



Volume 49, No. 3 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* February 21, 2018

Perry Burroughs BHM



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No More Drama

by Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



The determination to outwit one's situation means that one has no models, only object lessons.
- James Baldwin

A proposed legislative change to the Toledo Municipal Code means that the often-tumultuous tenure of Linda Alvarado-Arce, longtime Board of Community Relations (BCR) executive director, has likely come to end.

The Kapszukiewicz administration proposes to consolidate the BCR and the Youth Commission as part of an "across the board" strategy to "make things more efficient, more cost effective and more responsive to the community," according to Gretchen Debacker, the administration's legislative director.

While the intent is for Youth Commission director Alicia Smith to transition into the Department of Public Utilities as the youth and rec manager, Alvarado-Arce has no such pre-arranged soft landing spot. The plan is to abolish the Board of Community Relations and recreate it as the Human Relations Commission (HCR) while eliminating the executive director position.

The new HCR, if approved by city council, will be responsible for initiatives such as Welcome Toledo Lucas County (TLC), the MLK Day event and other issues relating to gender equality, accessibility, racial discrimination, ethnic discrimination, neighbor relations activities and other "limitless opportunities that are available with a ton of groups in our community but not currently being taken advantage of," adds Debacker. Yet, Alvarado-Arce insists that she has already been carrying out this work.

Is there more here than meets the eye?

The long running personal feud between Alvarado-Arce and former mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson is an open secret in Toledo as the animosity and differences between the two continue to play out via heated public verbal exchanges between Arce and, what has been called, "revenge-minded Hicks-Hudson surrogates" currently serving on city council.

Other detractors are not pleased with how Alvarado-Arce "took care of things" and complain, "nobody seems to know what the BCR board is or isn't doing" or feel that she is "not doing what she should be doing." "Too many times," said a person who requested anonymity, "Linda is her own worst enemy by bringing reports to council that are really just digs at the administration or by taking her grievances to anybody who will listen"

The Handwriting on the Wall:

The truth is, that Alvarado-Arce's fate was perhaps already sealed with the hiring of new Chief of Staff, Katy Crosby. Although the city council-created BCR has evolved greatly since its establishment in 1946, it is clear to all that Crosby's hiring provides Toledo with an opportunity to take advantage of her highly ac-

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Danny Brown Mistreated Twice By Prosecutorial Legal System

Professor Earl Murry, Ph.D. (ret.09)

I read where "[Danny] Brown served 19 years in a case in which DNA later cleared him" (cited in The Blade, February 10, 2018). The Blade reported that Judge Gene Zmuda "... granted the state's motion for summary judgment," saying Brown had failed to file his claim within the time defined by the statute of limitations.



Danny Brown

Although Danny Brown was wrongfully jailed for more than 19 years, now he must get over a legal hurdle erected by the statute of limitations.

What's wrong with Mr. Brown just being compensated for being wrongfully jailed for 19 years? Why would a prosecutorial system that jailed him wrongfully for 19 years use a court action to prevent him compensation after being released? Exactly whose pocket would a penny come from if Mr. Brown was compensated?

We elected a public servant, a Lucas County Prosecutor, to office to prosecute cases on the merits of fairness. Many individuals have been jailed unfairly and wrongfully. According to The Blade: "Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates was pleased with the decision, saying the case has dragged on far too long. It's time to put it to rest..." (February 10, 2018). Seriously?

Mr. Brown should not have been required to hire an attorney to file a lawsuit to be treated decently from a miscarriage of justice earlier used against him.

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Community Calendar

February 25

Calvary MBC Pre=Pastor Celebration: 4 pm; Guests Bishop Tisdale and Friendship Baptist Congregation
Great Mt St. Mary's Baptist Church "Anni-Birth-Sary" for Pastor Robert Lyons: Celebrating 73rd bthday and 15th year of service as pastor; 5 pm service; Guests Pastor Bobby Welborn and Charity Baptist Church congregation

February 26

Natural hair care for African American children workshop will be held at the Holland Branch Library from 6-8pm. This workshop is open to parents, foster/adoptive families and other guardians. Learn the fundamentals of natural haircare, the proper tools, and basic styles to care for your child and promote a healthy self image. Workshop is FREE, presented by The Kitchen Salon. Registration is available at ToledoLibrary.org

March 1

Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood Meeting: Noon; The Padua Center; Speaker Deborah Wedding of Lucas County Children Services; Free lunch is served

March 6

Scott High School Alumni Association Monthly Meeting: 6 pm; Conference room next to cafeteria entrance: ScottAlumni@gmail.com or dorisjj@yahoo.com or 419-351-1339

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Time Out for Thoughts and Prayers!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

It has become a shopworn mantra. It has become so moth eaten and ragged that you wonder why anyone uses this phrase.

It is like wearing a talisman...more like a good luck piece...something like a rabbit's foot on a key chain. Maybe like kissing the Irish Blarney stone or not walking under a ladder or letting a black cat pass in front of you.

Or, maybe it is like wearing your lucky plaid socks when the Final Four plays on TV in March. Or, maybe it is like crossing yourself when you spill salt on the floor or you don't comb your hair when there is a full moon in the sky.

Or, maybe it is like crossing your fingers when they are about to read the winning Lotto number. Or, maybe it is more like you don't wear anything red on Friday the 13th.

Just maybe...just maybe it has the indelible power to transform and fix anything broken as when you wish upon a shooting star.

The phrase is, "Thoughts And Prayers", aka: "T.A.P!"

That banal phrase is now the password that is utilized by any feckless politico when he or she is faced with the daunting task of facing the devastation of gun violence.

Whenever a cowering politico is caught in the headlights of the media glare and is asked for a statement about any of the horrendous mass shootings, school or otherwise, it is a safe bet that he can avoid the media glare and just utter, with a contrite facial expression and a humble voice, "My thoughts and prayers are with you and the grieving families."

It does not matter about the bloody carnage of the massacre nor does it matter that the politico always tries to run for cover when he or she was cornered and asked to do something about gun violence or better background checks.

Their first knee jerk response seems to be, "T.A.P!"

The unwritten political rule seems to be that once you utter, "T.A.P!" you are home safe!

T.A.P! is like the Get Out Of Jail Free Card when you play Monopoly. When you got it baby, you can wipe your brow and get on with the game!

Like lemmings to the cliff, the politicians know that if they want to stay in the good graces of the NRA and keep that blood-stained money coming into their political coffers that they must learn a basic Political 101 of empty jargon and that is, "T.A.P!"

Without knowing and using, "T.A.P!" you are facing possible expulsion from the NRA money donation list.

If you face angry crowds at your town hall meetings...simply smile and say, "T.A.P!"

If you face a mob of reporters wanting to get an exclusive from you as to your position on gun control or sane background checks or banning the use of military assault rifles, take the easy way out and simply stand

your ground and yell, "T.A.P!"

It works like a charm. More powerful than fac-

... continued on page 4



Just Thinking and Praying ... And Sitting on Their Hands While Folks Are Getting Killed

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R. Louisiana) – "**Praying** for the students, teachers and first responders affected by the tragic shooting in Florida. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families."

Cassidy received \$2,861,047 from the NRA and an A+ rating for his effectiveness in keeping assault rifles in the hands of American sportsmen.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R. SD) – "Our **thoughts and prayers** go out to the families of the victims & all those impacted by today's senseless shooting in Florida." Rounds received \$93,049 in just the last election cycle from the NRA and earned its A+ rating.

Rep. Ken Buck (R. Colorado) – "I'm devastated to hear about the tragedy in Florida. **Praying** today for the students and all those impacted."

Buck likes the AR -15 assault rifle so much – the same one used in recent shootings in Florida and Las Vegas – he keeps one in his Washington, D.C. office. It's illegal to have one in D.C. but because he's a member of Congress, he's not subjected to the same laws as ordinary citizens. The NRA likes the fact that he can flout the law and he's donated to his campaigns to the sum of \$800,544

Sen Marco Rubio (R. Florida) – "Just spoke to Broward School Superintendent. Today is that terrible day you **pray** never comes."

Rubio has received \$3,303,355 in campaign donations from the National Rifle Association while thinking and praying every time that terrible day comes ... and comes ... and comes. Especially in Florida. Rubio is apparently daunted by the very challenge of limiting access to assault rifles. "These public policy issues are more complex than what is often reported."

Sen Cory Gardner (R. Colorado) – "I am heartbroken for the students & family of those involved in this horrible tragedy & I'm **praying** for our first responders as they act swiftly to contain the situation

Garden has received 3,879,064 from the NRA and, of course received an A+ rating for his efforts to keep assault rifles in the hands of kids so they can kill other kids

"The shooting should prompt policy makers to examine ways they can improve mental-health care," he later added thoughtfully. Clearly the honorable gentleman from Colorado thinks that America's murder rate – which is six times that of Canada's on murder per million resident basis – is because Americans are six times crazier than our neighbors to the north.

Sen. Rob Portman (R. Ohio) – "Heartbreaking news out of Florida. Jane and I send our prayers to the school, the community and the victims of this tragedy."

Portman received \$3,061,941 from the NRA so that he can avoid addressing honestly the issue that plagues American communities. How-

... continued on page 4

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Tolliver...continued from page 3

ing a fanged Dracula with a silver cross in your outstretched arm.

Better than aspirin for a headache. Better than water for a parched throat. Better than cornbread eaten with collard greens and smoked ham hocks!

That is the incredible and amazing power of, "T.A.P!"

If you could have patented and bottled, "T.A.P!" you would be into some serious Moolah by now. It is a mantra that now has evolved into a half life of its own.

By now, those who are not clueless have seen that uttering the password, "T.A.P!" means nothing whatsoever because its once inherent power has been totally diluted by those scalawags who could do something but choose not to do so because of their abject fear of the mouse that roared...the NRA.

Imagine an entire Republican Congress and a moronic Republican President being held captive to a radical Republican splinter group called the National Rifle Association.

But...all too truthful and embarrassing to witness, the GOP has abdicated any remote sense that they have the moral backbone to stand up to the moneyed bullying of the NRA.

So, as a weak substitute for courage, the GOP defaults to using, "T.A.P!" anytime it is confronted with the grim reality that gun violence requires immediate and transformative action or others will simply die in their schools and churches and factories because a gutless Congress has been punked into believing that the NRA has them by the throat.

Sure, there maybe times when offering condolences with the phrase, "T.A.P!" may be appropriate and in good taste but now is not that time. The time is now for substantial and systemic changes to the gun culture in this gun drenched society.

Americans have been mentally cauterized and have developed a high level of tolerance for all things that go, POW! or BOOM! or RAT-A-TAT-TAT!

From the time that illegal immigrants from Europe first came to these American shores and practically decimated the Native Americans,

tamed the Wild West by the six-shooter, keep in subjugation African-Americans as slaves for hundred of years, glorified violence in the fabled American Western, the ever presence of guns in Hollywood productions of detective movies, spy movies, military movies, dramas and even comedies and cartoons, all have made plentiful the copious and gratuitous use of guns, guns and more guns.

The best-selling video games are jammed packed with scenes of graphic violence hurled against "others" or women or even simply wanton violence by which you can rack up winning points for having the biggest and bloodiest body counts!

"T.A.P!" is a cruel copout from doing the hard and tough work of telling the gun buying public that you do not need an AR-15 to hunt deer or protect your house.

"T.A.P!" buys you time so that you hope that when the current furor about the current mass shooting is over that people will forget and move on to the next crisis...or mass shooting and when that happens, and it will, the "T.A.P!" people will dutifully dust off their suits and pose for the cameras and when all is in place, they will say with contrite hearts and bowed heads, "T.A.P!"

Contact *Lafe Tolliver* at tolliver@juno.com

Thinking and Praying...continued from page 3

ever the good news is that since he started his Twitter account in 2009, Portman has tweeted his prayers to victims of more than 10 mass shootings ... very prayerful guy! "Rob's priority is doing right by the people of Ohio and that is what guides his legislative decisions in Washington," says his spokeswoman in answer to any inquiry about the senator's policy views

Sen. Thom Tillis (R. North Carolina) – "Tragic news out of Florida. Please keep the victims, their families, first responders and the community in your thoughts and prayers.

The NRA gave Tillis \$4,418,012 and an A+ grade for his thoughts and prayers and for keeping Americans free to purchase and own assault rifles. Tillis was an early supporter of the "Thin Blue Line Act" which proposed harsher penalties for those who killed first responders. That is, don't enact legislation to prevent guns from getting into potential offenders hands. Let them have the guns, even assault rifles, let them kill law enforcement officials, then the state can kill the perpetrators. All that killing will generate a lot of thoughts and prayers.

Joni Ernst (R. Iowa) – "Please join me in praying for the students, faculty and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as well as their loved ones. Let us also show our gratitude to the courageous first responders.

\$3,124,273 from the NRA

"My push has always been focusing on mental illness," Ernst said after her prayerful statement. "That is the root cause of the issue. Mental illness." Ernst, like all of these Republican-elected officials voted last January to overturn the Obama administration's rule that would have kept firearms out of the hands of a few thousand individuals with severe mental illness.

"Our thoughts and prayers are not enough," said President Barack Obama in September 2015 after a shooting at a community college in Oregon.

"It's not enough. It does not capture the heartache and grief and anger that we should feel. And it does nothing to prevent this carnage from being inflicted someplace else in America."

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Museum Place

By India Duke

The Truth Reporter

Residents from several areas of Toledo gathered for the sixth of 10 meetings on Thursday at the Frederick Douglas Community Association to discuss the future of the Museum Place apartments.

The president and CEO of JAYRAMON LLC, Jason Daniels, facilitated the event along with Alyssa Greenberg, PhD, the Leadership Fellow of the Toledo Museum of Art.

"The purpose of this meeting tonight is to gather your input and your feedback regarding the future of museum place and it's going to be a promising and vibrant future," said Daniels.

Museum Places apartments are the 65 units distributed among five apartment complexes at the corner of Collingwood Boulevard and Monroe Street, 35 of which are currently occupied. The Toledo Museum of Art purchased the apartments approximately 18 months ago and wanted to collect the community's input and ideas for the property.

Daniels explained that one meeting will be held at the Toledo School of the Arts as they have partnered with the Museum as a host site. High school students and those who would consider themselves creative are encouraged to attend the meeting.

After brief introductions during which community members expressed their love for the Old West End and their willingness to learn and get involved, the audience was divided into two groups to engage in a more detailed discussion.

Four questions were given to the groups the first being, what kind of art do you like and what do you like about it? Community members revealed that they enjoyed visual arts, sculptures gardens, photography and interactive arts.

"Now having young kids, it's kind of hard to walk around and just look at things that don't move, or have action-oriented features," said a community member.

Graffiti was also mentioned as a preferred art form when an attendee stated, "its self-expression."

The second question was one of personal interest asking what do you currently like about this neighborhood? Some answers were that the neighborhood is diverse and culturally rich, vintage housing and, being only a few hours from Cleveland and Chicago, it is, "geographically, beautifully placed."

Question three looked more towards the future.

"If you took all the stuff you said you loved and tripled it and got rid of whatever else you want to get rid of, what does that look like," asked Daniels. Ten years from now the community members expressed the hope for a Toledo free of vacant houses with better paved streets and sidewalks.

They also envision a bike trail with community bikes and a historic district trolley tour that takes visitors around to historic focal points in the community including Art Tatum's house.

Along the lines of a more interactive neighborhood, the community members imagine an interactive and disability friendly play area.

The fourth and final question, how could we reimagine Museum Place?

"The Museum wants the building to stay residential, there will be people living in them," said Daniels.

Condominiums were the preferred style of housing for the properties. Some participants imagine the living space for University of Toledo arts students with four of the five units being dedicated to a specific area of art. "One is technology, architecture, music and performing arts," said a participant. The building would also have a community space used for art shows.

Another idea for the apartments was an Airbnb or residency programs for visiting artists/ "There's a lack of accessible resources for visiting artists and those doing artist residency," said one person. Community members think that this would make Toledo more attractive for the more well-known artists and could bring more art related events and activities to the city.

Daniels' will be compiling the notes from all 10 meetings into a report that will be sent to Toledo City Council and board members of the museum. Notes from the first five meetings can be found on the Toledo Museum of Art website, www.toledomuseum.org/museumplace. The seventh meeting will be held Tuesday, March 6 at the Toledo School for the Arts starting at 3:00 p.m.



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THIRTY DAY WARRANTY

NAACP: The Struggle Continues

By Lunette Howell and Betty Valentine

Toledo NAACP Editorial Team

With the recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida, and gun violence on the rise, now is a time to reflect on our government officials and who we need to have in office. Another reminder to educate yourselves on how elected officials representing you locally feel about the purchase of military-style assault weapons being so available. We need strong voices in Washington to address this issue. Our prayers go out to the victims of this terrible act of violence against innocent people. It's your right to VOTE...Your Vote Will Count.

The Origins and Importance of Black History Month

Many people today question the relevance of Black History Month. Because black history was not taught as a mandatory education component in most K-12 schools, many students of all nationalities, are not aware of the accomplishments of our black ancestors.

Abraham Lincoln may have "freed" the slaves in 1863, but black citizens were denied their constitutional rights for a century thereafter. Sharecropping chained African-Americans to the land well into the 20th century, while Jim Crow – institutionalized segregation – oppressed black citizens well into the 1960s. Because of the systems legally in place, many accomplishments were never acknowledged or proper credit given. But things were destined to change.

Since Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the black community had been celebrating the fallen president's birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass'. Choosing February meant not creating a new tradition, but extending the knowledge and study of black history beyond these two heroes. This enhancement of what was already in place increased its chance for success.

Schools and organizations across the country quickly embraced Woodson's initiative and he and his colleagues soon found an increasing demand for additional course materials and other resources. As early as the 1940s efforts to expand the week had begun.



Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

On September 9, 1915, while in Chicago celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation, the Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, along with A. L. Jackson, Jesse E. Moorland, and others formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other people of African descent. The second week of February was chosen as the week for celebration to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

As the Civil Rights movement and the Black Power movement of the 60s came into being, an increased awareness and interest in the historic dimensions of our experiences were rekindled. During the Civil Rights Movement in the South, the Freedom Schools incorporated black history into the curriculum to advance social change. The Negro History movement was an intellectual insurgency that was part of every larger effort to transform race relations. In 1976, on the 50th anniversary of the first Negro History Week, the move to Black History Month was made.

To date, every U.S. president has issued a proclamation honoring the spirit of Black History Month.

Ronald Reagan's first Black History Month proclamation stated that "understanding the history of black Americans is a key to understanding the strength of our nation." Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The NAACP Today

As the NAACP works toward internal restructuring and shifting to a more aggressive political stance, the historic organization launched a multi-city listening tour, NAACP Forward officially kicked off in Baltimore during the 108th annual convention in July this past summer, NAACP Forward is part of the organization's strategic plan to renew its mission and commitment to advance civil rights and fighting social and economic injustice.

The listening tour made stops in several major cities and included an intergenerational collective of local branches, college chapters and community activists. During each session, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson and NAACP Board Chairman Leon Russell listened to the needs and suggestions of participants who were asked: What are the ideal goals for the organization and the community? What are the important issues the NAACP should focus on and what should they do to achieve these goals?

"What we are aiming for is to redo and review our strategic plan," says Russell. "We want to evaluate the nuances and identity what needs to be fixed. We are looking for feedback on how to run our programs for the next five years.

There was a standing-room only crowd in Washington, D.C., where participants mentioned issues such as voting, health, education and ways to get younger people more involved in the organization.

In addition to the listening tour, the President's Council of the NAACP also submitted a letter that included recommendations on how the organization can address systemic issues.

The organization is taking steps toward better positioning itself to counter the reversal of policies that have eliminated years of progress, says Johnson. Since the conclusion of the tour, the NAACP has begun formulating a strategic plan for forward movement.

"We are looking to deepen our resolve in strengthening our infrastructure," says Johnson. "We have found that local communities are particularly interested in knowing how they can leverage themselves in fighting against injustice."

Join us at our meetings held at the Mott Branch Library – March 13 and April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. View our website at www.naacptoledo.org.

Autumn Gineen Trunk Show



Date: February 24, 2018

Cost: \$8

Time: 6pm

This year's debut of Autumn Gineen's collection will feature couture gowns for women of all sizes. As a bonus, the mini fashion show will be held in the beautiful Sojourner's Truth Art Gallery located on 1811 Adams St, Toledo OH @7:15 pm. Join us for an enriching evening of fine custom clothing & refreshments.

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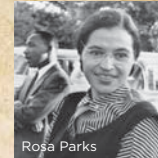
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Romance and Spirituals

MARCH 11 at 7 PM | MAIN LIBRARY,
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From the traditional spiritual *Go, Tell It On The Mountain* to the rhythmic pulse and hip-hop beats of Haitian-American composer Daniel Bernard Roumain's String Quartet No. 5 "Parks" - including movements *Klap Ur Handz*, *I made up my mind not to move*, and *Isorhythmiclastionistic* - expect the unexpected from this genre-defying, music without words program as performed by small groups of musicians.



Rosa Parks

Tickets are \$30.

Presented in collaboration with the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Lathrop House

Kathleen Battle

Underground Railroad - A Spiritual Journey

MARCH 16 at 7:30 PM
 TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PERISTYLE

Sara Jobin, conductor

Performed only in cities along the Underground Railroad, Metropolitan Opera star and Ohio native Kathleen Battle, joined by the Clarence Smith Community Chorus and The Voices at BGSU, presents a program of stories and spirituals inspired by the extraordinary journey to freedom during times of slavery. Don't miss one of the world's greatest voices in this special, once-in-a-lifetime presentation that celebrates Toledo's part in freedom.



Kathleen Battle

Tickets are \$49-89.

I Dream

APRIL 6 & 7 at 7:30 PM AND APRIL 8 at 2 PM
 VALENTINE THEATRE

Carl Marsh, conductor
 Daniel Goldstein, stage director

Toledo Opera is proud to debut *I Dream* - a modern, rhythm & blues Opera recounting the final 36 hours in the remarkable life of American icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Tickets are \$40-\$90.

Classical Ellington

APRIL 20 & 21 AT 8 PM
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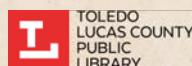
Sara Jobin, conductor
 Natasha Paremski, piano
 Lauraine Carpenter, trumpet

Jazz takes center stage! Explore the orchestral world of Duke Ellington in his version of *The Nutcracker* and his own tone poem, *Harlem*. The TSO's Lauraine Carpenter performs the world premiere of Alice Gomez's Latin Jazz Suite. Pianist Natasha Paremski joins the TSO for Paul Schoenfield's magnificent *Four Parables*, a work the TSO premiered 35 years ago.



Duke Ellington

Tickets are \$25-55.



Douglas Tappin Brings the MLK Experience to the World of Opera

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

When Douglas Tappin began his creative work on *I Dream*, a rhythm and blues opera about the last 36 hours of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he felt more than a little trepidation about the task he had undertaken. "It was an honor and very daunting to tell the story, especially as an outsider," he recalls. It was an especially risky task, he realized, in his adopted hometown of Atlanta, to create a piece of art that would define such a crucial aspect of the slain civil rights icon with authenticity.



Douglas Tappin

Composer/librettist Tappin, you see, is not from Atlanta. He's not from Georgia. In fact, he's not even from the United States; so his description of himself as an outsider, is perfectly fitting.

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MEMBERS OF THE INAUGURAL "I DREAM" CAST WITH THE KING FAMILY

What They Had to Say

Rev. Dr. Bernice King
Daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and

Coretta Scott King, former President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, CEO of The King Center

Well of course being the daughter of Martin and Coretta King...it's very tough when you're actually viewing something that is depicting parts of the life of your parents. There were moments that were very emotional for me and I had to contain myself, especially near the latter part, and when the young lady did the song Queen as my mother...I'm just really still grieving her death, and missing her, and wish she could be here because my mother loved classical music, opera music – and the music tonight was great...and became very, very touching. It was a good musical reflection of my Father. It's very hard, you know, to really put this movement on a stage...because there are so many elements to it. But the greatest part of it is it's a start at exposing future generations to this work in a genre that they can appreciate, and that's what's most important because we have to keep the legacy going from generation to generation. I was glad to be here tonight, to be a part of this.

Andrew Young

Close friend and confidant of Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader, former Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,

... continued on page 10

COUNCILMAN TYRONE RILEY PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND

2018 Annual Youth Skate Day

Saturday, February 24, 2018

OTTAWA PARK ICE RINK

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Toledo Symphony Hosted Sneak Peek at its North Star Festival Series

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Symphony recently hosted members of the local African-American community at a preview of the symphony's upcoming North Star Festival concert series which explores the African-American musical journey from the 1850s to the 1960s.

The reception, held at Toledo School for the Arts Gallery, included comments by TSO CEO Zak Vassar as well as by Artistic Administrator Merwin Siu, a slide presentation and symphony musicians playing selections from the concert series. Food and beverages were generously provided by Real Seafood, Manos, Adams Street Café, Fowl & Fodder, Carlos' Poco Loco, Manhattan's, J Mae's, 20 North Gallery, and Maumee Bay Brewing Co.

The concert series includes four concerts, beginning with opera legend

Kathleen Battle performing "Underground Railroad – A Spiritual Journey," and concluding with "Classical Ellington." The Festival runs March – April, 2018. For more information, go to <http://www.toledosymphony.com/north-star-festival>



L-R Mari Davies, Adrienne Green, Ireatha Hollie



L-R Ken Wetstein, Ebonie Jackson, Kelly Winston, Candace Harrison, Mari Davies, Rhonda Sewell, Zak Vassar



L-R Merwin Siu, Cheryl Trace, Reed Anderson, Bob Clemens



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↗ Denotes online program



Douglas Tappin... continued from page 8

Born, reared and educated in London, England, Tappin is a former commercial attorney and member of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn. He practiced as a barrister in England for 11 years but music has been his passion since he taught himself to play the piano when he was four years old. Throughout his school years, he played a variety of instruments and composed music during those rare moments he had in between his studies. When he was practicing law in London, he composed, over a number of years, a piece titled *Moses and the Israelites* that was performed on the London stage in 2003.

During a performance he had the opportunity to look at the audience, he says, and noted how "they were moved by the story from laughter to tears." He asked God, he says, "I wonder what would happen if I just did this?"

By chance he visited a close friend in Atlanta soon after that and was introduced, over a meal, to members of the faculty of the McAfee School of Theology. Upon hearing about Tappin's dilemma surrounding his career choices, he was told: "It sounds like a calling you are trying to understand." They took that opportunity to talk him into coming to their school to study theology and assured him that he would have unfettered ability to explore his musical desires as well.

Then all he had to do was to convince his wife, also a Londoner, to leave her family and friends and country, pack up their two small children – ages one and four – and join him in an unknown city in an unknown country in order to give up a solid, steady occupation in order to pursue the dream of being an artist.

She agreed, they left England, relocated to Atlanta, he earned a degree from McAfee, devoted himself to his musical calling and eventually composed a piece about the ancient King David and King Saul which he titled *King*. In Atlanta "I was challenged on my choice of the title," he remembers. The title, he was informed, was inappropriate for his adopted hometown.

"I thought, 'who was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?' So he started to read and research. 'Now I've read 60 to 70 books [on King]," he notes, and absorbed FBI reports, newspaper accounts and oral histories. And there are lots of oral histories given the wealth of Atlanta memories, 'I've spoken with everyone and they have given me stories they had written down not knowing who to give them to.' He's reached out to black and white folks in the area and around the nation – including white ministers and rabbis who spent time with King. 'I was looking for a source of inspiration – I was praying and looking,'" he adds.

"The experience was so visceral, so profound that I felt, literally, compelled to tell the story – one of the greatest stories in human history and, more particularly, a great American story of recent history," he says.

The first viewing of *I Dream*, in its original format, was in Atlanta in 2010 before an audience containing some notable MLK associates, such as Andrew Young, Joe Lowery (co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference); Rev. Bernice King (daughter of MLK); C.T. Vivian (close friend and colleague of MLK) and Valerie Jackson (widow of former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson) The reviews from those most familiar with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr were overwhelmingly positive.

But Tappin's creative journey was not nearly complete. *I Dream* would undergo many changes over the years that followed. By his estimate, "the piece is now 60 percent different from the Atlanta production."



More on that in part two of our discussion with the composer/librettist of *I Dream*.

What They Had To Say... continued from page 8

U.S. Congressman, United States Ambassador to the United Nations and former Mayor of Atlanta

Just so powerful, extremely well done!

Joseph Lowery

Civil Rights Leader, co-founder (with Martin Luther King, Jr.) of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and former President – delivered the benediction at the inauguration of Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America

First of all I had to remind myself that this was a novel – it's not a rewriting of history, but a novel grown out of the history of the movement. And I think it did well. I enjoyed it. I've never listened to the story in music, and that added a dimension that I've been missing, and so I enjoyed it very much...I gave them an A.

C.T. Vivian

Close friend and lieutenant of Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement

It brought back what was seemingly left out from a history book, but what only a novel and a play can do in terms of far more than the head – it really brought it back in the very soul and spirit.

Valerie Jackson

Widow of the late Maynard Jackson, Mayor of Atlanta (1974-82, 1990-84)

First of all, it's one of the best musicals I've seen in years, and I think it was a very difficult story to tell because there was so much to the story. But I do believe that the author did it wonderfully. The singers were excellent, the talent was superb. I was so proud, and Maynard, my late husband, would have been so proud to know that the staff, with one exception, were from Atlanta.



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Brown: Congress Should not Make It Easier for Banks to Discriminate Against Homebuyers

Bill to Roll Back Dodd-Frank Protections Would Exempt 85% of Banks from Reporting Data the Exposes Discrimination

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) – ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs – released the following statement in response to a report by The Center for Investigative Reporting that showed banks are continually shutting the door on homeownership for people of color through modern-day redlining. Redlining is the practice of refusing to loan to people who live in certain geographic areas.

Senate Bill 2155, legislation to roll back Dodd-Frank Wall Street protections, which recently passed the Banking Committee would exempt 85 percent of banks from reporting the kind of data that made today's report possible.

"The 2008 financial crisis wiped out half the wealth of Black and Latino families, and unfair lending practices like redlining continue to increase

wealth inequality," said Brown. "Congress should be working to make it easier for families to own homes and grow their wealth, not passing legislation that makes it easier for banks to prey on them."

Senate Bill 2155, which Brown opposes, rolls back a number of the mortgage rules put in place after the crisis to protect Americans from abusive lending practices. S. 2155 would eliminate new reporting requirements of mortgage data that banks already collect. The data is used by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, state attorneys general and others to identify unfair lending trends and help prevent banks from discriminating against people of color. The bill also allows some banks to sell customers adjustable rate mortgages without assuming any responsibility for whether the customer can afford their payments once the initial rate increases.

Joe Schiavoni Lays Out Plan to Help Prevent School Shootings in Ohio

Last week, Senator Joe Schiavoni, candidate for Ohio governor, released the following statement detailing his plan to help prevent school shootings and protect Ohio students:

"On Wednesday, just a couple weeks into February, the United States experienced yet another school shooting. 17 individuals – many of them young people – lost their lives inside their classrooms. All they did was go to school.

"As a parent, I can't comprehend the pain those families are experiencing. It's made even worse when I wonder if something could have been done to prevent this tragedy.

"I firmly believe in our Second Amendment right to own firearms, but our kids trust us to keep them safe from evils like this. At least six school shootings in the first two months of 2018 means something isn't working.

"No more vague tweets. No more empty condolences. Elected officials need to take action. Here's what I'm going to do:

1.) I have now twice introduced a bill to fund increased safety measures in schools. Both times, my GOP colleagues in the Statehouse failed to pass it. I will be reintroducing that bill in the next few days. This time, we're going to get it passed.

2.) We are sitting down with policy experts, firearms experts, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and others to write legislation that would strengthen background checks in Ohio and help stop individuals with severe mental health issues from obtaining firearms. We will examine potential gun show, pawn shop, and internet loopholes in the law.

3.) We are sitting down with policy experts, firearms experts, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and others to write legislation to increase regulations on AR-15 style firearms. AR-15s are easily adaptable, highly accurate, and have been used in several of the deadliest mass shootings in recent months. They shouldn't be so easily accessible. Individuals who want to own these firearms should be required to complete regular trainings, pay additional fees, and pass thorough background checks. These changes would help limit the number of AR-15 style weapons sold in Ohio, but would still allow responsible Ohioans to go through a process to own them.

4.) I am calling for the state to work with communities to fund and expand wraparound service models in Ohio schools. These types of education models are used in several schools across the state to great success. They help us provide mental health care, skills training, physical health services, and after-school programs for children and parents in the community. If we can provide holistic care at every level of a child's development, we can catch some of the warning signs early and work to prevent future tragedies.

"Basic safety measures do not infringe on anyone's rights. We will never stop all of these tragedies, but we can stop some. And every child spared is worth it."

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Offer of credit subject to credit approval.

Danny Brown... continued from page 2

A legal question to be asked of the public servant, Lucas County Prosecutor Bates, is whether the compensation sought by Mr. Brown is required by enacted law to be challenged and outright denied?

NEXUS Health Care Welcomes Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) is pleased to announce the addition of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) to their NEXUS Health Care location.

The Neighborhood Health Association welcomes the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union to their NEXUS Health Care location. The grand opening is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2018. Hours of operation for the new branch will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 - 3 pm.

NHA understands the significant impact unemployment and financial debt can have on one's physical and mental health. Having TUFCU housed at our Nexus Health Care location allows our teams to identify patients of high risk financial strain and connect them with the proper resources onsite. The hope is to provide an immediate resource that removes the access barriers and assists our patients in freeing themselves from predatory loans, credit repair, and providing them with the necessary tools to make better credit decisions.

NHA is the only community health care organization, in the state of Ohio, to partner with a community development credit union and address the impact financial drain has on the health of individuals. Access to the onsite TUFCU offers a means of alleviating the stress of financial burden and allows our patients to live a happier life with improved medical outcomes.

... continued on page 15

Lucas County voters in 2018 will be asked to approve a levy as a tax against their property for a new jail. A new jail is wanted at a cost of approximately \$145 million and, by the same token, property owners will be levied forever with a tax. However when a person is jailed wrongfully for decades there is not a word in the media from any elected political official for compensation to Mr. Brown or a law to be questioned and/or changed to accord compensation warranted to an individual jailed by a miscarriage of justice.

Perryman... continued from page 2

claimed skill set as a Human Relations professional and to duplicate the success she achieved in Dayton, such as restoring the strength of Community Development Corporations and other neighborhood initiatives.

My take?

Given the hiring of Crosby, the level of opposition on city council against Alvarado-Arce and the lack of support to block the pending legislative change, it is apparent that structural change to the BCR has arrived.

Alvarado-Arce seems to support the changes and has decided to move on with plans to open a bookstore and complete her doctoral dissertation, projects she had long ago placed on the back burner.

"This administration [Kapszukiewicz] is pretty much like 'You know what? If all this was going on, let's just seize the moment and just go forward and then create this new structure where other things from around the state can be replicated. So you're getting a bunch of new ideas and if (Alvarado-Arce) wasn't included in the budget let's just roll with it and just go and change it. That's fine,' says Alvarado-Arce.

"It does need to be changed and it needs to be updated, but it doesn't need to lose the focus, which are the people and its independence," she adds.

Alvarado-Arce is exactly right.

The proposed change also provides an opportunity for a fresh start by dropping some of the baggage that BCR and previous administrations were carrying. For certain it gives new life to the effort to promoting interracial unity and community input.

Let's make something new, then, but let's also make it better and with a lot less drama.

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

2018 CRISPUS ATTUCKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST
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DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.

**Mailing address: Councilman Tyrone Riley,
 One Government Center, Suite 2120, Toledo, Ohio 43604;
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 (a cover sheet or information requested must accompany each essay and emailed submissions must be in PDF or Microsoft Word format)

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An American Marriage: A Novel by Tayari Jones

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

He did it on one knee.

One knee, with a nervous grin on his face and a velvet box in his shaking hands, asking you the Question of a Lifetime. You'd talked about this day but it was still a surprise and now you have planning to do, just the two of you. Or, as in *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones, three...

The last time Roy Othaniel Hamilton enjoyed a truly happy evening was about a year-and-a-half after he married his wife, Celestial, the only woman (after his Mama) that he ever really loved. It's true that they'd been arguing that night – they argued and made up, argued and made up a lot then – but things were going well. They'd even talked about having a baby on that last happy evening before the police broke down the door of their room at Piney Woods Motel and arrested Roy for a rape he didn't commit.

His life was supposed to be with Celestial. He believed that all along.

They'd met in college: his buddy, Andre, was her best friend and Dre introduced them but Roy and Celestial didn't click until years later. They met again, dated, and the rest was, well, not exactly smooth. He cheated on her a time or two. She'd freeze him out when she caught him, but she knew she was his woman.

Celestial also knew the man she married, and Roy wasn't capable of raping some woman six years older than his own mother. But a jury wouldn't believe her, wouldn't believe him, would only believe an old woman who pointed a finger ... and there you go: Roy's sentence was 16 years in a Louisiana penitentiary.

And, oh, they wrote letters, but they were apart longer than they weren't and eventually, Celestial wanted to – needed to – move on. She found somebody else, somebody who was her future and her past, but she was still Roy's wife.

c. 2018
Algonquin Books of
Chapel Hill
\$26.95 / higher in Canada
308 pages

And when Roy got out of prison seven years early, he hoped to remind her of that fact.

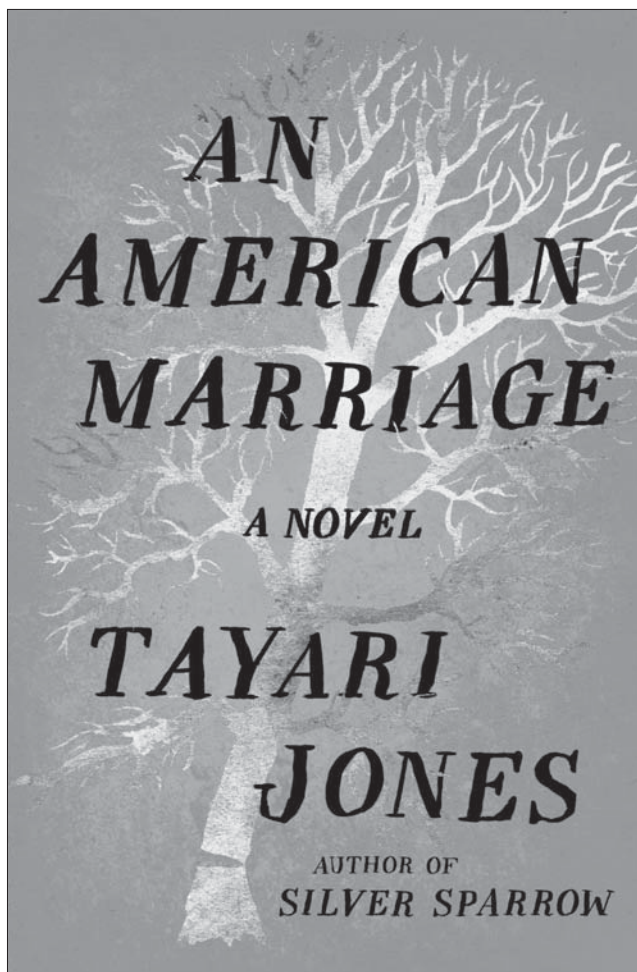
There's a reason that Oprah picked *An American Marriage* as one of her books. Yes, this novel is *that* good.

Really, though, author Tayari Jones tells a simple story of boy-meets-girl-marries-her. It's a fairy tale, modernized; a romance with a twist: Roy idealizes his marriage, while Celestial is a realist. He's your basic Nice Guy. She's been raised to take care of herself and speak her mind. His memories differ quite a bit from hers, and seeing both sides through their eyes makes their story better. Add a situation that hints at the unimaginable, and some additional, sometimes irritating, characters with influence and you've got a book filled with a tale that'll keep you dry-mouthed, page-turning, and right on the edge of hollering.

This is a novel that unabashedly plays with your senses of right and not-quite-right. It also plays with your emotions, if you've ever been in love – so have a handful of tissues nearby. *An American Marriage* could bring you to your knees.



Tayari Jones Photo Courtesy Nina Subin



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CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

February 21, 2018

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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Lawn Care Services. Received in accordance with law until March 8, 2018 at 3PM ET.

For documents:
www.lucasmha.org, 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-932-4145 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246).

This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



MAUMEE MUNICIPAL COURT

Maumee Municipal Court in Maumee, Ohio is accepting applications for the following positions: Clerk of Court/Administrator, Chief Bailiff, Deputy Clerk (Criminal and Civil), Deputy Clerk-Supervision (Probation), Part-time Bookkeeper.

Job descriptions are available online at www.maumee.org. Applications must be received by 4:30 pm on March 12, 2018. Submit applications and resumes to: City of Maumee, Human Resources, 400 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537. Maumee Municipal Court is an EO/AA employer.

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The event will take place at the University of Toledo College of Law. A free lunch will be provided.

To register, email Atty Lafe Tolliver at: tolliver@juno.com and state your name, age and name of school ... or leave a voicemail at 419-249-2703.

Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend!

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1DREAM

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Platform Renovations project located at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. in Toledo, OH 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid for the project is approximately \$862,339.00 and the alternates are approximately \$205,532.00.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor Toledo, OH 43604 until Monday, March 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins, at Projects@Toledoport.org by Friday, March 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

Call to place your ad - 419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Black History Month Brunch... continued from page 16

ate degree and a doctorate of jurisprudence in 2000. English practiced law in a private firm before joining the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office and also serving as Adjunct professor at University of Toledo.

He began serving as Lucas County Common Pleas judge starting in February 2015, then was selected to president of the Lucas County Drug Court program in 2016.

"First, I want to thank the women of this organization for the invitation. The women within this organization, our party and community have power. Everyone in this room has power and ability to contribute to a collaborative power that can transform the community," said English.

The executive officers of the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club: Yvonne Harper, president; Dorine Mosley, second vice president; Letha Goree, membership chair; Diana Whitehead, secretary; Irene Roberts, recording secretary and Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, treasurer.

The Black History Month brunch is organized to provide students the opportunity to attend, by securing local agencies to serve as partners, known as champions of education.

The 2018 list of supporting agencies: Andre' Washington of Ohio State



Rosa Parks Elementary



Toledo Early College High School with sponsor Councilman Gary Johnson



Woodward High School

NEXUS... continued from page 12

Suzette Cowell, CEO, TUFUCU, announced: "As a community development credit union, TUFUCU faces many challenges as we strive to empower our community through economic development. Together with the Neighborhood Health Association, we are committed to serving the existing TUFUCU members as well as the Neighborhood Health Association patients to improve the overall health of our community."

NHA and TUFUCU are community organizations dedicated to serving families in the City of Toledo and surrounding areas that are vulnerable to economic disparity and the lack access to proper health care.

It is the mission of the Neighborhood Health Association to put health within reach of all community members, regardless of the ability to pay, through equal access to quality medical care and educational and support services essential for well-being of body and mind.

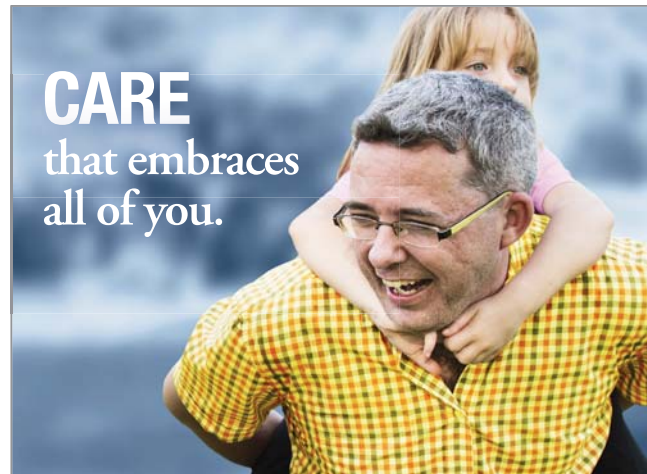
If you would like more information about our grand opening, please contact Doni Miller, NHA CEO, at 419-720-7883 or visit www.nhainc.org.

NAACP; Anita Lopez of Lucas County Auditor's office; Bernie Quilter of Lucas County Clerks; Carpenter's Local 351; Cecelia Adams, PhD of Toledo City Council; Connie Zimmelman, Judge of Lucas County Juvenile Court; Doni Miller of Neighborhood Health Association; Edna Brown of Ohio State Senate; Gary Cook, Judge of Lucas County Common Pleas; Gary Johnson of Toledo City Council; Rev. John Roberts, D.Min, of Indiana Ave MBC; Judge Myron Duhart of Lucas County Common Pleas; Keith Mitchell, Esq; Laborers' Local 500; Lindsay Webb of Lucas County Treasurer office; Larry Sykes of Toledo City Council; LaVera Scott; Local #33 Sheet Metal Workers; Lucas County Commissioners; Lucas County Young Democrats; Lucas County Young Black Democrats; Marcy Kaptur, Congresswoman; Northwest Ohio Building Trades; Paula Hicks Hudson; Stacy Cook, Judge of Lucas County Common Pleas; Toledo Bail Bonds, LLC; Toledo Federation of Teachers; Toledo NAACP; United Way of Greater Toledo; Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo Mayor; and WillieAnn Moore.

"Thank you to the supports for your physical and financial support of our youth. I am TPS proud. Our youth, these students continue to energize me," shared Romulus Durant, EdD, Toledo Public Schools superintendent.



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Local Women's Democratic Club Holds Annual Black History Month Brunch

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Hundreds of area-youth received words of encouragement during the 14th annual Black History Month brunch, sponsored by the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club that was held on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Toledo City Council Woman and Club President Yvonne Harper served as mistress of ceremonies. The program continued with an invocation delivered by Brenda Oliver, remarks and presentations, acknowledgement of elected officials and dignitaries, and featured keynote speaker Judge Ian English.

English earned his diploma from Macomber High School and continued with his education at University of Toledo, where he earned his undergradu-

... continued on page 15



Glenwood Elementary



Elected officials



Martin Luther King Jr Academy for Boys with principal Willie Ward

Job Fair

- Tuesday, February 27 AND
 - Wednesday, February 28
- 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

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