



Volume 49, No. 4 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* February 28, 2018

Changing Lives!



Suzette Cowell and Doni Miller

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Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Opens Branch Inside Nexus Health Care Building

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Two formidable leaders of local non-profit organizations, both African-American women, completed a partnership on Monday, February 26 when they clipped the ribbon on the new branch office of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union located within the Nexus Building of Neighborhood Health Association.

Doni Miller, CEO of NHA, and Suzette Cowell, CEO of TUFCU, have both built new structures for their operations in the past few years. This month, the two community organizations blended their goals – to improve the health, the physical and financial health, of the central city community.

On hand to celebrate the historic achievement were a host of elected officials, community activists and a number of contributors to the effort to improve and expand the services of the 50-year-old health organization and the 22-year-old financial institution.

Pastor Tim Pettaway, a TUFCU board member, opened the ceremony with prayer and NHA Board member Micheal Alexander explained the goal and mission of NHA.

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz brought greetings from the City and District 4 Toledo City Councilwoman Yvonne Harper, in whose district the Nexus building sits, offered her congratulations to both organizations.

Founding members Bishop Duane Tisdale of Friendship Baptist Church, Edwin Mabry and Sheila Terry-Cook (representing her husband Bishop Edward Cook) shared their remembrances of the early days of the credit union – the struggles, the uncertainty, the inspirational moments, the faith that kept them going.

Richard LaValley, board president of the Toledo Urban Foundation, Inc, and the person primarily responsible for raising the funds for the new TUFCU

building that opened more than a year ago, spoke of how grateful he was to have been part of the TUFCU renaissance.

Closing remarks were offered by Miller, who spoke of the benefit of having the credit union within the confines of the health organization building. The goal of the credit union in easing the financial stresses of residents of the central city community, said Miller, is what inspired her to seek the presence of TUFCU in the Nexus Building in order “to help address the health concerns caused by several financial stress.”

Cowell spoke of the history of TUFCU, the early days of struggle, and the current expansion that is reaching ever-increasing number of residents.

The speeches were followed by the official ribbon cutting ceremony.



Board Member Fran Smith cuts the ribbon



Regina Whittington, Doni Miller, Fran Smith, DeLise Simmons, Suzette Cowell



Dick LaValley and Suzette Cowell



Suzette Cowell and Doni Miller



Audience



Councilwoman Yvonne Harper



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Councilmen Gary Johnson, Larry Sykes, Yvonne Harper and Nick Komives with Suzette Cowell and Doni Miller



Suzette Cowell and Regina Whittington

Photos Courtesy Nichole Langley

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Becky McQueen – Business Manager

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Megan Davis – Columnist

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Community Calendar

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 3

TurnerMan Productions Auditions: Seeking female actors ages 13-17 and ages 21 – 40; Main Branch Library Searles Room; 2 to 5 pm: 419-975-7849

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

March 10

Massage Benefit and Vendors: 8:30 am to 3 pm; Friendship Baptist Church; Jewelry, cosmetics, food, clothing and more: 419-304-2733
TurnerMan Productions Auditions: Seeking female actors ages 13-17 and ages 21 – 40; Main Branch Library Searles Room; 2 to 5 pm: 419-975-7849

Arming Teachers in School ... Are You on Drugs?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

President Trump, who seemingly has no original thoughts about anything, is parroting the talking points of one of his puppet masters, the NRA, when he spouts that he would consider arming teachers in the schools and giving them bonus pay for packing heat in the classroom.



The All Negro News Network (ANNN) was in the reporters' pool at the White House and our reporter was allowed to ask questions after the regular news briefing was over and this is what our intrepid reporter, Efal Revillot, was able to ask President Trump:

ANNN: President Trump, when you speak of arming teachers in the public schools, would part of the incentive package for teachers to come forward include hazard pay for duties that are beyond the teaching of math and science and biology?

TRUMP: (a pause and blank eye stare)...The incentives would be huge and amazing! I am thinking at least a two dollar an hour raise for those teachers who volunteer.

ANNN: President Trump, would it be proper to also provide those teachers who volunteer to be the front line of defense for the students a paid-up double indemnity life insurance policy of least one million dollars with premiums paid by the federal government if they lost their lives trying to eliminate an active shooter in their schools?

TRUMP: (a longer pause but with the same blank stare)...That is an amazing thought!

I will have my chief of staff, John Kelly...if he is still around by that time... to look into the costs of doing that and if so, I will put it in my budget for building that wall along the Mexican Border.

ANNN: What would be the liability to the teacher or the school district in the event that the teacher misfires the gun and injures or kills a student or another teacher in his or her rush in trying to take out the active shooter?

TRUMP: (an even longer pause with the same stare)...We would have to consider the student or teacher who gets shot by another teacher as collateral damage and no liability. Hey, we can't think of everything! Everybody has got to share the risks!

... continued on page 12

The Agitators and the Politicians Who Need Them

By Domo Warren
Guest Column

In our democracy, one thing that we can observe is that change is slow and progress can sit at a standstill. The speed of change, or lack thereof, can be frustrating for marginalized groups because their lives depend on the evolution of a country's morals, policies and culture to create avenues for a better life.



Dominique Warren

Some of us question how a society that has such wealth and innovation seem to forget or pass over helping so many people. People who understand economic, political and social power structures know that people with privilege, whether their privilege is by race, income, gender or sexuality, will fight hard to not give up their perceived place in society. Prejudice and -isms are the weapons that influential people use to hold onto the status quo.

Progress can't exist in this vacuum because the powerful are too busy holding on to power instead of effecting real change for the many who need it. This is why systems need to be disrupted, shaken and, at times, replaced.

The existence of the agitator for our country, state and the city is required now more than ever. I would argue that even political leaders need these activists to create a space where political courage can overcome their eagerness to stay in safe, political stances.

Agitators are the ones we see leading our social and political movements. They fight against those injustices that seek to oppress and limit the ability of people to live and love as well as work to establish an equitable society.

In Toledo, we see agitators make a difference with the fight to save Obamacare, the Code of Conduct signed by the Black and Brown Coalition with the Toledo Police, and the community movement to stop Patrick Hickey from sitting on the Washington Local School Board.

These advocates sought to preserve quality healthcare, to force police to be responsive to community needs and to stop sexual predators and abusers from serving in leadership. Groups such as Indivisible Toledo, the Community Solidarity Response Network, teacher unions and many others agitated leadership by protesting at public gatherings, shutting down meetings, and launching digital campaigns to get their message across to protect the marginalized.

What agitation does

... continued on page 12

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A Black History Month Event: Celebrating the Smith Park Legacy

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"My grandfather's vision was all about community," said Amy Smith Hall, CEO of Ebony Construction, during a commemoration of her ancestor's accomplishments on Tuesday, February 20 at the Mott Branch Library. "He was about bringing a sense of value about who we are to the community."

Hall's grandfather, William A. Smith, Jr., who passed away in 1967 after 20 years as executive director of the Frederick Douglas Community Association, was a revered figure in the Toledo African-American community. Smith Park was built and dedicated to his memory in 1974.

Last week's celebration was organized by Sandria Brown on behalf of Lathrop Turner, the general contractor for the soon-to-be-constructed Mott Branch Library. The event was hosted by the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. The new Mott Branch will be constructed on the edge of the 13-acre Smith Park adjacent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy for Boys. Along with the recently constructed Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, the new Mott Branch Library represents a renaissance along the Dorr Street corridor.

The \$8.2 million investment in the new branch will help revitalize Smith Park and will also bring in City of Toledo investment to renovate sections of the park.

Ty Boyd, Lathrop business development engineer, was one of the speakers on Tuesday and ensured the audience that "community engagement is one of the most important things we are going for."

Also speaking at the event were Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley who presented a City Resolution to Amy Hall commemorating her grandfather's legacy, and Ray Wood, president of the NAACP. Riley and Wood both grew up in the Smith Park neighborhood and recounted tales of playing games and ball as kids in the area's alleys and streets before Smith Park was completed in 1974. After that "it was a punishment not to be able to go to Smith Park," said Riley.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz offered his insights from his research on William Smith, who died before the mayor was born. "We need to be sure that Smith Park honors the person it is names after," he said while promising that the City would bring the park back to its past glory.

"My grandfather's vision was all about community," said Hall. "Who he was and what he stood for are still relevant today."



Sandria Brown and Amy Hall



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Councilman Tyrone Riley, Lathrop's Ty Boyd, NAACP's Ray Wood



Sketch of new Mott Branch



Amy Hall, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Councilmen Tyrone Riley and Gary Johnson

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Toledoans United for Social Change Protest Trump Budget

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Members of Toledoans United for Social Change (TUSA) gathered last week to voice their displeasure with the proposed federal budget that will cut \$1.6 trillion in the upcoming years from Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security Disability, food stamps, housing, public education and "countless other areas of the social safety net that help women and families make ends meet," said Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and the organizer of the event.

"We further urge Sen. Rob Portman to oppose any cuts that would hurt his constituents," added Willis.

"Cuts to the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Medicare and other healthcare programs carry heavy costs to families, businesses and health care providers who depend on federal funding to hire staff, provide services and keep their doors open," said Rev. John Walthall, pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. Walthall noted that last year's efforts to repeal the ACA and dismantle Medicaid had already resulted in a reversal of the recent trend that saw a decrease in the number of uninsured people.

Art Walker turned his attention to the impact the proposed cuts will have disproportionately on women. "Women, who depend on Medicaid more than men for their own healthcare and for their families, would bear the brunt of these change," he said. "Women are the majority of Medicaid enrollees; in fact two-thirds of adults with Medicaid coverage are women," he added and also noted that repealing that key provision left 13 million more people without insurance and had increased premiums by \$2,000 a year for some families in order "to pay for permanent tax breaks for corporations like Apple, Wells Fargo and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in the tax plan."

The theme of the harm the proposed budget cuts will have on women was continued in remarks by Marcia Dinkins who noted that "thanks to the ACA, the number of working-age women (ages 19 – 64) without health insurance fell by almost half from 2010 to 2016, from 19 million to 11 million."

Dinkins said that low income women made particularly large gains in obtaining insurance across racial lines and that "between 2013 and 2015, 5.1 million women of color ages 19 – 64 gained health insurance coverage, a growth rate of about 18 percent."

Repealing the ACA, said Dinkins, will allow insurance companies to opt out of essential health benefits like maternity coverage, prescription drug coverage and mental health services, "forcing women to pay more and creating an insurmountable barrier for poorer women and for women of color, particularly black women who already have a much higher risk of complication and die at over three times the rate of white women in childbirth"

Pastor Nicholas Betts noted that Medicaid isn't the only federal program in danger of being eliminated or cut drastically. "The budget blueprint also slashes \$213 billion or about 30 percent of funding for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or food stamps, which provides families with the ability to put meals on the table." Over 40 million American families struggle with food insecurity including seven million seniors and 13 million children.

As Betts said, SNAP kept 8.4 million people out of poverty in 2015 including 3.8 million children.

Rev. John Algee spoke of the cuts that will impact housing assistance. "Trump's budget also cuts housing assistance to low income people by over \$7 billion next year even though rent across the country is historically high and unaffordable for most low wage working people, seniors and many people with disabilities."

The budget ends the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP) which helps households making under 150 percent of poverty pay for heat and utilities.

Rev. Davis observed that the Trump budget includes over \$3.6 billion in cuts for public education "including Title II – used in part to recruit and retain teachers and support principals – and the 21st Century Learning Centers block grants, which pay for enrichment programs after school that are particularly important for low income children and working parents who lack affordable child care."

Closing the program was State Rep. Michael Ashford who thanked TUSA for stepping out and bringing much needed attention to the budget proposal. Ashford added his own concerns about some of the other budget cuts under proposal such as the \$500 million to the infrastructure and the \$1.19 billion cut to the after school program.

"We want to make our community aware of where our state is going under President Trump," he said.



Rev. William Davis, Retired Pastor from Braden United Methodist Church; Art Walker, Co-President of TUSA, Friendship Baptist Church; John Algee III, TUSA Member; Deacon Johnny Reese, TUSA Member, Friendship Baptist Church; Rev. Nicholas Betts, Pastor of Phillips Temple CME Church; Rev. James H. Willis, Sr, President of TUSA, Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church; Rev. Marcia Dinkins, Executive Director, Lead Organizer TUSA; State Rep. Mike Ashford; Molly Harris, Secretary of TUSA; Rev. John D. Walthall, Pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church; Toledo City Councilman Larry Sykes

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The Soulcial Scene®

Metropolitan Opera Star Kathleen Battle to Perform Music Inspired by the Underground Railroad with the Toledo Symphony

Special to The Truth

Famed soprano, Emmy Award and five-time Grammy Award winner Kathleen Battle will join the Toledo Symphony Orchestra on Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. for a one night-only Spotlight event at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theater.

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.

This performance is part of the Toledo Symphony's North Star Festival, a series of concerts and collaborations celebrating Toledo's rich history as a safe haven along the Underground Railroad, a 19th century network that helped slaves escape to freedom.

This North Star Festival highlights and commemorates Toledo's local heritage and the musical contribution of Black Americans throughout history from the 1850s to 1960s.

Soprano Kathleen Battle's luminous voice has been called "...without qualification, one of the very few most beautiful in the world" by the The Washington Post. Her vocal talents have carried her to the heights of the classical music world, performing on stages in the world's leading opera houses and major concert halls, however, her gifts as a singer extend far beyond the realm of classical music.

Her work as a great interpreter of spirituals is documented on a joint recital with Jessye Norman, *Spirituals in Concert* (DG). Her pure emotional power in this music of joy and sorrow cuts through all cultural boundaries.

As the Vienna Kurier stated, "Kathleen Battle sang so beautifully in the spiri-

tual 'Heaven is one beautiful place,' she came pretty close to heaven."

Kathleen Battle received the Laurence Olivier Award in London for her portrayal of Zerbinetta in *Covent Garden's* debut of *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss. She has also received five Grammy Awards, including three for Best Classical Vocalist, and similarly distinguished herself as one of our generation's finest interpreters of Mozart (*Susanna*, *Despina*, *Pamina*, and *Zerlina*), as well as the bel canto operas of Rossini (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) and Donizetti (*L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Don Pasquale*, *La Fille du Regiment*).

"This is just one more example of how we are reaching for the stars and bringing them back here to Toledo," says the Toledo Symphony's President & CEO, Zak Vassar. "In the past few months, we've performed with Renée Fleming, Audra McDonald, and Leslie Odom, Jr. Now, with Kathleen Battle's arrival, there's little doubt that the greatest performers in the world are coming to work with the Toledo Symphony."

Vassar was lucky enough to see Battle perform a similar concert of spirituals in December 2016 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. "It was electric," he says, "Ms. Battle's voice is pristine—a perfect mix of radiant high notes and an impressive lower register. It just fits this music so well. Our audiences are in for an unforgettable concert."

Kathleen Battle *Underground Railroad – A Spiritual Journey* will take place Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theater. Tickets are available at toledosymphony.com or by calling the Toledo Symphony Box Office at 419-246-8000. For more information, please contact Felecia Kanney, Director of Marketing for the Toledo Symphony at fkanney@toledosymphony.com.



Kathleen Battle

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The Soulcial Scene

AKA, Inc Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Celebrates Founders' Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Saturday, February 24, 2018, members of the Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc celebrated Founders' Day at the Brandywine Country Club resplendent in black and white and reminiscing about the journey the sorority has taken over the past 110 years.

Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc, the oldest Grek-lettered organization established by African-American college-educated women, was founded by 16visionary women on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 15, 1908.

Currently Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is comprised of nearly 300,000 members in 1,012 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Japan, Germany, South Korea, the Middle East and on the continent of Africa.

The area's first chapter, Alpha Lambda, was chartered on December 10, 1928 at the University of Toledo.

This year's program began with a musical prelude, a narration by Julia Holt, co-chairman of the Founders' Day Committee and a welcome by

chapter president, Morgannia Dawson. A musical presentation followed by Balm of Gilead and greetings were offered by the undergraduate chapter representatives, Sierra Odoms from the UT chapter, and Diamond Spratling, from the Bowling Green State University chapter.

Member Margaret Huntley offered the invocation.

After lunch was served, Holt once again narrated the timeline and Vice President Nicole Williams acknowledged the community gift before remarks by Elinor Allen and closing remarks by Morgannia Dawson.

The Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter officers are: Dawson, president; Williams, vice president; Pamela Green Jones, secretary; Katrina Barry, assistant secretary; Treva Jeffries, corresponding secretary; Paula Martin, financial secretary; Denise Black-Poon, Ivy Leaf reporter and Cheryl Wallace and Desiree McGee, graduate advisors for UT and BGSU respectively.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's membership includes distinguished women who boast excellent academic records, proven leadership skills and are involved in the global community through advocacy and service.



AKA Giving Kitchen of the Poor Check. VP Nicole Williams, Eleanor Allen, Harvey Savage, President Morgannia Dawson, MRS. SAVAGE and Julia Holt.



Cheryl Wallace and Niyah Walters



Elinor Allen



Harvey Savage, Jr



Founders' Day Committee



Past Presidents



The Golden Sorors

The Soulcial Scene

Toledoans Traveled to "Wakanda" for a Preview of Marvel's Black Panther Movie

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

Can't you hear the drums, see the colorful headwraps, the bold patterns on cotton, Mudcloth and wax-print? During his series of Black History Month events, Imani La-tee's Peep Game Comix hosted a viewing

party on Thursday, February 15 in the Levis Commons theatre's lounge. You would have thought the prince of Zamunda, Prince Akeem (played by Eddie Murphy) was go-

... continued on page 11



NORTH STAR festival

MARCH - APRIL 2018

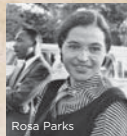
a celebration of our LOCAL HERITAGE and the musical contributions of BLACK AMERICANS throughout history from the 1850s to 1960s.



Romance and Spirituals

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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 *Isorhythmiclacionistic* - 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

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.



Photo Credit: Estate of James Karales

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.

Classical Ellington

APRIL 20 & 21 at 8 PM TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PERISTYLE

Sara Jobin, conductor
Natasha Paremiski, 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 Paremiski joins the TSO for Paul Schoenfield's magnificent *Four Parables*, a work the TSO premiered 35 years ago.



Duke Ellington

Tickets are \$25-55.

The Soulcial Scene

NANBPWC Hosts Fundraiser

The women of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. (NANBPWC INC) Toledo Club sponsored a 60's, 70's and 80's Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb 10, 2018 at 7:00 at the UAW Hall on Jackman Road.

The women of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. (NANBPWC INC) Toledo Club sponsored a 60's, 70's and 80's Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb 10, 2018 at 7:00 at the UAW Hall on Jackman Road.

This 60's, 70's and 80's fundraiser dance was for community service and scholarships and was a night of fun and a party with a purpose.

A best-dressed contest took place and guests came dressed from heel to toe to win the prizes for each decade.

Valentine candy was also sold for Valentine's Day and "Go Red" Heart Health's Month for heart disease.

Music was provided by DJ MIXX & Co. Ltd. Music Entertainment Service as guests danced the night away.

Co-Chairman Clara Brank said it was a very successful night and felt everyone had a great time. "Thank you to the community for their support and attendance," she added.

Delores Bates, who was also a co-chairman, felt the fundraiser was enjoyed by all and everyone had plenty of fun. "It was a great way to get out the house, support a great event and beat the winter blues."

Toledo Club President Frances C. Collins, PhD, said that, "The dance participants represented every generation (Traditionalist, Baby Boomer, Gen X, and Millennial). It was an amazing intergenerational event."

The Club thanked everyone who supported the fundraiser.



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The Soulcial Scene

CBTU... continued from page 16

CBTU family, we welcome you and know that your CBTU family worked hard to put this event together for you," explained Fryar.

The annual banquet featured William Lucy, president emeritus CBTU International, who served as banquet speaker and publicly acknowledged former City of Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, David Fleetwood of Laborers' Local 500 and Cenia Willis, a dedicated laborer who recently died on December 30, 2017.

"As a CBTU board member, I'm proud of our board. We work with our children of color. It's important that they understand that there are good paying jobs, good paying union jobs. Labor and management work well together, because labor is a part of growth," explained Gary Johnson.

CBTU dates to 1972 when over 1,200 black union officials and members organized a conference in Chicago. The organization's mission is to fulfill the dreams of Black Trade Unionists, both living and deceased, who throughout this century and the last have courageously and unremittingly struggled to build a national movement that would bring all our strengths and varied talents to bear in the unending effort to achieve economic, political, and social justice for every American.

The Toledo Chapter's officers: Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, interim chapter chairperson; Pierrette Talley, secretary; Henry McCoy, treasurer; and Cheryl Bennett, sergeant at arms.

The banquet committee: Henry McCoy and Anita Madison, co-chairmen; Cerssandra McPherson, John Folsom, Janis Fryar, Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, and Cheryl Bennett, committee members.



Morris Standly and Michael Edwards



Toni Epperson, Rick Brown, Quinnetta Griffin, and Yolanda Butts

Autumn Gineen... continued from page 16

way, the images in media, shunning the curvier physique or taunting the less shapely. This is a struggle Gineen recognizes and is channeling through her passion for clothing design for the greater good.

On Saturday February 24, her debut Trunk Show featured original designs for the upcoming prom season. Her canvas was a variety of body shapes, local models she hand-selected to create wearable masterpieces. Against the backdrop of an array of local artists in Toledo's only African-American art gallery - The Truth Art Gallery, models strolled through the audience of welcoming guests, a wonder to witness.

"One of the designs that was new for me was the Muslimah design. I have studied it for a while, but this is the first time I had the opportunity to create fashion like this," said Gineen, reflecting on the process that lead to the runway.

The reaction of the guests, their faces lightening up as the models took to their walk, was the highlight of the event for her. "Did she really make that? I want that one!" were some of the remarks the audience couldn't contain. A soft-spoken woman, Gineen was overwhelmed with excitement because of the spirit in the gallery.

Autumn grew up in Detroit and brought her craft down I-75 to Toledo where she is working to establish a community of designers who are veterans or new to fashion. This event was the first of her series of events this year to bring custom couture to the city. Her next endeavor is a Bridal Expo, "You Said Yes" and an all-male showcase in September.

In addition, Gineen wishes to teach others with new sewing classes forming this spring. To learn more, follow Autumn Gineen Atelier on Facebook or visit her at the Truth Gallery, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Black Panther... continued from page 9

ing to come out any moment and say, "Yes, it is my birthday."

In celebration of the Wakandan phenomenon, at least 50 guests entered the theatre, greeted with the Black Panther movie backdrop. Stopping to take photos and admire the vibrant attire each wore, the guests filled in the lounge to participate in games that celebrated black culture. From Urban Pictionary to Black Hollywood Trivia and Name that throwback tune, guests were chosen to "come on down" to answer trivia for chances to win a variety of prizes such as comic books, the Black Panther soundtrack, jewelry and tees.

The festive spirit was contagious as other moviegoers stopped in to play too. This free event was purposed to uplift the local African-American community with a positive gathering, while taking place in making history for supporting a big-screen superhero film that featured a mostly African-American actors with female actresses having strong roles as well.

This isn't the first time Lateef has held a viewing party. He and his wife, Megan Yasu Davis, have held similar events for other major films featuring African-American actors including Selma, Best Man Holiday and Annie (starring Jamie Foxx and Quvenzhané Wallis). Black Panther has grossed over \$700 million in box offices around the world since its premiere two weeks ago, including one of the highest pre-sale records of all time.

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Tolliver... continued from page 3

ANNN: Would it only be fair to include in any additional incentives package for a teacher to wear a weapon that if they are shot and killed that the federal government pays for their funeral expenses?

TRUMP: (a super long pause and now both eyes with a blank stare)...Hey! No more freebies! These teachers gotta have some skin in the game! This is an occupational hazard of being a teacher in America!

ANNN: What are the procedures or protocols if someone breaks into the school and steals the teachers' guns and uses them in a crime. Who is liable?...the school district or the White House?

TRUMP: (a super, super long pause and both eyes beginning to slowly close)...Hey! We can't guarantee anything...we are just talking in order to buy more time so that this conversation will move on to another topic!

ANNN: President Trump, my listeners tell me that no black teacher should agree to be armed because once the police arrive and they see a black person with a gun, they will automatically open fire on that black person and ask questions later. What do you think?

TRUMP: (no more pauses and eyes wide open)... Ben Carson and I thought about that and we have made provisions for that scenario. Each armed black teacher at an all white school would be required to wear a white suit and blue tie and they will be provided with a large orange and black neon sign to hang around their neck that says: "Don't Shoot...I'm The Negro Teacher!"

ANNN: Mr. President, that is all fine and good but what about white teachers who teach in predominately black and Hispanic schools. What is their protection against being wrongfully targeted as the

shooter when the police arrive and see them with a gun?

TRUMP: Ha! Not a problem. White cops instinctively know not to shoot white teachers! Was that a trick question?

ANNN: President Trump, you obviously repeated the speaking points first uttered by the head of the NRA that we need to "harden" our schools and not soften them. What do you mean by, "hardening" the schools?

TRUMP: I am glad you asked that question! This is what you do when you harden a school: (1) no glass windows in any classroom or glass panes in any doors (2) barb wire around all entrances (3) elevated gun posts that can survey within one mile around the school's perimeter (4) if a shooter gets in one of the schools after all of that, we will have pit bulls stationed in the hallways to attack them (5) if they get past the dogs, we will have iron gates drop from the ceiling to stop their advance (6) if they get past the gates, we will have several highly paid priests stationed along the hallways to be ready to pray for the eventual shooting victims (7) all students will be provided, at minimal cost to them, Kevlar vests and bullet proof helmets. We are working on a special buy with a national retailer that the parents can buy the vest/helmet combo for \$119.75 and no tax! (8) the students and their teachers will eat their lunches in their homerooms to avoid any mass cafeteria shootings and lastly (9), "Thanks and Prayers" go out for any teacher who willingly places their body between the shooter and the students.

ANNN: (I am stunned by those answers and sit there for a moment to collect my thoughts)...Mr President! Are you in your right mind with those outlandish proposals?

TRUMP: (he stands up and puts on his now famous red cap and yells, "The Second Amendment...now and forever!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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Agitators and Politicians... continued from page 3

is give political leaders not just motivation, but space to create change. By giving issues momentum and organizing on the ground to change policies and structures, activists empower politicians to develop solutions to complex problems.

We saw in the last mayoral election how clean-water activists such as Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie called Paula Hicks-Hudson to task for not supporting an impairment designation from the EPA in a timely fashion. This stance weakened the overall perception of her as a leader who was willing to make sure our water source was safe.

Leaders who are perceived to be responsive to issues that are at the forefront of a community gain support and those who don't, lose their jobs.

So, when you see agitators causing disruptions, activists speaking truth to power, and advocates fighting for the marginalized, know that they are an essential part of the political process and societal change.

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle" are the words of an agitator named Martin Luther King, Jr. May our champions of the marginalized continue to do the politically unpopular to make the politically difficult, easier.

Dominique "Domo" Warren is an educator, coach, writer, staffer in the United States Senate, and political strategist as well as a native of Toledo, Ohio. He can be reached at domowarren.com and on facebook/twitter/Instagram @domowarren.

Grandma's Purse by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

What's in the bag?

It looks like it could be a surprise. Lots of things that come in a sack that size are good things. Maybe it's a doll or a truck or a bar of chocolate. Maybe it's a whistle or a puzzle. Or maybe, as in the new book *Grandma's Purse* by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, it's a whole lot more than that...

c. 2018
Knopf
\$17.99 / \$23.99 Canada
32 pages

Here's some good news: Grandma Mimi is coming to visit!

She gives the best hugs. She always has "treasures" to share, and every one of them hides in the bottom of her purse. When she's around, you can barely stop looking at that purse. It's "full of some magical things." It's full of what makes Mimi, Mimi.

Once you've gotten your hug and Mimi's comfortable on the sofa, you can ask politely to see what's inside that magical purse. It's going to be something great. Or maybe it'll be something useful. Or maybe something silly.

"You never know what you'll want to have with you!" says Mimi.

For instance, she keeps a mirror in there, and a lipstick so she's ready to leave kisses all over your cheeks. She needs her "smell-good," so you know she's been in your living room long after she leaves. Mimi always carries an second pair of earrings because any time might be time to look "extra-fancy." There are hairpins in her purse, so she always looks put together, and a coin purse that Grandpa brought her from an overseas country far, far away. The coin purse reminds her of Grandpa. There's candy, because she never knows who might be hungry. Her phone and her glasses are there; so is a scarf to keep her warm and a long line of pictures protected in plastic. It's almost like Mimi carries everything!

Lucky for you that she sometimes doesn't mind if you play with her things. When you put on her lipstick, her "smell-good," her scarf, and her

glasses, well, look at you: you could almost be Mimi.

But wait.

What's that in the bottom of Mimi's purse?

What could it be?

Rare is the big girl who doesn't remember being a little girl with a fascination for an elder's handbag. All those memories will rush forth when you see what author-illustrator Vanessa Brantley-Newton has in store for your little one in *Grandma's Purse*.

Beginning with the joyous cover, you know you're in for a book that tells a story by picture alone. Indeed, when your child picks up this book to pretend-read it, she'll easily know what's going on by Brantley-Newton's artwork.

Even so, you'll want to read this one aloud. Not only is it a story of being silly, being surprised, and being loved between generations, but it's also just generally one that purse-loving, surprise-loving girls will appreciate, no matter what their ages.

Surely, then, your child will love *Grandma's Purse* almost as much as she loves to rummage through a handbag. For that three-to-six-year-old and this book, the fun's in the bag.

10,000 Calls to Engage Toledo since Jan. 1, 2018

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz took the 10,000th call to Engage Toledo since Jan. 1, 2018.

The caller asked the mayor to fix a pothole in the right lane of south-bound Secor Road, just north of Laskey Road. A video of the call can be found here.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz apologized for the pothole and acknowledged city crews are hustling to fill as many potholes as they can during breaks in the weather. The city filled 5,558 potholes this year as of Friday.

Engage Toledo - a citizen-focused, 24-hour a day, seven day a week operation to improve the collection, management, completion, and follow-up of citizen service requests - started in October, 2015.

The Engage Toledo program lets people report issues via a smart phone app, through the city website, or by calling 419-936-2020.

It has several features, including translation services for non-English speakers, a courtesy call back feature, and a service request finder.

In 2015, there were 38,445 service requests made using Engage Toledo. That increased to 39,801 in 2016 and jumped again in 2017 to 49,312.

The city has managed 137,588 requests for services since the program started.



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CLASSIFIEDS

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February 28, 2018

OPERATIONS OFFICER LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications to fill the position of Operations Officer until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Operations Officer" from the list to read more or apply.

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AUDITION NOTICE

I Dream

By Douglas Tappin

Saturday – February 10, 2018 – 12 pm to 4pm
Toledo Opera Offices
425 Jefferson Avenue – Suite 601 – Toledo
Ohio

Auditions are heard by the composer, Kevin Bylsma, Head of Music Preparation, and James Norman, Director of Operations and Production

11 FEATURED ENSEMBLE ROLES & 13 MEMBER CHORUS

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What to Prepare – 2 numbers – Classical or
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To request an audition time, contact James Norman:
jnorman@toledoopera.org

LOOKING FOR A JOB THIS SUMMER? YOUR LIBRARY CAN HELP!

Teens, are you looking to make some money this summer? (Parents, would you like your teen to make some money this summer?) Your Library is here to help. The workshops below are designed to help teens prepare for the **City of Toledo Youth Commission's Teen Job Fair on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the SeaGate Convention Centre** or for their summer job search.

Registration is recommended at workshops as seating is limited. Please click on the links below to do so.

Let the Words Speak for You

Teens, are you planning on seeking a summer job? Get help learning how to create a resume that stands out from the rest.

Kent Thursday, March 01, 2018 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
South Monday, March 12, 2018 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Main Monday, March 26, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Main Tuesday, April 03, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Main Thursday, April 05, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Interviewing 101

A big stumbling block for many teens is how to make a good impression at the job interview. We're here to help you build those skills.

Kent Thursday, March 08, 2018 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
South Monday, March 19, 2018 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Main Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

I've Got the Job, Now How Do I Keep It?

Employers expect some of the same basic behaviors from their employees. Learn how you can be the kind of employee they want to keep!

Kent Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
South Monday, March 26, 2018 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Main Wednesday, March 28, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:30
PM

Teen Job Skills Boot Camp

So you think you'd like a summer job, but do you have the skills to land and keep that position? Our Job Skills boot camp will help you be prepared.

Holland Saturday, March 24, 2018 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Oregon Saturday, April 07, 2018 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

For a social media-friendly and shareable version of this email, click here to view this message in your browser.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMERS

Metroparks Toledo is looking for motivated, innovative and fun individuals to deliver cultural educational programs as part of the Canal Experience at Providence Metropark, the Manor House at Wildwood Preserve and the Nature Photo Center at Secor Metropark. Some college course work in history, education, communication, theatre or parks and recreation preferred and some experience in historical re-enactment research, public speaking and programming desired. Seasonal positions up to 40 hours/week, \$9.23/hr or \$9.47/hr depending on position.

NATURE AND OUTDOOR SKILLS PROGRAMMERS

What a great opportunity to work outdoors in the summer! Metroparks Toledo is looking for individuals to join our team to deliver nature and outdoor recreation programming at Wildwood and Oak Openings parks. Must have completed sophomore year towards college degree in environmental science, biology, education, outdoor recreation or related college program or equivalent work experience. Some experience working with children and leading outdoor education programs required. Previous camp counselor and leading recreational trips preferred. Seasonal positions up to 40 hours/week \$9.47/hr

DAY CAMP COORDINATOR

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to provide a positive and educational experience for park visitors and program participants in our children's summer day camp. Must have completed sophomore year towards college degree in environmental science, biology, education, outdoor recreation or related college program or equivalent work experience. Previous experience working with groups of children and previous experience as a counselor or naturalist at a children's camp required. Leadership experience preferred. Seasonal position up to 40 hours/week. \$10.22/hr

www.metroparkstoledo.com/careers for complete job requirements and descriptions, must submit online application and resume. EOE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Springer Farm Pond Construction, 9725 Monclova Road, Monclova, Ohio 43542** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, March 16, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of pond with wetlands construction. General construction includes clearing and grubbing, erosion control measures, mass excavation and adjacent embankment of pond spoils, fine grading, site stabilization seeding & mulching, and natural habitat structures. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Executive Director

John Carroll University Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017 Inducts Shayla Bell Moriarty (Class of 2006)

By Dale Armbruster, JCU 2014

When looking back at John Carroll women's basketball history, the road is paved with individuals who set new high marks for future generations.

Shayla (Bell) Moriarty was one of those trailblazers.

At the time of her graduation, Moriarty was the all-time leading scorer in program history and stood 11th all-time in the history of the Ohio Athletic Conference for points scored.

"It's an honor I wasn't expecting," Moriarty says of her induction into the Hall of Fame. "It's a testament to the great coaches, teammates and athletic staff that I've had the pleasure of competing with. If it wasn't for my support system of family and friends, this wouldn't have been possible. Their love, support and encouragement meant everything."

Moriarty briefly played volleyball growing up, but her heart was with one sport alone. She fell in love with basketball in the fifth grade, when her career began in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) competition at Stevens in Toledo, Ohio.

Off the court, Moriarty devoured hours of NBA and NCAA basketball, which she says set her on her basketball journey.

After competing at Notre Dame Academy, Moriarty was looking for her next step. Thanks to a college night at her high school, she was introduced to John Carroll. She and her mother visited the campus and she immediately knew it was for her.

Simply put, I still loved the game, the discipline and camaraderie that basketball provided," Moriarty says of choosing to compete in college. "Also I truly enjoyed the coaching staff and team members that I met prior to tryouts."

What followed was a four-year run of record-breaking basketball. A four-year letter winner and starter, Shayla held seven team records at the time of her graduation, including career points (1,619), the sin-

gle-season record for points (498), single season field goals (182) and single season free throws (141).

"It was a proud moment for me to know I would leave holding that all-time scoring record," she remembers. "I owe a huge thank you to my head coach Kristie Maravalli. She really invested time and energy to make sure I was the best player and person I could be."

Moriarty was a first team All-OAC selection in both 2005 and 2006. She is one of just four players in program history to be named All-OAC first team twice (Cindy Shumaker, Lee Jennings, Katlyn Spahar). She was also honorable mention All-OAC in 2004. A six-time OAC Player of the Week, Moriarty led the OAC in scoring as both a junior and senior. She was also efficient, leading the team in field goal percentage in three straight campaigns, shooting 49.0 percent, 46.1 percent and 46.5 percent from the floor in her final three years.

Following her senior year, Shayla became the first Blue Streak to earn all-region honors when she was selected to the All-Great Lakes Region third team by d3hoops.com.

Ed. Note: Reprinted by permission of the John Carroll University Athletic Department



Moriarty and other inductees



The Family of Shawn F. Bell would like to congratulate **SHAYLA BELL MORIARTY** on accomplishing this outstanding athletic achievement

We are all very proud of you and your many accomplishments

"Continue your rise to greatness!"

Grandparents Ora and Norman Bell, Sr.



Our alumni transform the community.

"My time at UT was transformative. The leadership perspective and experience I gained from my coaches and guidance counselors had a massive impact in steering my path."

DR. ROMULES DURANT '98
Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools



utoledo.edu/alumni



Toledo Chapter of CBTU hosts 29th Annual Banquet

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Union members and leaders, community residents and elected officials gathered for the annual Black History Banquet sponsored by Toledo Chapter of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists on Saturday, February 24, 2018. This year's theme was, "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Historic Sanitation Workers Strike" in Memphis Tennessee."

Anita Madison, of Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio, served as program facilitator; and Janis Fryar of UAW Local 12 Retirees delivered the official welcome. Gary Johnson, Toledo Councilman At-Large and UFCW Local 75 introduced elected officials and union leaders; and Madison concluded the opening portion of the program for a moment of silence.

"I hope you feel welcomed as you entered this room. On behalf of the

... continued on page 11



Angela McCraney and John Savage Sr



Darryl and Kenyetta Jones



Back: Shenita Armstrong and Michael Greson, Front: Tina Higgins and Annetta Greson



• Standing: Anita Madison, Nathan Willis Jr, Charssie Willis, Janis Fryar, Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, Paula Hicks-Hudson, Henry McCoy • Seated: Pastor and First Lady Michael Key, Pierrette Talley, William Lucy



Avis Gilbert and Don McCoy



Fred Bell Jr, Fred Bell Sr, Henry McCoy, and Francis Hills



• Standing: Ray Woods, Henry McCoy, Anita Madison, Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, David Fleetwood, Janis Fryar, Yvette Thompson, Gary Johnson

• Seated: Pastor and First Lady Michael Key, Pierrette Talley, William Lucy



Michael McCoy and Darlene Williams

The Autumn Gineen Trunk Show Showcased Custom Couture for Curvy Fashionistas

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

The passion for fashion isn't all that Autumn Gineen has when it comes to her custom work. Within the lining of her fabric lies the story of the struggle women face – the pressure of society to look a certain

... continued on page 11



Autumn Gineen

