



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 13, 2016

2016 Annual Combined Session



Grand Session of the Order of the Pythagorans and the Grand Girls Assembly

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When Blood is Running in The Streets: The Voices of Our Elders

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

The Truth Contributor

We're in a struggle for the soul of this country. We're in a struggle for America's moral center.

- Harry Belafonte



The nation itself was critically wounded last week following the successive officer-involved fatal shootings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castille in Minnesota. As a result of the week's collective trauma, the relationship between the black community and law enforcement has never been worse and the racial divide in America has not been wider.

The following are words of wisdom from "Wounded Warriors and Wounded Healers," a group of elder clergy, who have "lived through racial turbulence, all the while trying to keep the people close to God." Their wisdom comes to The Truth's readers via the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, in order to provide spirituality and strength for the journey ahead.

Rev. Yvonne Delk, Retired UCC Minister: As an elder in the movement, my heart continues to break as I realize that the blood of my grandsons and granddaughters continue to flow in the streets as a result of what I have come to define as our modern day form of lynching. However with each death, I am reminded that the struggle for freedom is on-going. What we struggled for, sat in for, went to jail for in the days of my youth must be secured today. Freedom and justice cannot be turned back by white supremacy, police brutality or color blindness.

So with a heart that breaks and a faith that believes that out of every tragedy, every death, new life and new commitment must rise, I am committed to the struggle for the long haul.

Receiving hope and courage from all the ancestors who preceded me on the battlefield for justice and with my resolve to stay the course I am determined as an elder to tell the story of our spiritual based resistance movement and at the same time to join the modern day Black Lives Matter Movement demanding accountability for every life that has been lynched in the past or present.

Sr. Jaime Phelps, O.P., Ph.D., Adrian Dominican Sisters, Former Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies: The big white police officers are killing little kids; they are trying to kill something in themselves. What is wrong with these folks that they think they can kill black folks with impunity? What is the fear? What is it that a 14-year old can do to you? We are trying to make reason out of unreasonable behavior ...We do need to speak to it

J. Alfred Smith, Pastor Emeritus, Allen Temple Baptist Church: I am an 85 year-old black retired pastor, very afraid of the future for my sons, grand-

sons, great grandsons, nephews, and sons- in -law who could be killed at any time by a police officer afraid of black men! A black man with a gun and a permit to carry a gun is not safer than a black man without a gun. At my age I do not deserve to live if I do not speak out now. I can live with the accusation that I am "playing the race card" because when Mr. Roof was arrested for killing unarmed blacks in a church, the officers were kind enough to take him to get something to eat. Put yourself in my place. Are we black males sub-human because we are black? Is the God of America anti -black? How do I explain all of this to the fruit of my loins? How do white fathers explain to their sons what is not happening to their sons and what is happening to the sons of black men?

Is the American Christ the same Christ of the gospels who lived in the Rome that was great according to the standards of power, domination, and oppression? Why are people afraid of my black skin? Four decades of black theology have not thawed the ice of racism!

Jeremiah Wright, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity United Church of Christ: Over a year ago, Dr. Yolanda Pierce wrote a Litany For Those Who Aren't Ready

... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

July 10-15

Greater St. Mary's MBC 2016 Annual Church Revival: Presented by In Church Women's Ministry; "The Road to Obedience;" Sunday July 10 @ 5 pm; July 11-15 7 pm nightly; Guest revivalist Bishop Robert Lyons Jr of Dayton: 419-536-5155

July 16

Vax Awareness Workshop Session: Presented by Justice Or Else and Black Lives Matter; 1 pm; Kent Branch Library: 419-973-0248

July 23

St. Stephens COGIC Community Festival: 11 am to 5 pm; Facepainting, fire-fighting, trains, games

July 24

Calvary MBC Women's Day Celebration: 11 am service; "Christian Women Holding on to Their Faith;" Guest Sr. Sheree Madison Emery of Christ United Baptist
True Vine Church Pastor Aids Annual Day: 4 pm; "Through Love Serve One Another;" Guest speaker Rev. Robert Bass of United MBC: 419-539-9104

July 24-September 12

Free Parenting Classes: Saturdays 11:30 am to 1 pm; Continuous open enrollment; Sponsored by Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministry Parenthood Program: 419-297-3530

August 3-7

Eastern Star MBC 55th Church Anniversary: August 3-5 revival services nightly at 7 pm; August 6 - Annual community picnic - 10 am to 4 pm; August 7 - Closing worship service at 4 pm: 419-461-1768

August 7

New Prospect Baptist Church Installation Service: 4 pm; For Rev. Charles W. Ross; Guests Rev. Mayes and Macedonia Baptist

August 3-31

Studio Fitness Free Community Fitness Classes: Every Wednesday at 6 pm; One-Hour beginner friendly fitness class - 20 mins of cardio, 20 mins of weight lifting, 10 mins of yoga: 4190870-2318

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The Chickens Have Come Home to Roost

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, well. Looka what we got here! My...my.. my! Certain segments of the white political class are in a full blown snit about Her Majesty Hillary Clinton not being given a fair chance to wear an orange pants outfit in prison.

Why, during an impromptu tour of various political blogs, I ain't seen white folks this roused up since Ronald Reagan used the dog whistle of "welfare queens" to denigrate black folks on welfare.

Now, it appears we got a full-blown political hurricane bearing down on Washington DC and the Clintons are gonna have to batten down the hatches because it is going to be (with all apologies to Lena Horne) some Stormy Weather!

Now for you uninformed folks who need a catch up on what's making these white folk go apoplectic, it seems like the nation was watching and waiting for the FBI director, James Comey to become an American hero by stating on national news that the FBI would recommend to Loretta Lynch, the head of the Justice Department, that Hillary should face criminal charges.

Criminal charges for her careless use and misuse of sensitive and classified emails being sent back and forth on unsecured and private servers.

The Feds seemingly had Hillary dead to rights as apparently volumes of evidence would attest to the fact that she and her staff repeatedly, engaged in a course of woefully negligent conduct that placed America's security at risk by the shoddy manner in which she sent and received classified e mails.

I mean, come on! It was almost a given that James Comey (a Republican appointee)

would come out and slow dance the evidence to show that Hillary (a lawyer) knew or should have known that the callous indifference by which she treated thousands of e mails was criminal in nature.

Oh, we like to boast how America makes the playing field level for all participants but this bombshell by FBI Director Comey was a sucker punch to the solar plexus of

America's entrenched idea of fair play and equal justice under the law.

Make no doubt about it. This scenario will be etched forever in the remembrance of anyone who is caught up in a dual system that divides people on the basis of wealth, power and color.

For the poor, black or white, who do not have the political clout or influence of a Hillary, et. al., their lives can be mere pawns whereas the King and the Queen are immune from broadside attacks, even from the fabled FBI.

I do not doubt for a moment that the luster of the FBI and its image of stone cold integrity has taken a hit with this exoneration of Her Majesty Hillary from the messiness of this e mail web of obfuscation and deception (thousands of e mails were "washed" and thus not able to be turned over to the FBI for their inspection and comment).

If you read the various political blogs out on the Net, there is profound outrage that Hillary, again, got a Get Out Of Jail Free Card from the powers that be (Loretta Lynch, FBI Director, President Obama) and she should be weeping and not traveling on Air Force One with President Obama.

Oh, the hue and cry that is now reverberating across America about this dual system of justice and fair play!

And you know what? Good! Goodie good! White America needed this political shocker to open their blind eyes that America has always had a dual system of justice and fair play and especially towards people of color.

But now that this "rigged" system has slapped white America with a sting that has not been felt before since white America was "OK" with others getting the kick in the gut with unfair prison sentences and being the objects of police misconduct and brutality. And, let's don't even mention rich and power institutions deciding whose neighborhood gets redlined or who used to get drafted (or not!) to fight in our overseas wars.

It was business as usual when discriminatory laws were on the books for hundred of years against black people for even attempting something as innocuous as getting served an ice cream cone at the local Woolworth's.

It was turn a deaf ear and a blind eye when black America tried to appeal to the conscience of white America to do the right thing regarding slavery and Jim Crow but white America responded with deftly crafted laws saying that there are no rights of a black man that a white person must respect (Plessy v. Ferguson).

All of this was OK because white America could contain the fury and anger of black Americans by limiting their access to the media and the courts of law...but.

But, when the income divide became greater and greater and the rich got even more control of the country's wealth and political power, it was now the lower class and middle class that began to feel the sting of the braided leather whip of class and power.

Now, the put-upon middle and lower classes of white Americans began to see that they were becoming the "New Negro" in town and their rights to obtain equal economic justice under the law was being tilted away from them.

Now, the top fat cats and their legions of lobbyists and lawyers and political hacks began to solidify the separations between the classes and wealth was now concentrated in the top one percent and thus East and West no longer shared bread together or sent their kids to the same local schools or worshipped in the same churches.

This legal and political farce as orchestrated by FBI Director James Comey and Company was an eye opener to the people who still believed in the tooth fairy and elves and that the original Moon Pies are still sold at the corner 7-11.

White America became enraged and deviled by this decision to not send Her Majesty Hillary Clinton to a spa that has bars on the windows and the bedtime curfew is 9 PM.

What do they tell their kids about this hellacious decision? Simple. Tell them the truth. Tell them that America is devolving into a society wherein your zip code, your bank account balance and who you know matters more than who you are.

Ah yes! The chickens have come home to roost and they are laying eggs faster than we can pick them up!

America and the justice system in America will never be the same again. It now official: There are now two tiers of justice in America. One for the uber rich and the other for the common person named Jane and John Doe.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tollver@juno.com

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Lucas County Children Services Hosts Back to School Drive

Help LCCS collect school supplies for families in need

Special to The Truth

Summer is in full swing but it is never too early to start thinking about back to school. Buying supplies is the first step to getting ready which is why Lucas County

Children Services (LCCS) is asking members of the community to help provide supplies for children in need.

Many of the families working with LCCS lack the resources to send their children to the first day of school with all the supplies they need. LCCS is collecting donations that will be distributed to the growing number of children in need of supplies. The next time you go to the store consider buying one or two items to donate.

LCCS is looking for NEW: Backpacks/book bags; spiral notebooks, pocket folders, binders and binder paper; #2 pencils, pens (blue or black), colored pencils; erasers, pencil pouches; yellow highlighters, 24 pack crayons; dry erase markers, washable markers; rulers, scissors, white glue and glue sticks; tissues, disinfectant wipes

Donations can be dropped off at Lucas County Children Services, 705 Adams St. (between Erie and Ontario Streets), downtown Toledo.

Perryman... continued from page 2

For Healing. Her words say it all for me. 49 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King said in his April 4, 1967 sermon "A Time To Break Silence" preached at the Riverside Church that we are fighting a three headed demon: racism, militarism and casino capitalism (consumerism).

Very few listened 50 years ago. Fewer still are listening to prophetic voices like Dr. Pierce and Dr. Traci Blackmon now.

Prayer vigils are not enough. Protests and street demonstrations are not enough. Worship services and powerful sermons are not enough. Words are not enough. Actions speak louder than words, but our government is stuck on non-action, "business-as-usual" stupid.

Corporate dollars, neoliberalism, Trumpism, Racism and the NRA still have a stranglehold on this sick society. Like Eric Garner, "WE CAN'T BREATHE!" When will the suffering masses wake up, turn off "Scandal," "Empire," "Law and Order SVU," "NCIS," "The Voice," "American Idol," housewives, preachers and pimps of L.A., Detroit, Atlanta and wherever, reality TV shows, FACE OUR EVERY DAY UGLY REALITY and stop what Donald Macedo calls "the stupidification of America?"

Rev Gaylord Thomas, retired, Evangelical Lutheran Church: The use of "I" versus "we" changes how you think and how you respond in every situation. In this season of assault against African Americans, a "we" concept is required for us to be whole, self-determinant and healed. We must bridge

every divide and find our defense in understanding that all the children are "us." We must preach a sense of connectedness as foundational to our survival. We cannot let our youth live into a mindset of hate and fear that robs them of hope and vision. We must continue to confront the injustices and also teach our youth the spiritual principles that build an understanding and commitment to building family and the circle of community.

Rev. Gilbert "Gil" Caldwell, retired clergyman of the United Methodist Church, a founder of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (The Black Caucus in the UMC) and NCBC. Asbury Park, NJ: I first went to Africa/Tanzania, in 1971 for a Consultation of African and African American Church leaders and Governmental leaders sponsored by the National Committee of Black Churchmen/NCBC (A name later changed to become gender inclusive). I too with Dean Howard Thurman, wondered what "tools of the human spirit" did my African fore parents possess that enabled them to withstand capture, The Middle Passage and slavery in the Americas?

But today I/We, must ask after the recent killings by the police of Black men, what are the "tools of the human spirit" that we who are African Americans, and our allies should possess to counter and confront what has become "The same old same old" of the police killings of black men, and the deaths of black women and men while held in police custody?

I suggest the following; A growing and deepening affirmation of the significance of

our creation as described in Psalm 139...An embrace of the totality of all of those who represent the rich diversity of Black persons and community...Black Lives Matter means ALL Black Lives...and a belief in the truth of the African American Spiritual; "I Know the Lord has Laid Hands on Me (and us)".

I call out my Senior sisters and brothers who have "retired" from the struggle against anti-black bigotry that is still rooted deeply in the soil of the nation and in the DNA of many who claim allegiance to the principles of the USA. "The Struggle Continues"; join it!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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| July 7 Quality Time Day Care Center Recruitment all day. DDYC Skating Party for the Youth at Ohio Skate on Opportunity Drive | July 20 Free Hair Cuts at Hair Trendz at 1339 Dorr Street |
| July 8 CareSource Insurance all day at Toledo Urban FCU | July 21 20 th Anniversary of Toledo Urban FCU |
| July 9 Beautification at Chase Elementary School at 7 a.m. | July 22 UTMC Health Screenings at Toledo Urban FCU First Federal Bank - Small Business |
| July 11 Voters Registration (NAACP) at Toledo Urban FCU | July 23 Lucas County Children Services Recruitment at Toledo Urban FCU |
| July 12 UMADOP Lucas County 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Toledo Urban FCU | July 25 PNC Bank Retirement & Savings 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Toledo Urban FCU |
| July 13 The Lucas County Care Team from 2-5 p.m. at Mt. Nebo Church | July 26 Mercy College of Ohio Recruitment 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Toledo Urban FCU |
| July 14 Second Baptist Church at Toledo Urban FCU Books 4 Buddies dropoff | July 27 Friendship Baptist Church: Umbrella of Care Friendship, TOP NEW Concepts MUSTARD SEED & NAOMI |
| July 15 12th Annual Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m., First Church of God on Collingwood | July 28 Fifth Third Bank - New Mortgage Program |
| July 16 12th Annual Parade at 10 a.m., Dorr & Detroit | July 29 Chief Krall of TPD, coffee with Chief 1-3 p.m. at Toledo Urban FCU |

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R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. is at it again; hosting its 6th Annual Dads and Kids Kampout!

Special to The Truth

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc., founder, Mark Robinson vows to make a positive impact in the lives of children by strengthening their relationships with their dads through camping.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. is in the thrust of preparations for its seventh annual Dads and Kids Kamp Out on Friday, September 9 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, September 11 at 11:00 am. The event will be held at Camp Mikakonda, Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH. Children attending the Kamp Out will be roughing it with dad under the stars, pure quality time, good old fashion fun, food, games, contest, and giveaways. A \$50.00 registration fee per is family required. A limited number of scholarships are available.

"This is a community event, we are still in need of sponsors to support our scholarship fund for dads who cannot afford the registration fee of \$50, and volunteers to make this a very memorable event for the Dads and their children," said Robinson.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. is a faith-based not-for profit 501(c) (3). Its Mission is to restore fathers back to the head of the family through the gospel of Jesus Christ; and reverse the trend of fatherlessness in the greater Toledo Area. R.E.S.T.O.R.E. Inc. provides a variety of practical services, such as, Fatherhood Education and spiritual support; and it uses biblical principles that are applicable and effective regardless of one's belief system. This non-profit's aim is to help men get the support, education and services they need to be the best fathers they can be.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. was founded in 2006 by Responsible Fatherhood advocate Robinson, a recipient of the 2013 Fatherhood Heroes Award, through President Obama's National Fatherhood Initiative Campaign. He knows first-hand about the lack of support provided to men with children having been a single parent for six years. Robinson recalls, "It was extremely difficult to get any type of support from the social service networks in my community, they were not designed with me in mind."

Robinson is a social worker by profession. He has an extensive background in the field of Social Work and has served on numerous committees here in Ohio and in New York. He is currently serving on the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) Board, which is a statewide collaboration that seeks to advance a fatherhood and family agenda at the state and local level.

According to Robinson, the 2010 Census is a clear indicator that we as a community must be proactive in our support of men in their role as fathers and husbands. "Dads are vitally important in the lives of their children and must be supported as they assume non-traditional and somewhat unfamiliar role as primary caregiver", said Robinson.

For more information about R.E.S.T.O.R.E. and/or "The Dads and Kids Kamp Out" please contact:

Mark Robinson, Founder/Executive Director R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. 419-377-1488 restorefathers@aol.com www.restorefathers.org

Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton to Deliver Address at 107th NAACP Annual Convention

Special to The Truth

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will speak to attendees at the 107th Annual NAACP Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio on Monday, July 18. The convention runs from July 16th – 20th at the Duke Energy Center under the theme, "Our Lives Matter, Our Votes Count." "In every presidential election, we invite each of the candidates to address our convention, and we are delighted to have Secretary Clinton join us," said NAACP Chairman Roslyn M. Brock. "Secretary Clinton will have the opportunity to address a gathering of dedicated activists and advocates from across the nation, and we are proud to offer a chance for the candidates to speak about the major issues affecting civil rights today."

"In these violent and horrifying times, when a new generation is waking to call for police accountability, economic and educational equality and protecting the right to vote for all people, this election marks a significant moral moment for America," said NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks. "We look forward to hearing Secretary Clinton's priorities and plan to advance our issues

of social justice."

Every presidential election year, the NAACP extends invitations to both the Republican and Democratic nominees for president to address the NAACP membership during their annual July convention. Past speakers have included President Barack Obama, Governor Mitt Romney, Senator John McCain, Senator John Kerry, President George W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton.

At the convention, members from the organization's 2,200 branches and conferences will hold sessions on local activism, debate and adopt new policy for the organization, and welcome new youth and college leaders joining the movement. This year's convention will also set the stage for a massive voter engagement and registration initiative to ensure that voters are empowered and heard in the November 8 election.

For more information and a full schedule of events for the 107th NAACP Convention in Cincinnati, please visit naacpconvention.org.



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Black Teachers Matter

By Anthony L. Bouyer and Twila Page

Guest Columnists

The black community needs you to become a teacher. If you're over 55 and maybe not up for a challenging second career, we need you to find someone and support him or her to become a teacher. Here, we're talking about black or African-American teachers, though we need Latino/as, Arab-American, and other underrepresented groups, as well. But specifically here, we are arguing that we need black teachers because "Black Teachers Matter."

The University of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools have responded to a need that the community has known about for a long time: we need active recruitment of people of color from our own neighborhoods and communities to teach in schools. It is still far too easy for a student of color to go through 12+ years of school without ever having an African-American teacher.

UT and TPS are launching Teach Toledo as an initiative to "recruit Toledo citizens to become Toledo teachers." (Details available at <http://www.utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo/about.html> or call 419-530-2495). This is an opportunity to bring back the black teacher population that has largely disappeared in the last several decades and that we need.

Black Teachers Mattered in Our Past

When I (Tony Bouyer) was attending Pickett Elementary School in the early 70s, TPS had many black male teachers: Mr. Huard, Mr. Smith, Mr. Warmly, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stretchens, and, of course, the teacher who had the most impact on my educational aspirations, Mr. Ernie Jones. It was Mr. Jones who made me feel that I was capable of academic success through personally engaged pedagogy which enhanced my learning experience. Those black male teachers mattered to me.

Black Teachers Matter in Our Present

As an advocate for my community and its children, I (Twila Page) have watched Toledo lose, by retirement or the Toledo Plan, a contingent of black teachers, and I have seen the harm and devastation this has caused Toledo's

black community physically and economically. Neighborhood schools are disappearing and the economic base provided by the teaching population has dwindled.

For me, Black Teachers Matter because without them there is no diversity of thinking. A black teacher brings a whole different perspective and outlook for how and why black students are educated and disciplined. When I have supported parents and students in various schooling situations, I have seen a lack of responsibility, a lack of accountability and a total disregard for education opportunities for black and brown students.



Twila Page

The current crisis in Toledo

Currently Toledo Public Schools is in a state of emergency – academically and fiscally. This state of emergency has driven students out of the TPS system into mostly substandard charter schools, parochial and private schools which nullify and erase any cultural or social welfare for black and brown students.

Suspension and expulsion rates have risen as the student population has fallen. The graduation rate is at an all-time low. What should take a student four years to graduate from high school now takes five years if the student does not drop out altogether. Scott High School, which has created some of Toledo's most prolific graduates in the past, just recently graduated a class of 90 seniors.

Most of the blame has fallen on the shoulders of parents, when the most important person in a classroom is the person standing at the head of the class. That person is usually a white female teacher, who has no connection to the changing demographics in the classroom. The school and the classroom has always been a safe haven for students, regardless of the social or economic status of the parent. That is no longer the case.

... continued on page 7

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TOLEDO URBAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION * 1441 DORR ST.

Black Teachers Matter... continued from page 6

Toledo has a failing school system because in order for a child to learn, he or she has to be in the classroom. Suspensions, expulsions, removals and arrests keep a student out of the learning environment. The student who is disciplined the most and the harshest is the black male, followed by the black female, then the white male and lastly the white female.

Both common sense and research indicate that since the classroom teachers are 80 percent white females, that a white female teacher is more comfortable with, identifies more easily with and is more accepting of disruptive behavior of someone who shares the same biological, physiological and cultural make-up as she does. This has got to change because there should not be one way of thinking to the exclusion of all other discourse surrounding the local environment and the global world.

Black Teachers Matter to white students just as much as they matter to the black community. Diverse learning, diverse thinking, diverse teaching methods and tools enlighten all students and all students would benefit by having a more diverse pool in which to learn.

What research shows on why Black Teachers Matter

In a report entitled Breaking Barriers, Ivor A. Toldson (2011), a senior research analyst with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), offers important clues to improving academic success for a group with persistent low achievement rates – young black males – by arranging the needs in “domains.” Toldson also highlights the need to increase the number of black teachers, specifically black male teachers.

The first domain Toldson discusses is: Personal and Emotional Factors. This domain examines the quality of life, measured by how happy the student felt about his life, and was the strongest emotional predictor of academic success. Toldson suggested policy implications for this domain should emphasize mentoring programs and other means to reduce isolation among school-age African-American males, as these are likely to improve academic progress. Black Male Teachers are one set of possible mentors.

The second domain Toldson discusses is: Family Factors. African-American families with fathers in the home reported higher levels of academic achieve-

ment. Findings indicated that modeling is an important component to academic development among black adolescent males. Parents who felt comfortable talking to teachers had higher performing children.

Toldson's policy implications for this domain are: education policy should increase attention to parent involvement, tax breaks and other incentives can be given to parents who devote a certain number of hours to parent-teacher associations, and funding for fatherhood programs. Although this is not directly dependent on having more black teachers, having more black teachers might lead more black parents to feel welcome in the school.

The third domain Toldson discusses is: Social and environmental factors. African-American males reared in homes with more financial resources had better odds of performing well in school. African-American males are the highest unemployed group in America. Involvement in the juvenile justice system impairs academic achievement among black males.

Young black males are involved in the justice system at twice the rates of young white males. Toldson's policy implications for this domain are: (1) Educational policies should address the natural social disadvantages that students might have from low-income homes by supplementing schools in impoverished areas with resources to build and maintain school-based activities and (2) Policies should be examined to reduce the burden of jail involvement among black males. It is unclear to us that having more black teachers can directly affect this domain, but worth thinking about.

The fourth domain Toldson discusses is: School Factors. Enjoying school and not being bored seem particularly important for black males. Teachers' profiles were particularly effective in fostering academic growth among black males. These students identified the following needs:

- Teachers who were interested in their students as a person
- Teachers who treated them fairly
- Teachers who encouraged them to express their views, and gave extra help

... continued on page 9



Anthony Bouyer



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The Annual Combined Session of the Order of the Pythagorans and Grand Girls Assembly

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The 2016 Grand Session of the Order of Pythagorans and the Grand Girls Assembly, the boys and girls youth chapters, respectively, of the Order of the Eastern Star, was held on July 7-10 on the campus of the University of Toledo.



Approximately 125 boys attended the week-end conference as members of the Order of the Pythagorans. The Order was established 71 years ago in the State of Ohio in order to emphasize programs for educational, social, vocational and moral development.

More than 200 girls were present for the 64th meeting of the Grand Girls Assembly, which was organized in 1952 and dedicated to the development of character in youth.

The Grand Session, which rotates around the State of Ohio, was hosted this year by The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio.

The purpose of the Grand Session is to give youth from around the state the opportunity to fellowship and to compete in a range of activities – in the classroom and on the playing fields.

Eric Warren, the R.W. Director of Youth Activities, led the Pythagorans events and Sis Margaret Farrier, Grand Director of Youth Activities, led the Girls Assembly.

The weekend events began on Friday with the Grand Royal Queen Banquet as Judah Tutt, R.V.

...continued on page 9

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Pythagorans & Grand Girls.. continued from page 8

grand senior counselor, and Princess Janel Link, grand royal princess, served as master and mistress of ceremonies, respectively.

The event culminated in presentations to the 2015 Grand Royal Queen, KeyAndra Reese, and the Most Valiant Grand Master Companion, Miles Campbell.

Daytime activities included sessions devoted to breakouts on math, science

and other educational topics along with voting sessions for elected officials.

Saturday night's Awards Banquet was hosted by John Cook, R.V. Grand Senior Counselor, and Andrea Green, Grand Royal Princess. Introductions were made by Joseph Cook, R.V. Grand Deputy Counselor and Karyah Gale, Grand Princess Scribe.

On Sunday, the main event was a divine service held in the Student Union and attended by both youth groups. Rev. John Hicklin of Mt. Zion, the City of Zion, offered the sermon.



Library Summer Reading Challenge Prevents Summer Slide

Special to The Truth

Summer break for students is synonymous with fun. Unfortunately, it's also the time when many youth fall behind in reading and math.

"Summer slide" is the well-documented tendency for students, especially those from low-income families, to lose some of the achievement gains they made during the previous school year.

Parents and teachers, have no fear, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library has you covered. Our Summer Reading Challenge On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!, is designed to not only prevent summer slide, but also to actually produce learning gains. It further reflects the library's commitment to understanding and addressing the needs of its customers and the community at large.

Libraries play an important role in enhancing children's education during the summer months, and prove that it can be done by having fun (and winning prizes)!

We began the transformation of our summer reading program last summer

and are continuing to improve and change the program to create positive outcomes for the youth in our community. So far it has been a wild success - **more than 17,000 people registered** as of mid-Week 4—a number that we did not reach until Week 7 in 2015!

It is not too late to sign up! Visit www.toledolibrary.org, or stop by any library location. Get your whole family involved – take the Summer Reading Challenge today!

Black Teachers Matter... continued from page 7

when needed

- Teachers who were effective also routinely let their students know when they did a good job.

- Environments they perceive as safe.

Toldson suggests the following policy implication for this domain should address inquiry-based science, student-centered learning, inclusive multicultural education and critical pedagogy and anti-oppressive education. While white teachers can learn to do this, black teachers are more likely to have shared experiences and the empathy that might make them more likely to.

Overall, Toldson identified a need to break over the unnatural barriers and find higher ground when discussing the need to have black teachers and particularly black male teachers in classrooms. The classroom teacher is the critical linchpin in student engagement.

The statistical findings in *Breaking Barriers* are consistent with the research literature that confirms a relationship between teacher quality and diversity and student success. There is a demographic mismatch between the public-school student population and its teaching force. Nearly 20 percent of public school students are African American. Yet slightly less than eight percent of the nation's teachers are African American and less than two percent are African-American males.

The demographic mismatch between African-American students and the adults who teach them has reached the point that many African-American students can get through 13 years of public education and never have an African-American teacher.

...continued on page 12



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Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FK0087. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age disability, or religion.

Tips for Boosting Your Child's Math Success

(StatePoint) For many students, math is one of the most challenging school subjects to conquer. However, it doesn't have to be. There are many ways parents can take an active role in their children's math success.

"Often students experience a crisis of confidence when it comes to math. If this persists, they may struggle with mastery of the core principles required to progress and grow," says Dr. Shawn Mahoney, chief academic officer of McGraw-Hill Education. "Many parents see the value in educational technology and how it can help to both make math fun for kids, as well as play an important role in helping them master the basic building blocks needed for continued success."

Mahoney offers parents the following tips to boost students' math skills:

Assess Your Student

Inquire about your child's strengths and weaknesses as well as their unique needs and preferences. Not all children learn best using the same methods, and what works for your child's peers may not necessarily work for your young scholar.

Talking to your child's teacher can help give a complete picture of his or her progress to determine if any additional help is needed.

Leverage New Technologies

Investigate new technologies and digital products that are designed to help children learn and build confidence in their math abilities. For

example, McGraw-Hill Education's tablet-friendly program ALEKS provides a personalized and adaptive learning experience for students based on their strengths and weaknesses. This groundbreaking technology is based on a deep understanding of how students learn and master new concepts.

The program uses research-based adaptive learning technology to determine precisely what each student knows, doesn't know and is most ready to learn in a given course. ALEKS interacts with students like a personal tutor, helping them study more effectively and efficiently by delivering the exact instruction they need when they need it.

Programs like ALEKS are augmenting classroom learning and improving student success rates and test scores by providing the advantages of one-on-one instruction from virtually any web-based device. To learn more, visit aleks.com.

Make Math Come Alive

Make the subject more interesting by introducing your child to mathematical concepts outside the context of a traditional classroom environment. Whether it's a day spent at a children's museum in the math-oriented exhibits or playing digital math games, there are plenty of opportunities to expand the notion of what math is for your child.

Education is a passport to a brighter tomorrow. In the world of today and tomorrow, the importance of numeracy -- the ability to understand, work with, and communicate effectively with numbers -- is essential. It's never too early or too late to take an active role in getting your child on the path to math success

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Great Back-to-School Books to Enhance Learning at Home

Special to The Truth

The back-to-school season can be the ideal time to get kids excited about learning. While teachers have the classroom covered, parents and caregivers can encourage kids to learn at home with great books covering a wide variety of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Consider some new titles to inspire young scholars based on their interests:

Hands-on Makers

Empower kids to build, create and discover through 28 safety-tested experiments, crafts and activities in the new book, "Maker Lab." Created in association with the Smithsonian Institution and supporting STEM education initiatives, these projects will get young minds' wheels turning.

Requiring only household materials, kids can build an exploding volcano, make bath fizzies, construct a solar system, build an eggshell geode and more. Photographs and facts carefully detail the "why" and "how" of each experiment, and each project comes with a ranking of easy, medium or hard.

Filled with winning projects for school, science fairs and beyond, "Maker Lab" helps kids find their inner inventor.

Creative Coders

For students with an interest in computer coding and programming, consider a highly visual, family-friendly guide that covers all the essentials. "Coding Projects in Scratch," uses graphics and easy-to-follow instructions to teach readers to animate silly characters, build games to play with friends, create cool sound effects and more. Projects include a personalized birthday card; a "tunnel of doom" multiplayer game; and dinosaur dance party animation with flashing lights, music and dance moves.

The simple, logical steps are fully illustrated with pixel art and build on the basics of coding, so readers gain the skills to make their own projects.

Curious Scientists

From the creators of "DK findout!," a free online resource for kids, comes a new book series full of images, quizzes and cutting-edge information. The new "DK findout! Series" helps kids become experts on their favorite subjects -- from dinosaurs to space.

Readers can learn the differences between atoms, molecules, mixtures and compounds; find out how plants work; and see the water cycle in action. Sure to inspire the next amazing science fair project, the series is filled with bright photography and quirky trivia. Readers can pull out special cover flaps for extra information, and follow up with their own experiments.

Discover more at dkfindout.com.

Engaged Explorers

Delve into the lives of children around the world with the updated 20th anniversary edition of "Children Just Like Me." New photography, maps and facts give insight into the homes, food, clothing, schools, family life and hobbies of over 40 children worldwide.

This comprehensive view of international cultures highlights over 30 countries, including Argentina, New Zealand, China and Israel. From rural farms to busy cities to riverboats, see how children are different and the same, no matter where they live.

Stimulate learning and creative thinking with these hands-on STEM titles.

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Sat., June 25
Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center
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Rep. Ashford Announces State Investment to Help UT Upgrade Outdated Energy Systems

Second phase project will reduce energy consumption, utility costs

The Truth Contributor

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) this week announced the release of \$1,448,700 in state dollars to University of Toledo (UT) for the Campus Energy Cost Reduction project. The second phase of the ongoing project includes installing digital controllers to new motion sensors and replacing old pneumatic thermostats with newer digital models. Together, the upgrades in energy systems will help the university reduce its energy consumption and utility costs while boosting air quality and allowing for better temperature regulation.

"Outdated energy systems mean money out the window that could

otherwise be used to improve the learning environment for UT students," said Ashford. "Reducing energy waste and improving the classroom experience will position both the university and its students for continued success."

The current UT energy systems, installed between 1950-1990, are now outdated and considered wasteful by today's energy standards. The Campus Energy Cost Reduction project consists of three phases aimed at reducing energy consumption and utility costs at UT. The first phase addressed lighting in University Hall, Wolfe Hall, Learning Resource Center, Collier Building, and Mulford Library.

Bethany House to Hold Walk to End Domestic Violence

Bethany House, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, and the area's only long-term shelter for domestic violence survivors, will hold its annual Walk to End Domestic Violence on Saturday, July 16, 2016, in conjunction with the African American Festival Parade.

The Walk will honor the 23rd anniversary of the death of Katrina Cooper and proceeds will benefit Bethany House. Line up begins at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Dorr Street and Smead Avenue. Call 419-727-4948 or email execdirector@bethanyhousetoledo.org to register. \$20 registration fee.

Black Teachers Matter... continued from page 9

Toldson's findings lend support to a growing body of evidence of the impact of teacher diversity on student success. His findings and the research indicate that African-American students attending schools with a large percentage of African-American teachers are less likely to be expelled or suspended. They are more likely to be recommended for gifted education. They are less likely to be placed in special education. They are more likely to graduate high school.

Couch-Maddox's (1999) findings support Toldson's research in suggesting the need for African-American teachers because they are more likely than their

white peers to describe African-American male students as "intellectually gifted" and report that African-American male students are engaged in positive behavior such as homework completion, attending school regularly and assuming leadership roles in classroom activities

Conclusion

Teachers do more than teach: They stand as models of what it is like to be educated. They also serve as surrogate parents, guides and mentors to young people. If students are to believe that they may be educated people, then they need to see diverse examples.

Perhaps the singular thing that policymakers and citizens can do to respond to Toldson's charge is to expand the minority teaching pipeline and fund efforts to increase the number of African-American male teachers. Less than two percent of the nation's teachers are African-American males. When African-American male children are inundated with negative images of African-American male adults, there is a deleterious effect. Having African-American teachers means having strong role models they are in contact with daily. Black teachers matter and Teach Toledo is a program that can help educate them.

The University of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools, recognizing this need, have created an opportunity to begin to address this lack of black teachers in the public school system, Teach Toledo. Now it is time for the Black community to step up to the plate and examine these issues and support this effort. *Teach Toledo* needs you to either become a teacher or support a black student — of any age, 18-50+ - who wants to become a teacher, because Black Teachers Matter.

Teach Toledo provides many perks—financial and social and pedagogical—for becoming a teacher. If you want to learn more about Teach Toledo, contact one of the authors, or visit the website at <http://www.utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo/about.html>, or call 419-530-2495.

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Anthony L. Bouyer is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Edu-

... continued on page 16



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The Gilded Years by Karin Tanabe

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Always be true to yourself.

It sounds like a poster, a vice that's always been in the of your life. Putting on airs, to be someone you're not, the ruse, it's harder than it besides, genuineness is a trait people like. Always be true to yourself – unless, as in the new book *The Gilded Years* by Karin Tanabe, temporarily living a lie could change your future.

For three years, Anita Hemmings had worked for this moment.

It was the fall of 1896, the first day of her last year at Vassar. She'd finally get to partake of the bittersweet rites that senior students enjoyed, and she anticipated a post-graduate future as a scholar of Greek studies, maybe even a professor. She studied hard and made what she hoped would be lifelong friends – but she was always careful.

She had to be.

Anita was African American. Vassar had an official ban on black students.

She'd been dreaming about attending Vassar since she was a little girl, but she'd been warned about their admissions policy. Even so, someone at her church told her to try anyhow; two of Anita's ancestors were white, and her skin was "high yellow." She could easily pass – but for four years?

Education was important to her family and, though it had taken a lot of diligence and care, Anita knew that graduation would be worth every night out denied, every study-session alone, each dance missed. It was all about to pay off.

And then she was assigned to be Lottie Taylor's roommate.

Everybody on the East Coast knew the Taylor family, Lottie in particular. She was rich and beautiful, well-traveled and fun-loving. Lottie was never without her large wardrobe, her mischievous streak, or a beau, and she embraced Anita without question. She pulled Anita out of solitude, took her on trips, and introduced her to a life of wealth and comfort. And then Anita got a little too careless...

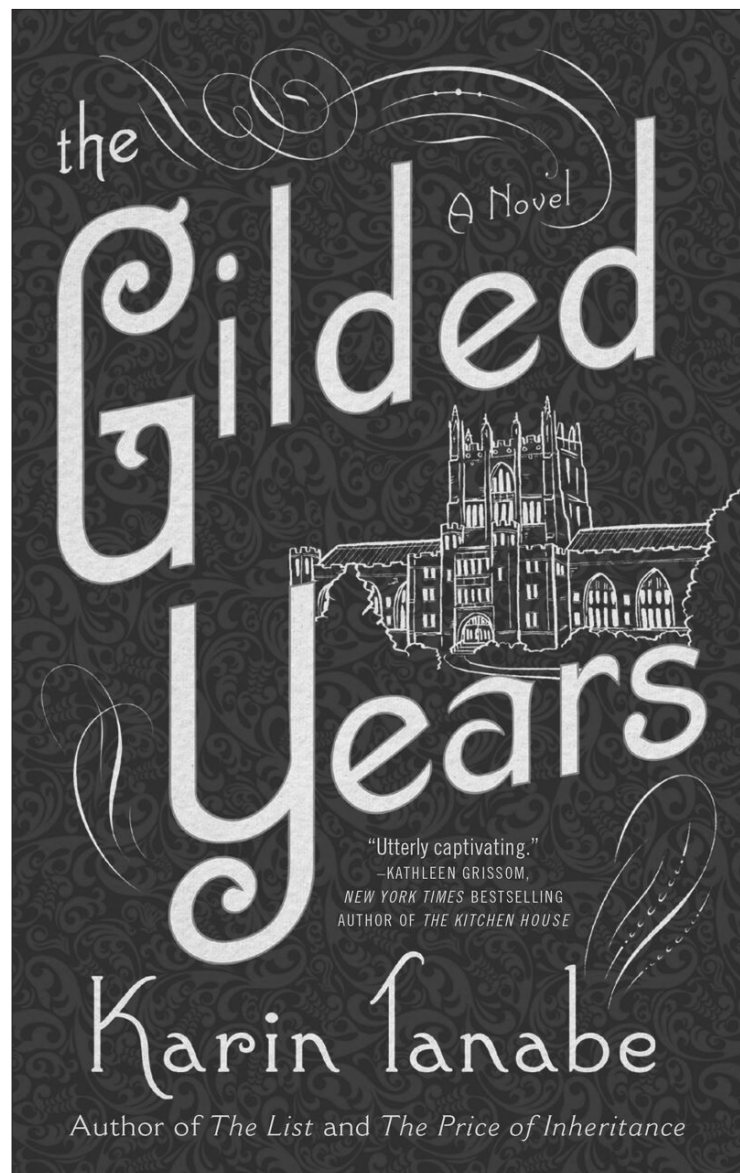
Alrighty then. I guess the next thing to do is to figure out who'll play whom in the movie version of *The Gilded Years*. Yes, this is the stuff that Hollywood (and readers!) love because there really was an Anita Hemmings and she really did matriculate at Vassar by "passing"; in fact, she became that college's first African-American graduate.

In her afterword, author Karin Tanabe says she came across this story some years ago and decided that it needed telling. In doing so, she also pulls readers into the late Victorian age: a time of swooning femininity, burgeoning women's consciousness, and racism that sizzled in places unexpected. As for the real Anita Hemmings, while Tanabe admits to taking slight literary license with her tale itself, readers can expect a wonderful, tightly-told semi-biographical period piece with an explosive pinnacle.

When you pack your bags for vacation, work, or just a day away, toss this book on the top. You'll want to dive into it as much as possible, because *The Gilded Years* is truly a worthy read.

c. 2016
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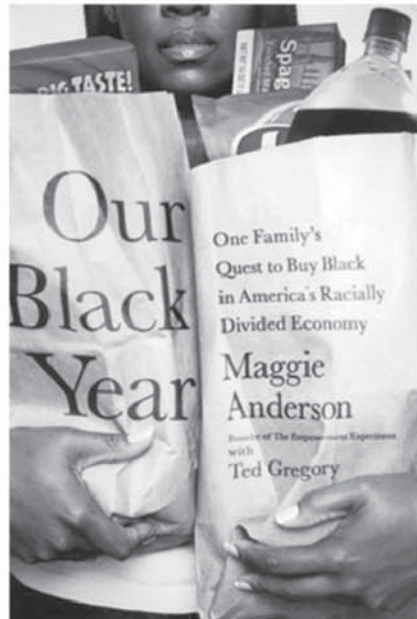




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CLASSIFIEDS

July 13, 2016

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Start date: September, 2016

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

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If interested in this position, please read and fill out the job description document and employment application <http://www.cohfs.org/careers/paid-positions>. Next, email jobs@cohfs.org with the subject line "Classroom/Recreation Aide I" and attach both files along with your most recent resume.

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Start date: October, 2016

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Tutors a small group of students in the content area of English, Reading, or Math; utilize scientifically research-based materials and lessons.

If interested in this position, please read and fill out the job description document and employment application available at <http://www.cohfs.org/careers/paid-positions>. Next, email jobs@cohfs.org with the subject line "21st Century Academic Tutor" and attach both files along with your most recent resume.

CREDIT UNION POSITIONS

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union has openings for tellers and loan officers. Full and part-time positions available. Apply in person. 1441 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43607

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

610 Stickney Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes

Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER



RENAISSANCE OTTAWA AREA RESIDENCES

3 AND 4 Bedroom Single Family Homes with attached garages. Many homes newly remodeled and available immediately.

All appliances included.

Please call 419-389-0096 or visit our office

at 1258 Rockcross Drive, Toledo, OH 43615
Voice/TTY 1-800-553-0300.
Equal Housing Opportunity.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Center of Innovation for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material - Perimeter Fence and Seeding, at Riverside Property, off of Summit Street in Toledo, OH, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineers estimate for the base bid of this project is \$156,000.00.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604 until Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for all prospective bidders on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM in the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Attendance for the pre-bid meeting is not mandatory for all potential bidders. Additional information can be found at <http://www.toledoport.org/connect/public-notices/>

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT
AUTHORITY
Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY

MANAGER OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications until the position is filled for the position of Manager of Support Services. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Manager of Support Services from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

PART-TIME AND SEASONAL FRONT OF HOUSE CATERING STAFF

The Toledo Zoo

The Toledo Zoo is accepting applications for part-time and seasonal Front of House Catering Staff. Employees are responsible for set up and tear down as well as management of catered Zoo events that could include banquets, picnics, weddings, special member events, public events, concerts and other catered events. Looking to hire servers and bartenders. Applicants must be available to work weekday events as well as some evening and weekend events. Catering, restaurant and food service experience a plus and bartender candidates must be 21 years of age. If you are selected to interview, we will contact you and you must be available to interview on Tuesday, July 26. The Zoo is an EOE and a drug/alcohol free workplace. Application and instructions can be found at www.toledozoo.org/jobs or submit resume/application by Wednesday, July 20 to resume@toledozoo.org.

Friday, July 8, 2016

SPECIAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

In continuing efforts to foster activities that promote positive mental health and prevent substance abuse, The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County is pleased to announce an opportunity for funding. The Board is seeking to provide up to \$5,000 in funding to grass roots organizations that are providing programming that offer skills, strengths, resources, supports, or coping strategies for the population that the MHR SB serves. A complete description of the Request for Proposal can be found at www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Interested parties should submit electronic proposals to: netmail@lcmhrsb.oh.gov

Proposals must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Monday, August 15, 2016

Please bill to: Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Attn: Carolyn Galatin, 701 Adams Street, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio 43604

Respectfully submitted,
Kristal Barham, MHP
Community Engagement & Outreach Manager
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County
701 Adams Street, Suite 800
Toledo, Oh 43604
P (419) 213-4614
F (419) 244-4707

Hosted by: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

The 12th Annual African American Prayer Breakfast**FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016 @ 8AM****FIRST CHURCH OF GOD****3016 COLLINGWOOD BLVD. * TOLEDO, OH 43610****TICKETS \$10 AVAILABLE AT TOLEDO URBAN FCU
1441 DORR STREET * 419.255.8876***Join us as we Honor...***Christopher Arnett****Mary Beal-Thomas****Pastor Cedric M. Brock****Dedra R. Brown****Ernestine Carter****Ruth Cowell****Lisa L. Hess****Alisa M. Key****Pastor Robert W. Lyons, Sr.****Dr. Carnel L. Smith****Montrice Terry****Mwalimu L. Triplett****Jane Williamson****Black Teachers Matter... continued from page 12**

Education in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership at the University of Toledo, specializing in African American male student success. He is writing his dissertation on how African American young men who are on probation succeeded in graduating from high school and how they view life success. Bouyer has been a probation officer for twenty years, as well as a parole officer, police officer, and mental health professional. He is a licensed drug and alcohol counselor with the State of Ohio.

Twila Page is president of the African American Parent Association and has been advocating for clear and transparent disciplinary policies, and for the rights of children and their parent-guardians in disciplinary hearings, for over two decades. She is on the Steering Committee of Community Conversations for School Success. She has conducted action research and has written or contributed to numerous reports submitted toward achieving equity in education for all children.



Adventurous Travels Presents
Annual Motown Dinner & Dance Cruise on The Detroit Princess Riverboat
Fund-raiser for Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Inc.
Saturday, July 16th, 2016
Boarding at 6:30pm - cruising from 7:00-9:30 pm
Includes LIVE Motown Entertainment, all you can eat dinner buffet.
For tickets contact (419) 367-9765 * Ticket Location: Jack's Men's Wear
Portion of Proceeds to Benefit Toledo NWO Food Bank Inc.
For round trip transportation, contact Donnetta Carter, Event Planner at (419) 367-9765

VENDORS ONBOARD

\$50 (PERSON) NON-REFUNDABLE

SPONSORS:



Your starship awaits.

As the Toledo Symphony launches its FREE 2016 Music Under the Stars concert series at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater, TARTA is offering round-trip Park-N-Ride service from five locations with the **TARTA Music Under the Stars Shuttle** for just \$1.25 per person each way.

All 2016 Music Under the Stars concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and have free admission with open seating:

Sunday, July 10; Sunday, July 17; Sunday, July 24; and Sunday, July 31.

Catching the Shuttle

- Arrive at any TARTA Music Under the Stars Shuttle Park-N-Ride location at 6:30 p.m. for a direct round-trip ride to The Zoo's Broadway entrance.
- Fare is \$1.25 per person each way; payable before each trip to and from the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater aboard the Music Under the Stars Shuttle.
- Return trips leave 20 minutes after the end of each concert.

Music Under the Stars Shuttle Park-N-Ride Locations

- Maumee/St. Luke's Hospital
- Sylvania/Centennial Terrace
- Toledo/Franklin Park Mall
- Toledo/Miracle Mile Shopping Center
- Waterville/Kroger

www.ToledoSymphony.com

www.ToledoZoo.org

TARTA
Stars Shuttle

Music Under the Stars at the Toledo Zoo

419.243.RIDE (7433)

TARTA.com



stars image credit: NASA

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