



Volume 43, No. 3

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

February 8, 2017

# Diverse Teachers Matter!



*Romules Durant, EdD, Gloria Ladson Billings, PhD, and Willie McKether, PhD*

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# Stay Woke

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

The Truth Contributor



*We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in present  
– Anonymous, Black Panther Party Platform*

The recent local appearances of black intellectual/activists Cornel West and Angela Davis were both nostalgic and a clarion call.

I first attended the University of Toledo during the social upheaval of the turbulent 1960s and 70s. I witnessed, first hand, sit in and other protests including a student occupation of University Hall, the school's main building and headquarters at the time.

While the protests were primarily linked to the anti-Vietnam War, Civil Rights and Free Speech movements, I most vividly remember activism on campus as also being energized by the birth of the Black Studies movement that had begun in 1966 at what is now San Francisco State University.

Both West and Davis, like many students and professors of my generation, had viewed the campus environment as an extension of the white supremacist and European status-quo of existing society and sought therefore, to transform the institution, in the words of Karenga, "by wedding academic excellence and social responsibility."

Yet what is striking is that, this "activist intellectualism" permeated every segment of the black community and was known both on and off campus as the Black Consciousness movement. The result was a thirst for authentic black history, throughout the community, to replace the miseducation, misrepresentations and misunderstandings of Eurocentric interpretations. There was also, a hunger to view black life and "provide remedies for the problems of the black community," from our own perspective rather than that of others.

Well, perhaps due to the ascendancy of former President Barack Obama, the popularity of Oprah Winfrey or the success of a few other black exceptions, or maybe as a consequence of the toll that "black mentacide" has taken on the community, it now appears that our consciousness has "blackened out."

Yet, the first few weeks of the new administration and its legislative agenda have served to remind us that the need to "stay woke" is now more urgent than ever.

The following are a few ways that offer an opportunity to stay woke or "Get our Minds Together":

Illumination brings transformation, and so reading gets us off to a great start. Recent, offerings such as Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped From the Beginning* or Michael Eric Dyson's *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* are superb, as are Chinweizu's *Decolonising the African Mind* and *Blueprint for Black Power* by Amos Wilson.

Also helpful in gaining understanding and charting the future is to attend community and/or issues forums or even making regular visits to a sociopo-

litical church that blends spirituality into a holistic ministry. The goal is to become fluent enough to be conversant with the current local and national policy agenda.

Members of the African-American community should strive for at least a basic understanding of the impact of current issues such as Obamacare/ACA, immigration, mass incarceration, policing, voting rights, women's rights and education and environmental justice.

"My father," says my colleague Reverend John Jackson of Gary, Indiana, "used to take me to the old Salaam Restaurant in Chicago. It was run by the Nation of Islam and even though Dad was Christian, he would take me to forums and seminars where we'd hear different speakers talking about our people and what we could do to organize black people. My parents were also supporters of Operation Bread Basket and Operation Push. That early exposure to these forums is part of my DNA and responsible for my current activism," adds Jackson.

Thus, in order to stay woke, it is imperative to take advantage of opportunities to hear speakers provided to us by universities, churches, community groups and advocacy groups such as the NAACP.

Finally, African Americans are cultural beings who require cultural maintenance or a way to maintain a connection to their culture and heritage in order to "achieve their psychological potential."

Fortunately, there are a number of wonderful contemporary black films, based upon true but little known stories, which provide a prescriptive for the assault upon the black psyche from the lack of black perspective in media and entertainment.

Movies such as *Queen of Katwe*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Hidden Figures*, *Loving*, *A United Kingdom* and *Fences*, all reflect a diversity of black experiences and lifestyles, are currently in theatres and are highly recommended.

Our support is positive, not only for our cultural and psychological health, it also helps black cinema and its portrayal of black people, culture and experiences to survive and thrive.

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

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### February 12

True Vine Baptist Church Annual Open House Program: The Lucille Best Guild and Senior Mission; 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Bobby Welborn and the Charity Baptist Church; "Don't worry, be thankful and trust in the Lord;" 419-539-9104

### February 19

Indiana Avenue MBC 71st Church Anniversary: Speaker Rev. Jerry Boose of Second Baptist; 4 pm; "Make yourselves ready, busy doing the work of the Lord, for He is soon to return"

### February 23-26

Restoration Free Ministries Fifth Church Anniversary and Dedication Service: Thur-Sat – 7 pm nightly; Sun – 4 pm

### February 25

St. Stephen's Black History Month Celebration: 4 pm; Guests – the UT Gospel Choir

### February 26

Indiana Avenue MBC 71st Church Anniversary: Speaker Rev. WL Perryman of Jerusalem Baptist; 4 pm; "Make yourselves ready, busy doing the work of the Lord, for He is soon to return"

### March 18

Flanders Rd Church of Christ Clothing Giveaway: 10 am to 1 pm; Clothing for all ages

# Be Forwarned!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you have been watching the national news lately, things are getting a little testy with the Trump folks in the White House and the national press corps and the ensuing demonstrations that are protesting his recent Ban The Muslim directives.

Fear is gripping the country if you are a foreigner overseas wanting to return to the US under a legal resident status or if you are an American traveling to certain countries that now view you as an emblem of an America that has recently lost its mind.

Americans love to say that we are an immigrant country (save for the native Americans and Africans brought here in chains to build this country...but that is another story for another day) and that the recent acts of Donald have greatly tarred and feathered the image of America as a shining light on a hill.

The truth is that the Americans who voted for Trump are probably ecstatic with his recent pronouncements against "certain" Muslims making their way to America.

Donald repeatedly said on the campaign trail that he wanted a Muslim ban and...voila!, he is on his way to making good on that draconian campaign promise.

As for facts as to what countries were or were not listed on his Muslim Ban list, it is curious that one country that was deeply involved in the 9/11 massacre was not on that banned list...Saudi Arabia!

It was those of Saudi origin who comprised the overwhelming majority of terrorists who brought down the Twin Towers and rammed a plane into the Pentagon.

But, they are strangely omitted from the banned countries.

Could it be that since Donald has substantial business interests in the Saudi nation that his business interests overrode his professed desire to protect Americans?

When you spin the TV channels and eavesdrop on all of the different commentators, and their expert panels and the samplings of the 'man in the street' you can get the feeling that America is having some serious heart burn about national unity.

With the Donald still having a tantrum over the numbers of those who did not attend his inaugural day parade and the huge numbers of women who marched the very next day in D.C., one can say with some verity, that this is the beginning of protracted protests against

a nascent political administration that is amateurish and sloppy at best.

Donald is constantly using his spin doctors to explain his pogo stick up and down changes regarding national security and domestic policies that will affect the health and welfare of millions of people.

Now, it seems that since the Donald is upsetting a lot of white folks with his political gibberish, the backlash to his head-scratching directives will cause more and more affected people to realize that the Donald is clueless and witless about so many issues. Basically, he is an intellectual midget and does not seem to care!

One can reasonably ask, "Is Steve Bannon, the white nationalist who is doubling as Donald's chief strategist, running the show behind the scenes and the Donald is just there for window dressing?" Note: Ever hear of the Manchurian Candidate?

The upcoming Supreme Court nominee is going to be a battle royale if the Donald presents for nomination a right wing ideologue who will champion his cause on the Supreme Court and not represent "main stream" America.

Since I was transfixed with the happenings in D.C., I took the unusual steps of trying to use my deep throat source I last time before I had to close down that venue of inside information. Plus, my source was in imminent danger of being exposed and I needed to get one last piece of data before he went underground.

My source and I were able to make contact at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial.

He wore a gray business suit and carried a brown nondescript brief case and I appeared as a wide-eyed tourist taking pictures of the capital's monuments.

He set down his brief case and turned to ostensibly tie his shoe and I approach the brief case and quickly, in one deft movement, picked it up and kept on snapping pictures.

He silently mouthed to me, "Good luck and goodbye my friend!" and slowly walked away never to contact me again.

For many, many years, this source gave me unimpeachable data about the inner workings of the past four presidents, but I then realized that my source was gone and I tried, without success, to suppress the tears streaming down my face.

I realized that in that battered briefcase was a world of information that my reading public must have access to...no matter the personal cost to me.

I later learned when I returned to Toledo that my contact was arrested some hours later before while attempting to board a flight to Portugal.

I also later learned that even when "Ronnie" was being water boarded for several days and for hours on end...on the orders of the Donald, he did not cave in and give up my name and for that, I am forever grateful.

To this day, I do not know the eventual fate of my compatriot.

When I read the contents of briefcase, it took me literally hours to recover from my shock and you will soon learn why America is in trouble with the Donald being in the White House.

The following edicts are to "reshape" and are soon to be released as executive orders. See if you can make any sense of the Donald making America Great! with these proposals for executive orders:

(1) To initiate a partial Muslim ban in order to gauge the reaction of the American public and if there is no backlash, then to instigate a permanent ban on Muslims entering the country. (Note: this is being done at the current time!).

(2) To have the soon-to-be Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, shut down any pending or future investigations into voter suppression in all of the southern states and to have this done before the midterm 2018 elections. He will use budgetary cuts as the cover to cut back on enforcing voter registration laws.

(3) To have any Supreme Court nominee argue against Roe v. Wade on the grounds that the abortions are causing a steep decline in white birth rates and as such it is inimical to the na-

... continued on page 12



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# Ohio Democratic Party Statement on the Celebration of Black History Month

The Ohio Democratic Party released the following statement from Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party Vice Chairman Rhine McLin and Ohio Young Black Democrats President Dontavious Jarrells in recognition of Black History Month:

"Black History Month is a time to recognize the extraordinary leaders of the past and present who have broken barriers and made America a stronger nation," said Pepper. "This month reminds us to recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight against discrimination and racial inequality. The theme of this year's Black History Month is 'The Crisis in Black Education.' In the spirit of the civil rights movement, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a brighter future for all of our children, no matter the color of their skin."

"Black History Month gives us the opportunity to look back at Ohio's African-American political leaders that paved the way for the current generation," said McLin. "Today we honor great Ohioans like Congressman Lou Stokes, who became Ohio's first African-American congressman and helped to found the Congressional Black Caucus; Mayor Carl Stokes, who was the first African-American mayor of a major U.S. city; Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who was the first black woman to represent Ohio in Congress; Representative William Mallory, who was Ohio's first black House majority leader and longest-serving in its history; Jesse Gooding, who served as the president of the Dayton chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and led the fight to desegregate the Dayton public schools; and my father, Representative C.J. McLin, who served the people of Dayton as their state representative for more than two decades and founded the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio. It is our duty as citizens to honor the legacy of these great leaders by continuing to fight for good jobs, a living wage, access to health care

and better schools for all of our children, regardless of their race, color or religion."

"At the heart of it all, the African-American story is the American story," said Jarrells. "It's a story of courageous leadership in the face of adversity. It's a story of progress that strengthens our great democracy. I am proud to honor and stand on the shoulders of many giants to continue the legacy of service and shape the future of our great state."

## Ashford Tapped to lead Community and Family Advancement Subcommittee on Minority Affairs

*Will work with colleagues to help shape public policy*

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) last week announced he will serve as chairman of the Community and Family Advancement Subcommittee on Minority Affairs for the new legislative session. Ashford, elected to his fourth term in November and sworn in earlier this month, will be the only Democratic member to serve as chairman of a committee or subcommittee this General Assembly.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue serving my constituents in the new General Assembly," said Ashford. "As we begin the state budget deliberations here at the Statehouse, I am committed to working across the aisle to improve our roads and bridges, protect Ohioans' access to healthcare, invest in our public education system and help ensure equal access to economic opportunity for all working Ohioans."

Ashford will also serve on the following committees to help shape and refine public policy during the 132nd General Assembly:

- Community and Family Advancement
- Insurance
- Public Utilities, ranking member
- State and Local Government

The House of Representatives has 21 standing committees now after House Republicans slightly altered the committee structure for the 132nd General Assembly. The Judiciary Committee was split into two separate Criminal and Civil Justice Committees, committees on state and local government were consolidated, and several new committees – including Aging & Long-Term Care and Federalism & Interstate Relations – were established, among other changes.



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## Toledo Area Catholics Call for Solidarity with Muslim Brothers and Sisters

All citizens who cherish the diversity of our community and celebrate its compassion are invited to stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters on Friday, February 10, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Masjid Saad Foundation, 5225 West Alexis Road, Sylvania, OH 43560.

Tom Landgraff, chairman of the Social Justice Subcommittee of the Toledo Chapter of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP), is calling on members and friends of all area religious and civic groups to show support by gathering in peace to express sorrow and hope in the face of recent challenges to the civil and religious rights of Muslims in our country.

"Compassion is intrinsic to all religions. Catholic Social Teaching tells that we are required to stand in solidarity with the vulnerable.

"In his encyclical 'On Social Concerns,' Pope John Paul II wrote that solidarity 'is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.'

"Bishop Daniel Thomas of the Diocese of Toledo has asked us to pray 'for a new respect for the dignity of every human person; for the protection and safety of all persecuted men, women, and children; for all families impacted by this policy; for prudence and wisdom for all our elected officials; and for charity, peace and justice for all.'

"We therefore stand in solidarity with our Muslim friends."

Participants wishing to bring signs are asked to make them positive and prayerful.



## Toledo Branch NAACP

The Toledo Branch of the NAACP is strongly opposed to the President's move to stop immigration of certain nationalities of people. We are especially opposed to the ban on Muslims.

In fact, all of us are immigrants. Our country has been built and sustained by immigrants. Africans were forcibly brought from their home countries to serve the needs of landowners. Chinese, Irish, Central and South American and other immigrants have shouldered the work of many industrial and agricultural enterprises throughout our nation's history. The Statue of Liberty's tablet has welcomed immigrants for decades with the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free..." Our country has proudly opened its arms to others in need of freedom and justice since its founding.

We are aware of the concerns for terrorist activities in our country and abroad and the part played by extremists. But there are extremists in all religions. Christian extremists have been responsible for heinous acts throughout the history of the world and even to this day, they persecute others for various reasons. Singling out a religious group is a dangerous move. Many remember or have studied about the tactics of Hitler in Germany and other countries to identify and eliminate Jews. Although there were outraged, the program continued. More than half a century later we are potentially on the verge of another wave of similar tactics. How do we determine whether a person is Muslim or Christian? Will we make the Muslims wear badges and the Christians crosses?

We call on the President to lift the ban on Muslims traveling to our country until another solution can be found to stop Muslim extremists from threatening us from within and without. Stop separating families from each other. Refugees who have legally come to our country have come to find peace and freedom. They deserve at least that.

Ray Wood, President  
NAACP Toledo Branch  
419.214.1551



## Statement on Executive Order Signed by President Trump Regarding Immigration Restrictions

The Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and the Jewish Community Relations Council are troubled by the recent Executive Order against refugees looking to come to the USA to escape the horrors of their war-torn countries.

Historically, we are a country of immigrants who came to these shores to escape the horrors of war, to seek religious freedom, and to earn better opportunities for our families and succeeding generations.

Jews have made innumerable contributions to American culture, arts, entertainment, science, government and more areas, and continue to do so.

There were times when Jews were turned away from these shores. Like Moses, who saw the land and was not allowed to enter, we pray for those who wish to come here and live in peace, but are denied safe harbor.

We urge President Trump and his administration to come to a resolution soon and to allow another generation of future citizens to add their uniqueness to the melting pot that is America.

"You shall not wrong nor oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:20)

Signed,  
Gary Delman  
President, JFGT  
Scott Rothstein  
Chair, JCRC

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## Angela Davis Opens Black History Month Celebration at UT

By Donnetta Carter

The Truth Contributor

Angela Davis, the legendary civil rights activist and women's advocate, was the keynote speaker for the Black History Kick Off Luncheon on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in the Lancelot Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

Kaye Patten, PhD, senior vice president for Student Affairs was the organizer of the event. Both Patten and Sharon Garber, PhD, UT president, welcomed Davis and the event attendees. The Links, Inc and the Study Hour Club were sponsors for this annual event.

The theme for this year's luncheon and Davis' address was: "The State of Black America: Views from a Political Activist."

The program opened with the singing of the National Black Anthem "Lift Every Voice" by the UT Gospel Choir and another selection by Ron Hogue.

Davis has been involved in social justice activism for decades and has been on the faculty of several universities. During her speech she spoke about the impact of mass incarceration on the community and how institutions and private companies profit from the practice.

She also talked about President Donald Trump and how he has turned the country backwards after having been in the Oval Office for only two weeks. She addressed the irony of Trump's acknowledgement of Frederick Douglass as an American icon when Black History Month opened on February 1.

Everyone enjoyed the soul food luncheon prepared by the University of Toledo chefs, Jonathan Torok and Peter Harrigan.

Angela Davis was gracious to take dozens of photos with numerous guests in attendance.



Donnetta Carter and Davis



Alexis Means, Mistress of Ceremonies



Angela Davis



Richard Jackson

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Angela Davis; Pathy Davis, Councilwoman Cecilia Adams, PhD; Mayor Paula Hicks- Hudson



Abdul Rafiz Lartey and Davis

Photos courtesy Donnetta Carter

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# Northwest State Community College Actively Recruiting Students

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

"We need to get students," said Verna Cheers, outreach specialist for the Custom Training Solutions division of Northwest State Community College, as she opened a forum on January 24 designed to inform leaders in the community of the many opportunities the new training facility offers.

On hand to receive the message about the brand new manufacturing training center were such luminaries as Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, State Senator Edna Brown, NAACP President Ray Wood, Pastors Robert Culp and John Roberts, among others.

On hand to deliver the message were representatives of NSCC – Todd Hernandez and Tom Wylie.

In March 2016 Northwest State Community College opened a satellite location at the University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus. The Scott Park location is a manufacturing training center whose purpose is to replenish the ranks of skilled tradesmen as their numbers are depleted through retirement.

The NSCC location, a 22,000 square foot facility provides offers three types of training programs, or buckets. The first bucket trains existing employees of customers in subjects such as business computers, hydraulics and automotive production, for example.

In the second bucket, NSCC provides training across a broad spectrum in an apprenticeship program. And in the third, NSCC brings in students for 32 weeks or less for certification in such areas as IT, robotics and industrial automotive maintenance. The third bucket also includes a pilot program, funded by United Way, which prepares students for entry level positions in basic operation for automated plants.

The Scott Park location is housed in a building that had been put to a variety of purposes over the years. In recent years, the State of Ohio cleared the way for the expansion of NSCC and provided a grant of almost \$2 million for renovation of the facility and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce provided funds of \$900,000 for programming.

Soon to arrive is another \$1 million in portable equipment, said Wylie. "Our job is to train companies by retraining existing workers," he added, "but we need a pipeline of incoming employees. We need to get our region 'skilled up.'"

Currently about 200 students are enrolled at the facility, said Hernandez, but the campus has the capacity for many more.

The facility also works aggressively to assist students with financing – such as loans and grants, said Hernandez.

One of Cheers' tasks is to reach out to community institutions, such as churches, to bring the word of the opportunities offered at the campus. Cheers' own son, Vershawn, graduated in 2016 from one of the programs and immediately found employment so Cheers knows personally the benefits of the programs offered at NSCC.

For more information on the programs, schedules, financial aid offered by the Custom Training Solutions Division of Northwest State Community College, call Verna Cheers at 419-3777-3404 or contact via email at [vchears@northweststate.edu](mailto:vchears@northweststate.edu).



*Forum attendees*



*Ray Wood, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Verna Cheers*



*Sen. Edna Brown, WilliAnn Moore, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson*



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# University of Toledo Welcomes Renown Education Scholar

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Educators, students and residents gathered at The University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus Auditorium on Thursday, January 26, 2017 to hear from renown education scholar Gloria Ladson-Billings, PhD. Her background and accomplishments include being a researcher at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, an author of several books and scholarly articles, the keynote speaker at educational and community events and her work in the field of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and Critical Race Theory.

The university began the day with a two-hour lecture-style presentation by Ladson-Billings on the subject of her famous research, "Culturally Relevant Pedagogy," followed by a two-hour evening lecture-style presentation on "Diverse Teachers Matter."

The evening presentation included visual charts and graphs, scholarly article references, videos, and open questions from attendees. Ladson-Billings opened the discussion by sharing how initially she would receive requests from school systems to assist with implementing the points of her theory.

"Most of my calls were from cities like New York, Chicago and Detroit, but now my phone rings from suburban schools. The teacher population has changed since Brown vs. Board of Education, the number of black faces has declined. That ruling had a large impact, over 3,500 teachers were fired after

that ruling. Unfortunately, some kids can say they never had a black teacher," said Ladson-Billings.

Discussions continued and focused on the teaching profession and the impact Hurricane Katrina had on the entire state of Louisiana. "In New Orleans 25 percent of the African-American teachers were fired after Hurricane Katrina, and 11 years later people are still trying to get their jobs back," said Ladson-Billings.

Ladson-Billings closed the discussion by sharing a video which provides a visual demonstration of the three points of her "Culturally Relevant Pedagogy," which are: focus on academic achievement and student learning; cultural competence and socio-political consciousness.

The video featured an African-American science teacher, Chris Edwin, PhD, and how he introduced hip-hop style rhyming to his students that resulted in increased memorization and comprehension of scientific formulas and equations. The exercise expanded into a city-wide competition.

"I hope you have a better understanding of 'Cultural Relevant Pedagogy.' You can't build pedagogy on how much you love students, that's not motivation. You should care about their education," shared Ladson-Billings.



Judy Jones, Tiffany Whitman, Colins Imoh, Anthony Bouyer, Marjory Goodloe, and Glenda Ransey



Judy Jones, and Tiffany Whitman



Dr. Ladson Billings

## SOULFUL MUSIC AND ROMANTIC SPOKEN WORD!

Join us on Friday, February 10 at 9 p.m. for an intimate evening of SOULful music and romantic spoken word poetry that is sure to groove and move your SOUL. Featuring playwright John Scott and other amazingly gifted artists. Those in attendance will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to Valentine's Love Affair featuring Joe, Ro James, Chrisette Michele, and Vivian Green at Fox Theatre (Detroit, MI) on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. This is a night for lovers of self and significant others. Save the date and plan on attending this SOULful and romantic candlelit Valentine's Day weekend event. Log on to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), type "Art & SOUL at The Truth Gallery: For Lover's Only" in the search bar, and purchase your tickets in advance.

**Friday, February 10 at The Truth Art Gallery,  
1811 Adams Street.**

Tickets: \$10



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Romules Durant, EdD, Gloria Ladson Billings, PhD, and Willie McKether, PhD



Twila Page and Anthony Bouyer, PhD



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# Jamaican Bobsled Team Visits St. Francis

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

It's been almost 30 years since the Jamaican Bobsled Team made its debut at the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988. And who would have thought that, decades later, Jamaica would still have teams participating in winter sports events in spite of a lack of cold, ice, snow or cash to support such endeavors?

Yet, here we are. A year away from the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea and the Jamaican Bobsled Team is touring the globe, raising funds and seeking cooler climates in which to hone their skills.

On January 26, the team, on the road from Lake Placid, NY to Calgary, stopped in at Toledo's St. Francis de Sales High School to talk about their challenges both on and off the ice.

Over the years, the team has improved quite a bit, notwithstanding the lack of cash, the lack of proper conditions and even, as now, without a coach. Of course, there is no dearth of world-class athletes in Jamaica to cross over from the more traditional track events in which the summer teams excel.

The team stopped at St. Francis due to the involvement over the years of the school's president, the Rev. Geoff Rose, in a number of missions to Jamaica.

The team has set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds to pay a coach – gofundme.com/JamaicaBobsled.



*The Bobsled Team*



*Fr. Geoff Rose, OSFS, with team*



*Joel Alexander with Junior Maurice Sturdivant*



*St Francis Juniors Jacob Henry (left) and Ryan Skie (right) with Jamaican Bobsled Team Captain, Joel Alexander*

## Notice of Public Hearings February 15 and 16

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority will hold three public hearings:

- **12:30 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Authority's Administration offices, 1127 W Central Ave, Toledo OH 43610, and;**
- **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Sylvania Branch Library, 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560;**

for the purpose of discussing with the public, information on service modifications of various routes to be effective March 19, 2017. The site is accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Interpretive services for the hearing-impaired and Limited English Proficient person/s will be provided upon a 48-hour advanced request notice. Individuals wishing to comment in person on the proposed changes should be present.

### Proposed Service Changes:

- Introduce experimental route **6** King Road/City of Sylvania, to replace **2C** name, routing, and schedule adjustments. Modification in routing with timepoints of Franklin Park Mall, Flower Hospital, Lourdes University, Meijer, and Wal-Mart (map available at TARTA.com)
- Schedule adjustments to route **3** on all trips; no longer interlining with route **2C/6** King Road/City of Sylvania
- Schedule adjustments to **10L**
- Discontinue route **7** due to low ridership and new route **20M** service
- Discontinue route **42** due to low ridership, Berdan ramp closure and increase service from routes **26D/L** and **17B/E**
- Schedule adjustments for other routes **5, 10, 11/12/13/14, 15A/E, 17E/B, 22F, 24/T, 27H/N, 28/30, 34, 43, and 44X**

Comments may also be made by writing to James K. Gee, General Manager, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, PO Box 792, Toledo OH 43697-0792. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, to be included as part of the official record for final route adjustments and implementation purposes.

1127 W Central Ave is accessible via TARTA 20M/T and 20/24; 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560 is accessible via TARTA 2C and 1/4 Sylvania Call-A-Ride.



Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

# Need-Based Scholarships Are Available for Private Schools and Homeschool

Special to The Truth

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) is accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year for need-based scholarships for grades kindergarten through eighth worth up to \$1,500 for children to use at a nonpublic school or \$500 for home school expenses. Families need to reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood or Wyandot Counties.

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

Since 1999, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$12 million in scholarships to 14,000 students, part of that includes \$4 million in matching funds. All funds raised locally by NOSF are matched by the Children's Scholarship Fund and are used for scholarships in NW Ohio.

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

Interested families can find more information about the program on the NOSF website at [www.nosf.org](http://www.nosf.org) and apply online <http://tinyurl.com/NOSF17AP>. For more information please contact Northwest

Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048. Deadline to apply for the 2017-2018 school year is Friday, April 28, 2017.

## Lifelong Learning Offers Fun and Educational Spring Lectures and Hot Topics

The Lourdes University Lifelong Learning program has compiled an enticing lineup of spring lectures and hot topics. The events are held on select Fridays at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University, 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania.

• **Lectures begin at 10 a.m. with refreshments offered at 9:15 a.m.** Free for members and first-time visitors.

• **Hot Topics are offered from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** and include a lunch of soup, sandwiches and dessert. Cost for each meeting is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members except for "A Walk Through Time" which is \$18 for members and \$25 for nonmembers and includes a buffet lunch. Reservations are strongly encouraged at least one week prior.

**Friday, February 17**

**Defending Your Healthcare Against Electronic Bandits**

*Featuring Margaret Diehl, MSN, MSIA, CISSP, RN*

Reforms and technologies intended to bring healthcare into the electronic age have fostered the emergence of a new marketplace with bandits racing to cash in. With the gold rush on, the wild-west west has returned. It's not a matter of if, but when, the bandits will see you as their next bank to hit. So, it's time to circle the wagons and defend the homestead against this growing epidemic. Margaret Diehl (MSN, MSIA, CISSP, RN) became interested in technology security in the 1990s when the bandits began using the internet to reach into people's lives.

Her transition into healthcare started shortly after Hurricane Katrina when it was foreseen the next siege would occur in healthcare. Using her rare blend of backgrounds as an experienced registered nurse and certified computer professional, Diehl offers session attendees a unique, insiders perspective on how this epidemic evolved, why it is targeting healthcare, in particular seniors, and what you can do to immunize yourself against it.

**Hot Topic: Suing the EPA for Lake Erie**

*Featuring Regional Environmentalist Marya Czech*

Great Lakes environmental groups have united to pressure appropriate enforcement of the Clean Water Act for Lake Erie by suing the EPA. What difference will this make? Marya Czech, a regional environmentalist, addresses this month's "hot topic."

**Friday, March 17**

**Visual Literacy: The Art of Seeing**

*Featuring Mike Deetsch, Director of Education and Engagement at the Toledo Museum of Art*

Every day we are bombarded with so much information that our senses – our vision in particular – exist in a constant state of overload. Being able to identify, interpret and act upon visual information is more crucial than ever in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Join Mike Deetsch as he provides a brief introduction to the concept of Visual Literacy and how the Toledo Museum of Art uses its collection to teach this ever-important skillset. Mr. Deetsch is the Director of Education and Engagement overseeing the docent program, art classes and museum curriculum.

... continued on page 11

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# Does Law Enforcement Unfairly Target Black Males in America?

That is this year's essay question in the  
2017 Crispus Attucks Black History Month Essay Contest  
Sponsored by Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley  
For Students in Grades:

9 through 12

6 through 8

Please submit your entry by March 1, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Entries in the Crispus Attucks Black History Month Essay Contest will be grouped into two divisions:

DIVISION I: 9th through 12th Grades

DIVISION II: 6th through 8th Grades

CASH PRIZES FOR EACH DIVISION:

1st Place: \$250.00

2nd Place: \$175.00

3rd Place: \$100.00

## CONTEST RULES:

1. Each essay must be 500 words or fewer, typed and double spaced, one sided or neatly handwritten. The title, citations, footnotes and bibliography will be excluded from the 500 word limit. DO NOT

STAPLE THE ESSAY. Instead, please use a paper clip.

2. Each student may submit only one entry.

3. All entries are to be reviewed by the student's teacher or parent (if home schooled).

4. Each entry MUST include a cover sheet indicating the student's name, home address, telephone number, teacher's name, school name, address and phone number and teacher's email address if applicable.

5. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2017 at 4 p.m. Entries must be received via regular mail, (One Government Center, Suite 2120, Toledo, OH 43604) fax (419-245-1072) or email (kim.baker@toledo.oh.gov) on or before that date and time. If an entry is sent via email, information requested on cover sheet MUST be included. **EMAILED SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PDF OR WORD FORMAT.**

6. A panel will be formed to select the finalists in each division. Essays will be judge on format, clarity, style, reasoning, creativity and overall effort.

7. Submitted entries cannot be returned. Councilman Tyrone Riley retains the right to reproduce any essays submitted, in whole or in part.

For additional information, call 419-245-1050 or email kim.baker@toledo.oh.gov

## Lifelong Learning... continued from page 10

### Hot Topic: Christian Communities in the Holy Land

Featuring Author and Speaker Jeff Abood

Christians have lived in the Holy Land (now Israel and Palestine) since the first Pentecost. Learn who they are and about the struggles that are causing them to emigrate. A speaker and author, Jeff Abood has served as Advocacy and Outreach Director of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. Knighted by the Vatican, Abood currently serves in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Friday, April 21

### Lighthouses Along the Rivers of Steel

Featuring Ron Campbell and Jackie Hoist, Members of the American Institute of Architects

Take an engaging look at one of America's most recognizable and endearing building types, the train depot. For most cities the depot was the center of commerce, information and transportation. Created across America by the railroad companies, this first corporate building type oftentimes became the landmark identity of the community it served.

Travel through time from the earliest utilitarian depots of the 1850s to the grand terminals at the peak of passenger service with preservation architects/planners Ron Campbell and Jackie Hoist. Recall the memories and explore the future legacy of these 'lighthouses' along the rivers of steel. Campbell and Hoist are authors of a book on historical train depots.

### Hot Topic: Lead Poisoning in Toledo

Featuring Lead Case Manager of the Lucas County Childhood Lead Prevention Program - Gloria Smith, R.N.

Toledo ranks second in the state for lead poisoning cases, most of which are children. Lead poisoning can affect the entire body and cause irreparable damage. A lead case manager to the Lucas County Childhood Lead Prevention Program, Gloria Smith, R.N., talks about the work being done to combat this issue, work that ultimately led to the recent ordinance passed by Toledo City Council.

Friday, May 12

### Why a Vibrant Downtown Toledo is Important to the Entire Toledo Region

Featuring Joseph D. Napoli, President and CEO of the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club

The connections between sports, business and our community are discussed by Joseph D. Napoli, President and CEO of the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club, Toledo Walleye Hockey Club and Hensville. Raised in Brooklyn, Napoli's 25- year career in sports began with the Canton In-

dians after which he worked with the Chicago Bulls and Detroit Tigers. Napoli came to Toledo to embark on several developments in downtown Toledo including Fifth Third Field, the Toledo Walleye and Huntington Center. In April of 2016 the Hens opened "Hensville" the redevelopment of three historic buildings and Hensville Festival Park.

Hot Topic: A Walk Through Time: Exploring the Journey of Music Through the Centuries

Featuring Toledo Native, Organist and Pianist Heidi Clausius

Buffet lunch included

Cost: \$18 for members; \$25 non-members

Join in a walk through music history beginning with Bach and on to today, sampling a variety of musical styles and composers along the way. Your guide on this walk is pianist Heidi Clausius. A Toledo native, Clausius received her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from The University of Toledo (UT). An injury forced her to abandon hopes of a career in music; however, after an 18-year absence, she returned earning a Masters of Music from Bowling Green State University. Now very active in the Toledo and Bowling Green music communities, she has performed in the Great Gallery of the Toledo Museum of Art and with the Sylvania Community Orchestra. Today, Clausius is the organist/pianist at Trinity Episcopal Church and maintains a private piano studio where she teaches group piano and coaches UT vocal students.



Apply to the **Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund** today and your child, grades K-8, could receive a scholarship up to \$1,500 towards next year's tuition at a private school or for homeschool expenses. Families need to meet income eligibility requirements and live in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood or Wyandot Counties.

**www.nosf.org**

**NOSF**  
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Children's Scholarship Fund

For more info or to apply, visit  
<http://tinyurl.com/NOSF17AP>  
or call (419)720-7048

*The Marriage of Figaro... continued from page 16*

have a nice voice," he was told by those in the know. Encouraged, he auditioned for the college chorus, was accepted and music became a bit of a hobby for the budding scientist.

After graduation, Stokes headed for New York City to take a job as a chemist with Domino Sugar Refinery. And after a couple of years he began auditioning for opera choirs. Fourteen years ago, he was cast in a small role in Verdi's *Rigoletto* and for several years after that continued to gain roles in ever increasing importance.

Stokes might have spent a lifetime working as a chemist and moonlighting in minor operatic roles had not fate intervened. Twelve years ago, he was laid off from his day-time chemist gig. "A bittersweet moment," he recalls. "I hated chemistry, but I liked stability."

Stability was now a thing of the past, as Stokes committed himself to his new life as artist/opera singer, much to the chagrin of his family, who couldn't comprehend why any self-respecting scientist would take up the challenge of the uncertain world of performer – an opera performer at that.

Stokes' commitment has paid off, however. The bass/baritone doesn't get back home to Staten Island as often as he would like but that's an indication of how busy he is these days. This week, he will be performing the lead role in *Figaro* for the fourth time in his short career. This performance marks his second Toledo appearance – one year ago he was here in *Porgy and Bess*.

He has more than 50 roles on his resume and has been in high demand since completing two seasons the distinguished Ryan Opera Center of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and has performed with opera companies from coast to coast as well as overseas on numerous occasions.

The *Marriage of Figaro* is the first of three masterpieces created by a collaboration between composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte. The Toledo Opera performances will be on Friday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m. A student night performance will be held on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

tional security interest for America to have low birth rates of white newborns in a nation that is fast becoming non-white.

(4) To declare temporary federal martial law in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston and Atlanta on the grounds that law and order is being contravened and only the federal government can restore order in the afflicted "inner cities."

(5) To arrest for questioning any member of Congress who speaks out against the Donald on grounds that such remarks can incite violent civilian demonstrations against a duly elected and constituted government.

(6) To empower the National Security Council to monitor the calls and emails and

Facebook pages and remarks of anyone who would cause or agitate or incite civil disobedience against a lawful order of this administration.

I clearly understood that upon the event of my releasing the above proposals that I would be a marked man but I weighed the right of my readers to know the inner machinations of their government and my own well-being; and I chose to cast my lot with the reader being informed of what is about to take place in their government.

America, you have entered the Twilight Zone of authoritarian politics. Be forewarned!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

*Fedor... continued from page 16*

Flanked by student advocates, legal experts, law enforcement and survivors, state Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) last week announced plans to modernize Ohio's laws to treat all survivors of human trafficking under the age of 18 as victims - not criminals.

"Too often in Ohio, young women and men who are forced and manipulated into the illicit sex trade are arrested and charged for prostitution - when in fact they are the victims," said Fedor. "Instead of making it harder for victims of human trafficking to get the help they need when they need it, we can modernize outdated laws to put children first - ahead of abusers and criminals."

The Toledo lawmaker asked the roughly two dozen high school students alongside her - who had traveled to the Statehouse today to take part in the first ever Ohio Youth Trafficking Prevention Summit - to take an active, leading role in the effort to modernize Ohio's outdated prostitution and solicitation laws.

The Safe Harbor Act, passed in 2012, helped create a safe haven for the victims of human trafficking in part by establishing greater penalties against those that profit and engage in human trafficking. The landmark law also shifted the state for the first time to an approach that treats survivors like victims - not criminals.

However, Ohio still views 16 and 17-year-old victims as criminals under its prostitution and solicitation laws. Rep. Fedor plans to soon introduce legislation to extend Safe Harbor protections to all human trafficking victims under the age 18.

"Children who are exploited are not prostitutes - they are victims," said Maureen Guirguis, co-director of the Case Western Reserve University Law School Human Trafficking Clinic. "Men who pay for sex with sixteen and seventeen-year-olds are effectively buying rape."

According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Information Crime Reports, Ohio has ranked as high as fifth among all states in total reported human trafficking cases. Just this week, the nonprofit Polaris Project released a report which found that 375 human trafficking cases from Ohio were reported to a national hotline last year - a 23 percent increase over the year before.

"As a community, we must address the neglect, abuse, violence and drug and mental health issues that leave our children vulnerable to human trafficking," said Lucas County Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Denise Cubbon.

Fedor also noted that the Ohio attorney general's office recently announced they will begin analyzing a missing-child database for red flags that indicate possible incidents of human trafficking.

"By modernizing our laws and using every tool at our disposal, I am confident that we can end human trafficking in Ohio," said Fedor.

*For the past 10 years, Rep. Fedor has been a leading advocate in the fight to end human trafficking. Most recently, Rep. Fedor passed legislation to address the demand-side of the illegal sex trafficking trade, End Demand Act, Sub. H.B. 130. In 2012, the General Assembly passed Rep. Fedor's Safe Harbor Act - a victim centered bill aimed at providing protection, prosecution and prevention. And, while in the Senate, Fedor passed Ohio's first bill to define human trafficking and make it illegal, Senate Bill 235.*

## Scott '77 Reunion

The Jesup W. Scott Class of 1977 Reunion Committee has exciting and elegant events planned for our 40th year reunion to be held in Toledo on August 11-13, 2017. We are looking for classmates. Please email your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address) to jwscotth77@yahoo.com. Also, join our Facebook page at Jesup W. Scott Class of 1977, to receive the latest news about reunion events.

Tara Ali (419-351-1339)



# Man on the Run by Carl Weber

Special to The Truth

Catch me if you can.

You might have said that once, giggling. You may have yelled it at a game one afternoon. You said it, maybe, in a flirtatious manner on some romantic evening. Run, run, run, catch me if you can because, as in *Man on the Run* by Carl Weber, this chase may keep a man out of prison.

c. 2017  
Grand Central Publishing  
\$25.00 / \$32.50 Canada  
309 pages

The night Kyle Richmond learned that his best friend, Jay Crawford, had busted out of prison was unusually memorable: Kyle and his wife were naked in their hot tub when U.S. Marshals broke in and surprised them. The Feds were sure that Jay had contacted Kyle, in search of money and a place to hide.

The Marshals had shown up at Wil Duncan's office that afternoon, too, but they quickly learned that Wil didn't know where Jay was. Wil was best friends with his boy, Jay, for years but that didn't mean he was a regular visitor at the prison. Truth: he hadn't seen Jay in ages. No, Wil had enough problems, with his job and his powerful uncle putting the pressure on him to join the "family business."

Jay's other best friend, Allen, wasn't visited by the U.S. Marshals – maybe because he'd never gone to see Jay in prison. He had his hands full just keeping his beautiful wife, Cassie, happy, so instead, Allen anonymously put money in Jay's commissary fund and sent him gifts, but his name was not tied to the criminal Jay Crawford.

It was quite a surprise that Jay showed up on Allen's doorstep, looking for help.

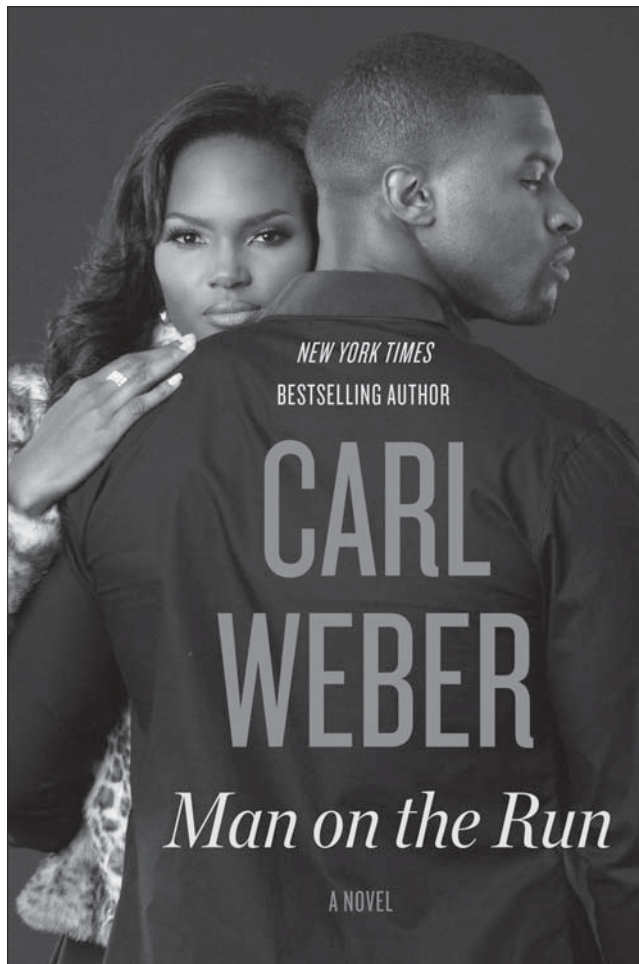
Ten years ago, Jay Crawford was accused of raping a woman, but she'd set him up. He was innocent and because of that, he wasn't about to take the rap for anything, even if it meant parole – and so, he escaped from prison instead. He figured he could count on his three best friends to help a guy out.

He never figured that his friends would be the ones who'd need help...

Confession time: I'd stopped reading author Carl Weber's novels a few books ago. I was getting tired of all the women, beautiful, and all the men, criminal. Same-same-same, and it was no fun. But with *Man on the Run*, I'm glad I came back into the fold.

The women are still all beautiful here and the men still get into trouble, but this book arcs back into some old Weber favorites from many years past. Savvy, long-time readers will remember many hearts and laws broken, as well as a lot of hot mattresses and cold revenge. You'll welcome all of them back as Weber takes readers again into his beloved Queens, to backstabbing boardrooms, steamy bedrooms, and businesses that are never as innocent as they seem.

Yes, it's over-the-top, but this book just feels better than prior ones. Once you've read it and gotten over its slippery little cliffhanger, in fact, you'll be hungry for the next installment. In the meantime, *Man on the Run* is the book to catch.



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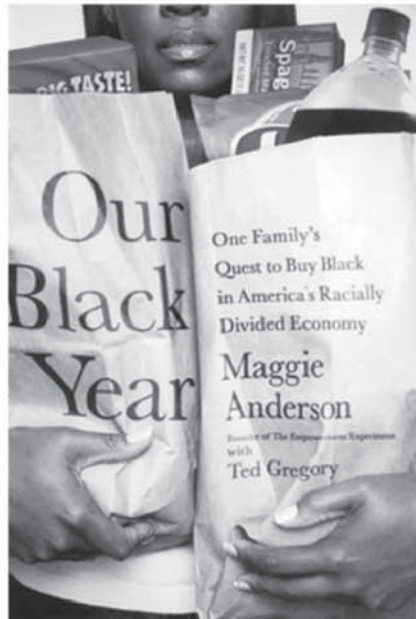
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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 8, 2017

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## CERTIFIED INSPECTOR 1, PLUMBER LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Building Regulations is accepting applications to fill the position of Certified Inspector 1, Plumber until the position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Certified Inspector1, Plumber" from the list to read more or apply.

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**Teller (Part-Time)** -Greet and welcome members to the credit union in a courteous, professional and timely manner, providing prompt, accurate and efficient member transactions, and answering questions in person or on the telephone. Customer Service experience required. Apply in person or email [resume\\_toleourban@gmail.com](mailto:resume_toleourban@gmail.com)

## PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Braden United Methodist Church has two part-time job opportunities – a secretary/treasurer and a music director. For more information call the church office at 419-386-2700 or go to the church's website at [bradenumc.org](http://bradenumc.org)

## SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has openings for seasonal maintenance staff. Must be 18 or older with HS equivalent and drivers license. \$8.51/hr. Duties include cleaning and facility and grounds maintenance. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to learn to use power tools and equipment. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) for complete job requirements and descriptions; must submit online application. EOE

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has openings for seasonal Natural Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18 or older with HS equivalent and driver's license. \$9.50/hr. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management and outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture preferred. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) to apply. EOE

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY17-45, (Project # 1020-17-183) for Network Edge Distribution Replacement, Phase 1 for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$75.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Desjardins of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$106,350.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$Electrical: \$106,350.00.

# Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic and a New Master

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On February 10, the Toledo Museum of Art will open an exhibit titled Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic, featuring the portrait paintings, as well as relatively recent explorations in sculpture and stained glass, of an African-American artist who has created a body of work by melding classical historical works with contemporary subjects.

Wiley's paintings blend the traditional with the contemporary in a realistic style. He fuses period styles from the French Rococo, Islamic architecture and West African textile design with urban hip-hop and the "Sea Foam Green" of a Martha Stewart interiors color swatch.

Wiley's masterpiece, for example, "Napoleon Leading the Army Over the Alps" (2005) is based on "Napoleon Crossing the Alps" (1800) by Jacques-Louis David. In Wiley's version, the rider is African and wears modern army fatigues and a bandanna.

Many of his portraits are from photographs of young men he sees on the street – from Harlem to the South Central neighborhood of Los Angeles. His model, dressed in street clothes, strike poses from the paintings of Renaissance masters such as Tiziano Vecellio and Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.

Wiley grew up in South Central Los Angeles in the late 1980's during the peak of the crack epidemic and gang wars. His single mother, while



Kehinde Wiley

raising six children, encouraged his interest in art by enrolling him in after-school art classes in some of the wealthier sections of the city.

In the Huntington Museum, Library and Gardens, Wiley discovered a world he had not known to exist – the Old World – particularly the work of 18th and 18th century masters. "I was blown away by the technical mastery of western European painters," he told The Truth during a recent conversation.

"The social lives and the ostentatious show of wealth and the powdered wigs," he recalled, "had little to do with my way of life, my family and how I lived. It inspired a desire to want to contend with those paintings when I had the opportunity. I later returned to the narrative of that style using black and brown folks."

Wiley's exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art will run through May 14, 2017



After Albrecht Durer's Self Portrait, 2009



Two Napoleons

## Fedor, Advocates Call for Modernizing Ohio's Outdated Prostitution Laws

*Say Safe Harbor protections should extend to all juvenile human trafficking victims*



State Rep. Teresa Fedor

... story on page 12

## The Marriage of Figaro: Bass/Baritone Darren Stokes Takes Center Stage

*By Fletcher Word*

*Sojourner's Truth Editor*

When The Toledo Opera's Marriage of Figaro opens at the Valentine Theater on February 10, singing the lead role of Figaro will be bass/baritone Darren Stokes. That's an experience he could not have envisioned a mere dozen years ago.

Becoming an opera singer was never a dream for Stokes

during his salad days, much less a goal. He doesn't come from a musical family and when he entered college, the only course of study on his mind was chemistry.

Stokes wouldn't have known the difference between Gershwin's Porgy and Bess and Mozart's Marriage of Figaro when he matriculated at Norfolk State University to study chemistry, but, by the merest of chances, he was assigned a roommate who was a music major.

Stokes pursued his chemistry studies while sometimes joining his newly-acquired, musically-inclined friends in their vocal activities. "You



Darren Stokes

... continued on page 12

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Laquita Mitchell, who sings the role of Countess Almaviva, and Darren Stokes