lamb and Callie Owens on the Kitchen Committee and Freddi Roberson, Wanda Newbern and Bertha Parnell on the Finance Committee.



Eloise Jamison sings He Touched Me



Pastor Gerald Fletcher delivers remarks






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