



Volume 42, No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 23, 2016

Toledo Urban Anniversary Fundraiser



Bishop Edward Cook, Suzette Cowell, Terrin Jennings, Alexis Means,
Dick LaValley

Local 500 Apprenticeship Signing



Shaquille Clemons, Corey Bennett, Irene Gacita, Jered Mahoney, Asia
Washington and Jordan Ramos

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Ground Game Realities

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

The Truth Contributor

The struggle is much more difficult now because racism is more entrenched and complicated.

- Angela Davis



Hillary Clinton, we were assured, had a superior ground game to that of Donald Trump. This advantage in street level organizing, we believed, would guarantee a Clinton victory in the 2016 presidential election and escort the nation into a post-Obama Promised Land.

That Clinton had an enormous numerical advantage over her opponent in terms of paid and volunteer field staff cannot be disputed. Yet, street level conversations suggest that the supposed superiority of these ground resources may have been eviscerated by Hillary's blindness to how the intersection of race and white privilege complicates political support of white women and/or white working class individuals.

The following is part one of a front line account from a Clinton organizer on ground organizing in Toledo. Her experience articulates how the complexities surrounding race and working or middle class white women and men may have caused Hillary Clinton to overestimate her political support in places such as Toledo.

"Well, it's the first time I ever worked on a political campaign, but

the reason I jumped on this opportunity was because I was not yet convinced that our country was ready for a female president, and I wanted to put everything I had behind Clinton just to know that I did everything I could to help make it happen. Being part of a team and working together toward something bigger than yourself is an unbelievable feeling, and I did believe we were going to win.

"I knocked on a lot of doors where I thought sexism was aimed right at me. I knew what we were up against, but I felt like in Lucas County we would win. We felt like we had to win by 100,000 votes like we did for Obama in order to turn Ohio blue. With Clinton, though, we only were able to win by 33,000, but it was still very good to be part of a blue effort for the county and I'm just left feeling like sexism and racism won in parts of our country. It certainly shows that we still have a lot of work to do.

"I've already heard of two women of color in Toledo that have been brutally attacked verbally by white men who have decided they don't belong in this country anymore. I mean, that is (expletive) up. And I do think he's (Trump) given permission for people, for white men in particular, to show that kind of violence towards women and people of color.

"... Working in Toledo? I'm going to be honest, okay? I felt very... and maybe this is because I grew up in the Bronx in a very working-class family. There was a huge difference being with the people of color that

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Community Calendar

November 24

Thanksgiving Day!!!

Thomas Temple COGIC 13th Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm:
419-255-3447

November 25

Crusaders for Christ Church Black Friday: 7 to 8:30 pm; Come visit the church family

November 29

First Unitarian Church "Black Lives/Blue Lives: A Community Discussion:" 7 pm; Diverse voices from the community including activists in the Black Lives Matter movement, local enforcement officials and civic leaders: 419-262-7859

Black Lives Matter Community Panel Discussion: 7 pm; First Unitarian Church: 419-973-0248

December 9

City of Zion, the Mt. Zion Church Presents Singer Leon Timbo and the UT Gospel Choir: 7 pm

December 10

Bethlehem Baptist Church "Seasons of Symphonic Sounds" Christmas Concert: Presenting the Toledo Symphony Orchestra; 3pm; Soloist Deborah Gardner, ballerina Carrington Kynard and the Bethlehem Mass Choir: 419-241-9360

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Holiday Bazaar: 9 am to 4 pm: 419-246-8561

Clarence Smith Community Chorus "A Community Celebration of Christmas:" 6 pm; Mt. Pilgrim Church; With Sweet Adeline International - Pride of Toledo Choir and the Start High School Women's Choir: 419-283-1434 or 419-243-1958

2016 Holiday Bazaar Extravaganza: 1 to 6 pm; Indiana Avenue MBC; Unique shopping with exclusive vendors from all over the Midwest: 419-367-9765

December 11

City of Zion, the Mt. Zion Church Presents Singer Leon Timbo and Pastor Reginald Perry and the Victorious Believers Ministries: 7 pm

And The Stain Widens....

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

For the political junkies, the recent decisions of Donald Trump in selecting his cabinet choices or those who will have his ear to whisper into are becoming alarming.

First, we had the selection of one of his closest advisors, Steve Bannon, who is the poster boy for the far right groups, "Alt-Right" and which site make no bones about their white nationalistic leanings.

Bannon has unapologetically and unabashedly promoted that extreme web site and this will be a primary person who will have the attention of his buddy, Donald Trump.

You can check out the rantings and ravings of this far right web site by simply googling it and you will be gob smacked with the nutty and dangerous doggerel that they allow to find a home there.

Again, it is important not to under estimate the impact that Bannon will have on his fellow traveler Donald Trump when it comes to domestic and international policies.

If you like conspiracy theories and just plain old fashioned nuttiness, Bannon is your man...and to think, he will have the audience of the soon incoming president!

Makes you wanna holler, throw up both your hands!

Now, and if that is not enough to give you the heebie-jeebies, we now learn that the Donald will nominate a tried and true racist for the important position of attorney general, the senator from the state that made bombings during the civil rights campaigns of this country so famous that they, tongue in cheek, renamed Birmingham, Alabama... "Bombingham."

Such was the ruthless nature of that state and city when it came to resisting the civil rights movement. Remember the three black girls killed

in a church in that city during the civil rights demonstrations?

That nominee for the attorney general slot is Sen. Jeff Sessions. He has a recorded history of being crass and hardcore on anything related to civil rights even to the point where there are allegations from eyewitnesses that he regularly used to use the "N" word and was comfortable in calling adult black men..."boy".

To Sessions, the NAACP was termed, "un-American." Sessions was shot down by his fellow senators when back in the 1980's he was seeking a federal court judgeship.

Happily, more rational minds prevailed and blocked that from becoming history.

Sessions has been reported to state that the KKK was okay with him until he found out that they smoked marijuana. Sessions later said that was a joke and not to be taken literally.

To have Sessions and/or Bannon sitting on Trumps shoulders and feed his already warped mind mis-information and fabricated conspiracy stories will result in a White House lunacy that will be the fodder for the late night comedians for years to come.

What is not to be missed in the selections of Trump's Cabinet is the fact that he is setting the tone for policy decisions and which will affect many, many agencies and branches of government; and millions of people will be on the direct receiving end of his advice and counsel from his far right advisors.

Imagine if you would for a moment if President Obama had Louis Farrakhan or the Black Panthers in his inner circle or as his advisors.

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State Committed to Growing Ohio Minority-Owned Businesses

Special to The Truth

Today, minority-owned businesses met with state officials at the University of Toledo to discuss how minority-owned businesses can develop and grow their business, navigate state contract opportunities and access capital.

The state exceeded its goal of 15 percent by purchasing 23.63 percent of all goods and services from certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) businesses for the second year in a row. The most recent report shows nearly \$298 million was spent with minority-owned businesses across the state, up from \$228.5 million in 2015.

"We are excited about the increased spending with Ohio minority-owned businesses," said Jeffrey L. Johnson, chief of the Minority Development Division at the Ohio Development Services Agency. "Our momentum is strong and we will continue to help develop and grow Ohio small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses."

"Under the leadership of Governor John Kasich, Ohio remains committed to expanding its base of suppliers by encouraging qualified minority businesses to work with the state to supply the goods and services we need to operate," said Gregory L. Williams, state equal employment opportunity coordinator and deputy director of the Equal Opportunity Division at the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which certifies businesses into the MBE program. "As entrepreneurs utilize this program to grow their businesses, we are continually looking at ways to enhance the program to ensure that it better supports business development."

Minority-owned businesses are encouraged to utilize additional resources at the Ohio Development Services Agency to develop

and grow their business. From improving manufacturing processes to exporting goods and services into international markets, Ohio minority business owners and entrepreneurs can work with their local Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) access resources in every stage of business development.

MBACs are strategically placed across the state to help business owners with certification and assistance needed to start or grow a business.

"We look forward to continuing our work to assist small, disadvantaged and minority-owned businesses develop and grow," said Jay Black, director of the Minority Business Assistance Center at the University of Toledo. "We are especially excited about the development of our strategic partnerships throughout Northwest Ohio to help more businesses increase their revenues and create more jobs."



Jay Black and Jeffrey Johnson

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The Importance of Supporting Black-Owned Businesses

By Jay Black, Director, Minority Business Assistance Center

Guest Column

I have studied this issue for some time now and have come to the conclusion that we will not solve the economic and social problems that have plagued our community for the past few generations unless we change our thinking and behavior relative to supporting our businesses.

Why, you might ask?

When we don't have control over our own commerce we are at the mercy and control of others. Have you wondered how non-black-owned businesses (white, Middle Eastern, Asian) dominate the small businesses in our community while at the same time knowing that they would never allow this to happen in reverse in their communities?

It is called the control of commerce.

Have you wondered why every other ethnic group supports its own except us? Perhaps they understand this concept more than we do. I must add that it is not possible at this time for us to spend 100 percent of our discretionary income with black-owned businesses because we are not in every business discipline locally. For instance, there are no black-owned new RV dealers in this area so there is no opportunity to buy a new unit from an African American.

The good news is we can begin to reverse these adverse trends by consciously changing our behavior and by spending some of our money with African Americans on a consistent basis. I challenge you to make an effort to patronize a black-owned business at least three times a month for starters. If you need help with finding quality African-American businesses call the TAACC office. Listed below are just three benefits of supporting our businesses on a regular basis.

1. We have greater control of what goes on in our community. For those of you who are old enough remember the days when Dorr, City Park, Division and Collingwood streets formed the core of our communities' business district,

there was a tremendous sense of pride in knowing that we "owned something." Our children saw black business owners on a daily basis and could more readily aspire to be one of them. We had control over who worked in those businesses and our dollar turned over multiple times before it left our community. The unemployment rate was much lower in our community then than it is today.

2. Unemployment Rate. We will begin to reduce the unemployment rate in our community if we can help our businesses grow. Go into any African-American-owned business and you are apt to see African Americans working in them. There is a large and growing segment in our community whom no one will hire (except us). These are the ex-felons, and Bobos, Junebugs, Shykondas and Aquacenas in our families and churches. There are approximately 2.0 million African-American owned businesses in America and approximately 1.9 million unemployment amongst African Americans. If we would help our businesses grow by patronizing them on a consistent basis we could conceivably solve the unemployment problem in our community.

3. Crime Rate. We can reduce the crime rates in our community by helping our businesses grow. How? When Pookie is gainfully employed he doesn't have time to get with the wrong crowd and consequently get into trouble. We could also drastically reduce the recidivism rates for those who are currently in the system if they had access to gainful employment once they exit the system.



Jay Black

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Ten of Toledo's Best Black-Owned Businesses

For the third year, The Truth has absorbed information from our readers and our own files over the years and selected a number of black-owned businesses – 10 this year – worth mentioning.

And what a varied list we have – consulting, construction, medical, fashion, jewelry, IT, PT – it's quite a tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit here in Toledo.

As Jay Black, former president of the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and current director of the Minority Business Assistance Center, has written in the past – an article we have reprinted in these pages – the importance of supporting local, black-owned businesses cannot be over estimated. The practice of reaching out to our neighbors for services, of going the extra mile to patronize community businesses, is a matter of survival for that community.

Black-owned businesses employ our neighbors and relatives, keep dollars circulating in the community and enable our youth to gain knowledge and experience in the most fundamental aspects of how a community exists and thrives.

Please feel free to inform us of businesses in our community that need a light shined upon them.

Blessed Blossoms Flower Shop

As the 21st Century approached, Stacey Turner faced a dilemma. Her professional life, thus far, had been in banking and insurance but she was unsatisfied working for others. She wanted to start her own business.

She wanted to open her own florist shop but there was one obstacle – she had no experience as a florist. It was a “step of faith,” she says.

To overcome that obstacle, she attended floral school and, to boost her business savvy, she enrolled in the first ASSETS Toledo class that Olivia Holden conducted.

With banker Juanita Greene, Turner toured the city looking at flo-

ral shops that were for sale. She found a mentor in the business – another flower shop owner.

Eventually she established Blessed Blossoms Flower Shop in 2000 at 3365 Lagrange. Sixteen years later, Blessed Blossoms is still thriving.

Nevertheless, Turner is guiding the busi-

ness into another direction. Much of her business currently is of the off-the-street retail type – customers who drop in and pick up a flower or a bouquet – along with the larger orders for weddings, funerals and other such events. Turner, however, is steering her operation into more technologically-advanced territory – online and telephone orders.

Through her website or by telephone customers can arrange delivery to any spot in the area or virtually anywhere in the United States.

Need a Mothers Day bouquet delivered to Fargo, North Dakota or Rockville, Maryland? Turner can do just that for you.

Call her at 419-248-2537 or go to the website to place an order – www.blessedblossomsflowers.com



Stacy Turner

Deborah Barnett's N –SYNC Keeps Her Active in the Community

In 2010, Deborah Barnett retired from Huntington Bank as the vice president of community development and immediately put her years of working with so many different people to good use by starting a public relations company, N Sync.

“Over the past six years, I have been able to take on dozens of clients such as Toledo Public Schools, the City of Toledo, companies and some non-profits,” she said. “My biggest success has been connecting a nucleus of community businesses and individuals with the right resources to have a positive outcome.”

Part of the reason for her success has been the way in which she has reached out to others in the community to work on various issues such as the passage of



Deborah Barnett

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Black-Owned Businesses... continued from page 6

levies. Barnett implemented a plan that State Rep. Edna Brown conceived called "100 Women" in which she organizes influential women in the community to lend their support to a cause.

Recently, for example, Barnett brought her supporters together to line up behind the Lucas County Children Services ballot request for a levy that was not only a renewal but also an increase. Voters gave their approval to that largest millage request on the ballot this year.

N-SYNC also presents classes and seminars on topics such as Taking Control of Your Finances, It's Your Money and It Matters, You Are Your Money, Know Your Credit Score and Doing Business in the 21st Century – For Women.

Barnett, a Cleveland native, moved to Toledo with her family years ago and started at Huntington as a teller.

Health PFST – Trainer to the Young and Old, the Amateur and Professional

Steve Corggens has been a professional trainer for several decades but only recently did he transport his business, Health PFST, to its new location at 114 S. Byrne, Ste 32 S (419-356-0401). In fact, he's been there for less than two weeks and is still bringing in equipment, signage and changing business cards.

The business itself, however, is now six years old and its owner has a track record of success on several levels. Corggens works with those of all professions and ages in what he calls "functional training." Then, he works with those dedicated to athletics as more than a hobby in their "performance training." Among those clients is Toledo's boxer Robert Easter, Jr, recently crowned IBF lightweight cham-

pion of the world.

"I've been his strength and conditioning coach since he started and still am," said Corggens, who has worked with the Easter family for some time now, having been Easter, Sr's football coach some years ago.

Part of the new facility will contain a boxing ring, in fact.

Corggens' clientel at Health PFST (performance, functional, strength, training) runs the gamut from athletes (high school teams, for example) to those local professionals and residents eager to stay in or get back in shape. His clients range in age from seven to 93 years.

"I deal with the service of the body," said the trainer.



Henry's Jewelry and Paradise Shoes and 39 Years in Operation

There aren't many businesses in the African-American community that have had the shelf life of Henry's Jewelry. Celebrating 39 years of service this month, Henry Triplett offers



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Henry Triplett

**Senator
Edna Brown**

and

**State Representative
Teresa Fedor**



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Black-Owned Businesses... continued from page 7

a wide range of jewelry – rings, bracelets, necklaces, watches – for both men and women.

But the breathtaking array of jewelry – for all occasions – is only

part of the story. Paradise Shoes contains clothing and accessories for men and women also – hats, shoes, boots – suits and shirts for men, dresses and skirts for women.

In a shop tucked away in Library Plaza –

4909 and 4911 Dorr Street – Triplett's jewelry and clothing emporium presents a dazzling assortment of colors, styles, shapes and sizes.

"We listen to our customers and we know what you want," states the shop's motto in recent ads.

Henry's is available to those customers six days a week and when Triplett is not displaying his wares, he is out in the community engaging in such activities as the annual Debutante Cotillion during which he donates prizes to the participants.

Henry's Jewelry opens Monday through Saturday at 10 am.

Mitchell Dermatology Moves into Its New Building

This past April, Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD, and the staff of Mitchell Dermatology Center of Northwest Ohio formally welcomed new and returning patients to their new location at 815 Commerce Drive. The celebration began with the ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. and continued with the Open House where guests were able to tour the facility and learn about services while enjoying light refreshments.

Dr. Mitchell is a board-certified dermatologist with 20 years of experience

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Dr. Hope Mitchell

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in general, pediatric, surgical and cosmetic dermatology. She specializes in skin cancer screenings and treatment, mole removals, acne, rosacea, eczema, hair loss, cosmetic injectables and skin rejuvenation treatments. At Mitchell Dermatology, excellence in dermatologic skin care is the number-one priority.

"Our medical and cosmetic Skin Care Center is dedicated to providing professional, high quality dermatologic care to children and adults in a safe, compassionate and welcoming environment," says Dr. Mitchell. "As a leader in dermatologic services, we strive to provide innovative treatment plans to meet the needs of our patients."

Dr. Mitchell is the only black dermatologist – male or female – in northwest Ohio. Her private practice has a staff of a dozen women – nurse, medical assistants, receptionist, billing manager.

A New York City native, Dr. Mitchell earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester, where she would meet her future husband, attorney Richard Mitchell of Toledo. They came to Toledo to earn advanced degrees and start a family. After working for a local dermatology firm, she formed her own firm about 12 years ago.

For more information call 419.872.HOPE (4673) or visit the website at www.mitchellderm.com and the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MitchellDermatology.

Peak Electric, Inc , A Supplier to Public and Private Projects

Milton McIntyre founded Peak Electricity Inc. in 2000 and ventured into the world of entrepreneurship after a number of years of working as an electrician for others. Peak supplies electrical components, particularly LED lighting, to contractors, businesses and individuals.



Milton McIntyre

Initially McIntyre, a Steubenville native who arrived in Toledo to become a journeyman with the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) training program, had planned for Peak to be a subcontractor as an installer of electrical projects. But, as he discovered, as an installer, the company could only take on a limited amount of work because of a lack of capacity. As a supplier, however, Peak is virtually unlimited in its ability to work on large projects.

In recent years, Peak has worked on ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) projects, along with Toledo Public Schools and Toledo Lucas County Port Authority projects, for example, in the public realm. Private companies such as Mercy Health, Owens Corning, the Andersons and Dana have also utilized Peak's resources.

As for the future, McIntyre plans to obtain for Peak, federal 8A certification that will enable the company to sell directly to the federal government. He sees all sorts of opportunities for growth to both public and private entities.

R Gant LLC – Managing Major Construction Projects in Northwest Ohio

Roosevelt Gant is the president of R. Gant, LLC, a general contractor and construction management company headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. R.Gant, LLC has been responsible for overall company management which focuses on construction services for commercial, industrial, institutional and residential customers in both the private and public sectors.



Roosevelt and Gail Gant

R. Gant, LLC, has been the construction management partner in projects such as the \$600 million Toledo Public Schools building project, Fifth Third Field with Lathrop Turner, the Huntington Center with Lathrop Turner and the Hollywood Casino with Rudolph Libbe.

Gant's firm was the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce 1999 Minority Business of the Year. It was also the recipient of the 1999 Northern Ohio Minority Business Council Executive Director's Award for advocating minority business growth in the region and was named The Outstanding Business Partner by The N.W. Ohio Tech Prep Consortium.

Gant and his firm were both honored by the Senate of the 123 General Assembly of Ohio for being recognized as a Minority Business Advocate and Minority Business of the Year. Gant was also highlighted

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ed in the Winter '99 Issue of Managing Small Business.

R. Gant, LLC was honored as the 2005 Class I Minority Business of the Year by the Northern Ohio Minority Business Council.

Reeves Etiquette & Image Consulting – Because Manners Matter

Robin Reeves entered the etiquette consulting business in 2010 and over the past six years has brought her concepts on how to develop good manners and play nice with others to a host of schools, private companies, government entities and non-profit organizations.

The contracts for Reeves Etiquette have taken her and her associates to various sites in Ohio, Michigan, Alabama and Kentucky and overseas to London and the Panama Canal aboard the Princes Cruise Line.

Reeves' vision about the need for a better mannered world has been shared by a number of others, particularly school leaders. "For chil-

dren, it's important to be more polished and prepared, to rid themselves of bullying and to gain confidence and integrity – your demeanor, decorum and dignity travel with you," said the etiquette guru.

College students, she noted, have to transition and "have to take their soft skills and incorporate into the working place."

A department in the City of Toledo had to improve their customer services skills and an Air Force Unit in Swanton, OH felt a need to have returning military personnel receive some information on how to acclimate back into society. It was Reeves Etiquette that fulfilled those needs.

Currently Reeves works with a small staff of four part-timers. However, she is ready to move to the next level and implement a "train the trainer" program further enhancing the service she can provide to clients. Why?

Because manners matter.

Simply D'Vine Boutique: Two Years and Still Going Strong

In August 2014, Terrie Cook opened Simply D'Vine Boutique and brought to life to an idea she had been nurturing for 19 years – a stylish boutique that offers something for every pocketbook and a variety of tastes.

During a tour of the boutique – located in the Marketplace West Shops

, 3606 W. Sylvia Ave – Cook directs customers past shelves containing styles she labels "Young at Heart" to "Moderately Chic" to "Sophisticated" – something for every whim. There is also a "Curvaceous" rack for the plus-sized customer.

In addition to girls and women's clothing, Cook also carries men's apparel – shirts, socks and ties. Men's suits are available to order. It's a small, tidy shop with an abundance of goods.

"This is something I always wanted to do," says Cook. "I did a lot of research to see what was in this area." The plan Cook came up with was to offer different and unique items and make them available to all. "You can come in with \$10, \$15, \$20 and still buy something," she points out.

As a result of her planning, business has been good – growing during her second year, with a lot of repeat clients.

Simply D'Vine Boutique is a labor of love for the entrepreneur, the fulfillment of a long-time dream. In two to three years, if all goes as planned, she envisions that the boutique's continued steady growth will enable her to expand the products and services offered to her customers – new and repeat customers.

Terri Cook and Simply D'Vine Boutique can be reached at 567-455-5940 or by email at simplydvinebtq@gmail.com. You can also view the shop's products by going to the website or Facebook page – Simply D'Vine Boutique.

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Founded in 2007 and headquartered in Toledo, Creadio is a marketing and communications firm which specializes in digital signage solutions (including music and video distribution technology), brand management, communications and social media strategy.

Will Lucas, founder of Creadio, is also the co-founder and CEO of the newly-created Classana, a software which helps people share, discover and organize educational resources for personal and professional development.

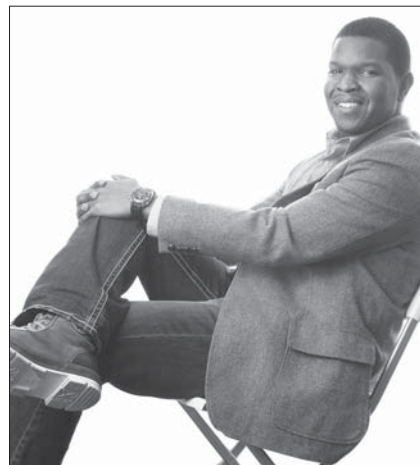
This year, Lucas received a 2016 **20 Under 40 Leadership Recognition Award** in September at the 21st annual 20 Under 40 ceremony. He was selected from a field of 163 candidates.

Lucas is founder and curator of TEDxToledo, is a University of Toledo trustee, serves as an Ohio Casino Control Commissioner and is a member of the Ohio Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

He was among the "40 Diverse People In Tech Who Made big Moves In 2015," in TechCrunch, was recognized by Business Insider in 2014 in "the 46 Most Important African-Americans In Technology," and in 2013 in "The 25 Most Influential African-Americans in Tech," and by NBC News's *The Grio* in "top 10 Blacks in tech to look out for in 2013."



Robin Reeves



Will Lucas



Tara K. Johnson

Direct: 419-860-6955

tara.johnson@combined.com

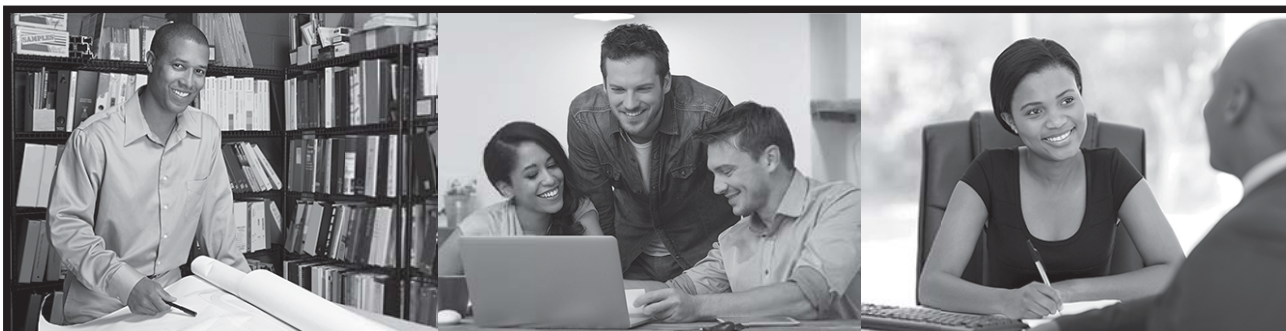
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Annual Tribute to Black-Owned Businesses • Annual Tribute to Black-Owned Businesses • Annual Tribute to Black-Owned Businesses

Imani Lateef's Peep Game Comix Takes Second Place in Local Business Competition

Special to The Truth

Imani Lateef, creator of PeepGameComix.com, the digital comic books platform dedicated to Black comic book creators, recently took second place in the The LaunchPad's fifth annual Pitch and Pour competition, in Toledo, OH.

Pitch and Pour, sponsored by University of Toledo's LaunchPad Incubator, is a shark-tank style business competition where hopeful entrepreneurs share their ideas for a chance to win cash and business services. Guests also had the opportunity to

network with local investors and fellow start ups while sampling local craft beers, coffee and tonics.

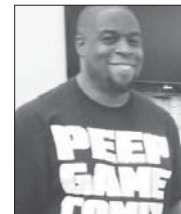
Imani Lateef took second place, out of four finalists and over 20 applicants, for his ecommerce website dedicated to black nerds (blerds) and comic book enthusiasts. The first place prize went to Zid Zid, an app which helps parents teach their children to explore world languages.

Lateef plans to invest his winnings, \$1,500 in cash and services, towards adding several new products to his website as well as producing much needed marketing materials. He also plans to develop partnerships with educational institutions to introduce Peep Game Comix's materials to youth.

PeepGameComix.com is a digital comics platform dedicated to black-themed comic books, showcasing the work of African-American creators (authors, artists, publishers) as well as international creators of the African Diaspora. They currently carry close to 200 titles by black creators and black-owned publishers.

The LaunchPad Incubation Program (LPI) at the

University of Toledo provides intensive entrepreneurial assistance, state-of-the-art facilities, access to capital and other valuable resources to early-stage, technology-based startup companies. The program is focused on taking business ventures from concept to commercialization and providing a framework for companies to become thriving, self-sustaining members of the community. LPI works to bolster innovation within UT and Northwest Ohio by providing access to capital, business development resources, and expertise focused on enhancing community collaboration and communication for entrepreneurial development.



Imani Lateef

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Social Security Announces 0.3 Percent Benefit Increase for 2017

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Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 65 million Americans will increase 0.3 percent in 2017, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 0.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2017. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2016. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$127,200 from \$118,500. Of the estimated 173 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2017, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

...continued on page 13

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Tolliver... continued from page 3

The hue and cry from America would be deafening! But, to date, any such national and sustained outrage is woefully missing.

It is as if the majority of Americans are comfy so far with those personalities being the "tongue and hand" of Trump.

Might it be too stark and harsh to suggest that since Trump (who was heartily endorsed by the KKK) has made, again, being openly racist not a vice but a virtue for those who believe that white America is slipping away from them; and it is time to assert their power or all is lost?

When the appointments for the heads of Health and Human Services, Justice Department, Agriculture and Commerce are announced, you will see the final outlines of the Trump agenda and it will not be kind to people of color and especially so since "we" did not vote for him in record numbers.

When Trump starts appointing local federal judges who have a bent towards restricting civil rights and leaning more towards state rights, be forewarned that such a "alt-right" agenda means trouble in the land.

Enough trouble I predict that will necessitate the revival of the moribund "Obama Coalition" to fend off the ensuing encroachments into human and civil rights.

The issue of the deportation of millions of Muslims and/or illegal immigrants will cause a national migraine because such a massive legal and costly movement by the federal government will be met with dissent in the streets and in courts.

Trump will not "heal" this divided country with his planned divisiveness since he relishes playing one group off and against the other and he will cover up this recklessness with lies upon lies upon lies. Remember that the Bible states that Satan is the father of all lies. Someone needs to tell Trump who his real daddy is!

Perryman... continued from page 2

that were so solidly behind her. I think there were a lot of African-American folks that stayed home. But I don't want in any way to blame the African heritage folks, because at the same time, when I organized in the white neighborhoods, I felt so disconnected from the white folks.

"The white men were so angry with Hillary. Not every man, but more than should've been. And there were women, so many white women that I knocked on their doors and they didn't like her either. I would ask why and try to listen, because I think if you listen to people, they'll figure out what they're staying is stupid eventually, but they didn't, they're not there yet.

"I knocked at five white women's doors who said I cannot vote for Hillary because I don't believe it's the place of a female to be president. Sometimes they would quote the Bible literally. Sometimes they would nod and just say it's how I was raised. I would try and explain my perspective – that it's not like you thought this about women when you were born, but you heard it so, so, so many times that you now believe it, and you shouldn't believe it, you should vote for Hillary. And I never tell anyone who to vote for, but I'm like there's no way she will figure out in a week that what she believes is just b.s.

".... White men said to me if I could I'd kill her for killing people in Benghazi. I was thinking that is really what sexism is ...it's a lot of things, but there's always violence or a threat of violence that comes along with it.

"There was someone out in Point Place, a woman, one of my volunteers knocked on the door election day and my volunteer said...the woman said I didn't vote yet. I'm waiting for my daughter to come and pick me up and take me to vote. My volunteer asked 'can I drive you?' And the woman was so excited. So my volunteer said I'll be back in around five minutes with my car, and her husband in the background started screaming at her, you're not leaving this house to vote for anybody. And my whole team tried to move that.

"I tried to send a man over there, a white man to talk to this man to de-escalate his feelings so this woman could get to vote. No one could get into that house again because they refused to answer the door. They shut off the lights and also wouldn't answer the phone. That woman didn't get to vote, and that is one example to me of the depth of sexism and it's...I think it's true all over the country, but I think there are different flavors in different places."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Social Security... continued from page 12

Information about Medicare changes for 2017, when announced, will be available at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

And for the approximately one half of the eligible voting public who chose not to vote in this pivotal election for whatever reason, when the tension in the air gets unbearable and you find yourself wondering what happened, my words to you?

"You opted out and hid in the closet, please be quiet!"

Note: Have you seen the servile acts of both Ted Cruz and Mitt Romney as they crawl on their belly to Trump Towers to grin and smile in the face of the man that they vehemently excoriated and castigated but when Trump calls, they, like whipped puppy dogs, run to their political master.

Why? They have no shame or self respect because it is all about power and being in the public arena. Both politicians soiled their garments with their open display of moral cowardice; and you wonder why politicians are held in such contempt that they are below the respect given to used car salesmen!

The America that you know now is about to undertake a cataclysmic reordering of wealth and power. Dissent. Attack and counterattack. Lawsuits galore. Public vituperative discourse. These will be the orders of the day.

When that happens, Trump does not possess the moral fortitude or reservoirs of goodwill, compassion or empathy to stem the tide that he intentionally caused to breach the dam of civility and flood America. You reap what you sow.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

TUFCU... continued from page 16

The 2016 honorees: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Deborah Barnett, Bishop Edward Cook, George Cowell Jr, Bishop Robert Culp, David Fleetwood, Richard LaValley Jr and Robin LaValley of The LaValley Foundation, Edwin and Eddy Mabrey, retired TPS Sergeant Anita Madison, Doni Miller, Edward Reiter, Pastor John Robert, Frances Smith, Bishop Duane and Thelma Tisdale, Roosevelt Gant, Sean Simmons and David Smith. All of the awardees were honored for the decades of help they have contributed to the TUFCU community.

"I congratulate the credit union on two decades worth of work. This institution is one of the best achievements of this community," said Congresswoman Kaptur during her acceptance speech.

"I knew Suzette was supposed to run this credit union. I applaud her for staying the course. I thank the credit union and board for their work," said Barnett during her acceptance speech.

Annual banquet sponsors include: First Federal Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, First Church of God in Toledo, The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, Adam and Katie Sloan McDonald's restaurants, The Fair Housing Center, Jim White Honda, Area Office on Aging, Abundant Life Ministries, KeyBank, and The Blade.

The TUFCU was established on July 21, 1996 and focuses on achieving economic empowerment through education for its members to be active partners in the community.

Current board of directors are: Suzette Cowell, Lawrence Friedman, Adele Jason, Pastor Cordell Jenkins, Edwin Mabrey, Debra Miles, Frances Smith, Ray Wood and Fletcher Word; founding members: Bishop Duane Tisdale, Bishop Terry Cook, Pastor Robert Culp, Minister Rick Hunter, Suzette Cowell, Alto King JR, Edwin Mabrey, Ken Anderson, James Cobham, and Roosevelt Gant.

"Everyone who serves on this board wants to serve the community," said Mabrey, founding and current board member.



Thelma Tisdale and David Fleetwood

Local 500 Signs up Five Workers During National Apprenticeship Week

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Laborers Local 500 commemorated "National Apprenticeship Week" on November 17 by signing five trainees to apprenticeship agreements. The apprentices have all just completed 1,000 hours of their required 4,000 hour program and are moving out of probation and onto the next step of their training.

"So many people come in and say they want to work," said David Fleetwood, business manager of Local 500. "These five in particular shine and all have different stories of how they got past me."

The five apprentices were accompanied by a recently promoted journeyman who completed his apprenticeship several weeks ago, Jered Mahoney. Also in attendance at the signing ceremony were Vince Irvin, statewide apprenticeship coordinator for the Laborers' District Council of Ohio; Jeanette McClain, apprenticeship service provider for the State of Ohio Council and Cordell Brooks, regional coordinator for the Northern District of the Council.

The purpose of the apprenticeship program, said Irvin, "is to bring in young men and women who have an interest in our trade and to pass on information from one generation to the next."

Mahoney, who completed the four year program in two and a half years, spoke of his journey at the signing.

"Because I had a pretty rough and tumble past, that held me to minimum wage jobs which was rough on me and the family," recounted Mahoney. The journeyman arrived at Local 500 in 2012, filled out an application and took the test. He worked diligently over the course of his training even earning college credits along the way.

A troubled past, particularly one fraught with criminal issues, can eliminate so many career opportunities for so many. That was the dilemma that Appren-



Apprentices sign as Vince Irvin, David Fleetwood, Jered Mahoney, Jeanette McClain and Cordell Brooks look on

tice Irene Gacita faced for years.

"I was always a minimum wage pencil pusher," she recalled. "I have a lengthy record and I have a granddaughter in my custody. Fleetwood gave me the chance. He's the best motivational speaker I've ever had. Joining Gacita at the signing were Shaquille Clemons, Jordan Ramos, Corey Bennett and Asia Washington.

Laborers Local 500 was formed in 1919 and represents over 1,300 men and women working in the building trades construction union. That number represents an almost 400 person increase in the three years since Fleetwood took over leadership of the local.

Laborers are skilled in the placement and removal of concrete, demolition, asbestos removal, grade checking, flagging, carpenters tenders, brick mason tenders, hazardous waste removal, tunneling and more.

"We are there before [other construction workers] get there and we are there after they leave," said Gacita.

"We're like butlers," added Fleetwood. "We do the hard stuff."



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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY17-32, (Project # 5001-17-1846) for HSB 2nd and 4th Floor Lab Renovations for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$85.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Benjamin Rantilla of Hasenstab Architects at 330-434-4464. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$505,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$85,000.00; Plumbing: \$130,000.00; Fire Protection: \$30,000.00; HVAC: \$180,000.00 & Electrical: \$80,000.00.

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TUFCU Honorees Celebrated at Annual Fundraising Banquet

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth reporter

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) selected 19 individuals to honor during their annual appreciation banquet held Saturday, November 19, 2016. The 20th annual banquet opened with a warm greeting from mistress of ceremony Alexis Means of 13 ABC Toledo News, then an opening prayer delivered by Rev. Tim Pettaway, the pastor of Walk the Word Church.

The program continued with official greetings delivered by TUFCU president Fletcher Word, Building Better Futures Update by Deborah Beyer a TUFCU board member, and then a moving musical selection presented by Terrin Jennings.

Ann Riddle of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, launched the presentation portion of the banquet, immediately followed by Suzette Cowell.

"On July 21, 1996 we started our first day of business with prayer, and we have the prayer going throughout the past 20 years. Each morning we pray for you, our members and for our community, for we know that prayer is key," said Cowell, CEO and Treasurer of TUFCU.



Dionne Furr, Thomas Stovall, Aletha Mitchell, Brittany Smith, Shawn Cowell, Enjoli Henry, Sandra Davis, Eric Cowell

...continued on page 13



Frances Smith and George Cowell



Rev. John Roberts and Doni Miller



Deborah Barnett (center) with son Pasa Barnett and granddaughter Hailey Barnett



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Suzette Cowell, Edwin Mabry and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur