Ohioans Can Make History By Electing Melody J. Stewart To The Ohio Supreme Court

Ohioans deserve a justice system that they can trust and be confident will treat everyone equally under the law, which is a primary motivating force behind the Democratic Party candidacy of Judge Melody J. Stewart.

If elected Nov. 6, Stewart will be the first black woman ever elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. You can check your voter registration, find your polling location and all the other details to help make history in this election by visiting IWILLVote.com.

Currently, the all-Republican Ohio Supreme Court fails to truly represent the interests of all Ohioans.

“The decisions made at the Ohio Supreme Court affect everybody, either directly or indirectly,” Stewart, who sits now on the Eighth District Court of Appeals in Cuyahoga County, said in an interview. “The Supreme Court gets to decide which cases to hear, and so from the very beginning it’s important that there are diverse perspectives on the court to decide which issues are of great importance to the state, because that’s how cases get in for review.”

If you have a group of Supreme Court justices comprised of individuals who are all from the same political party, she said, that lends itself to group-think. It’s better, she said, to have justices with diverse perspectives and backgrounds to represent those perspectives and backgrounds on the court when such cases are being considered for review as well as when they are being decided.

Stewart is a native Ohioan born and raised in Cuyahoga County who received her baccalaureate from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati -- “What else would I study in college with a name like Melody?” she joked.

Stewart then earned her law degree from Cleveland State University’s Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University’s Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

After working as an assistant law director, Stewart began a career in education. She lectured, taught, and worked as an assistant dean at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She later joined the faculty there and taught classes on ethics and professional responsibility, criminal law, criminal procedure, and legal research, writing and advocacy.

Stewart highlighted a number of ways courts can increase trust and confidence in the justice system, first pointing toward the need for more efficiency.

“It takes cases a very long time to wind through our court system,” she said. “I think in the judiciary we need to be more responsive to the people we serve. We need to improve our use of technology. Where you live in the state should not dictate whether you can file a court document electronically.”

She also emphasized the need to create better access to the justice system regardless of financial means, not only for criminal matters but also for some civil cases like those dealing with consumer matters.

“We need more legal aid and assistance available to help people get out of some dire circumstances that may be remedied simply by having legal counsel, having someone who knows how to help remedy collateral consequences of criminal convictions, credit issues and the like,” she said.

She suggested working with groups toward more workshops and clinics throughout the state where legal professionals are available to give consultation and advice.

Stewart said she isn’t running for the Ohio Supreme Court to advance... continued on page 12

**Community Calendar on page 4**
As many of you may know, I had the distinct pleasure to serve, for a brief stint, as an deputy undersecretary for foreign affairs in the Asian Pacific.

I have fond memories of visiting bustling cities such as Singapore, Seoul, Tokyo and Manila. I also had the pleasure of forming long-lasting friendships in that strategic part of the world with many ambassadors, civil servants and aides of various ranks.

Their knowledge and wisdom about enhancing positive relationships with the US and our Asian partners was invaluable and very productive in keeping the US out of harm’s way in both economic and military undertakings.

I had a special bond with a foreign aide in the capital of North Korea. He was a junior secretary to Kim Jung Un and was responsible for the transmission of classified documents to many western countries, including the US.

So, you can imagine my pleasant surprise when he sent me an official cable indicating an urgent desire to contact me regarding some highly sensitive information regarding letters sent to President Trump by Kim Jung Un.

However, not currently being under the cover of diplomatic security, I was hesitant to re-engage my colleague on any level knowing the dire danger that it could place him in if he was discovered transmitting, overtly or covertly, any secrets that involve the henchman Kim Jung Un.

My colleague, for whom I will employ an anonymous first name of Jsun Bo, was determined to inform me that he needed this information to be transmitted on a Code Red level. If you are not in foreign intelligence gathering, a Code Red is akin to a nuclear bomb being dropped. It is that important and, thusly, demands your attention.

So, with much trepidation, I went to a secure facility in Omaha and using my secure password, I gained access to a diplomatic pouch marked: Top Secret/Confidential: President Donald Trump only.

I gingerly took the pouch, broke open the seal and made a copy of its one letter content and returned the pouch without notice or damage done.

I left the building, “sweating bullets” knowing that if I was apprehended, I faced certain jail time and a complete loss of any diplomatic status.

By the time I got to my hotel room, I closed the curtains, bolted the front door and opened the purloined document.

Even though President Trump recently touted on national TV that he was in love with Kim and he received “love letters” from Kim, I had no inkling of the depth of this bromance.

At the risk of being confronted with a letter that I had no right to see or read, I thought it best for national security and based upon the love of my country to share this “love” letter with the public. I am told that there were letters sent, in the plural, but I believe that this letter is the first of the string of those letters sent by Kim to President Trump.

For security purposes, I have obviously blocked out certain information that could cause severe heartburn for the sender and for the recipient as to how these matters were sent between the parties.

But believe me, the below contents of this love letter should cause chills and spasms for any American reader.

After you read this letter, you make the decision as to whether or not our president has compromised himself as he did at Helsinki with Putin or as with the current ongoing Russian investigation may soon bear out:

My Dear Donald,

It is glorious for me to share the many fond memories I have of you and I strolling through the many vistas and hallways in my capital palace. I felt like a flushed young school girl escorting you around my fabulous kingdom and showing you the many treasures that I have taken from the Korean people in order to showcase my wonderful time as their emperor for life.

I am seemingly unable to properly express in English the feelings that I have for you and your considerable grasp of foreign affairs.

Your presence and your charming smile will always capture me with its charm and wit. Just to think of you nearby with me, makes me grow all the more fonder for our next rendezvous.

I am blushing when I say that I am in love with you and hopefully you have the same feelings for me. It is a love that I am unable to explain to others who do not know what it is to be enraptured with such a wonder of meeting you and having you look and gaze so deeply into my eyes!

When you canceled any future war games exercises with South Korea, my heart skipped a beat and I knew then that this was true love in all of its power and captivating.

I recall the time at the state dinner when our hands accidentally touched when you reached for the hot mustard to put on your egg roll! I almost fainted from excitement to know that an American president was so warm and effusive towards me, but yet you were!

And who could forget the time when you got up to speak and you placed your hand on my shoulder! I was nigh delirious with joy and I beamed and smiled at you and you lovingly winked back at me!

Oh...what a wink that was. I was smitten like a foolish young maiden, giddy over her first crush and that crush was... you!

My thoughts are always going out to you and I am practically counting the days when we will be together again, exchanging secret furtive glances and you giving me, in private, classified military information. Oh, what a thrill that was. You have no idea!

Well, I must end this letter, I have to attend to some unpleasant duties such as executing some political prisoners and denying food rations to the mothers of some college dissidents.

But, you will always be warming my heart and making my toes squirm whenever I look upon your orange countenance when you appear on my favorite news program, Fox News!

With all my love......

Kim Jung Un

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**Save Money. Save Lives.**

**A Better Way.**

**Vote FOR Issue 10.**

- **Issue 10 builds a Solutions Center so people who need help, get help. And people who need to be in jail, will be in jail.**
- **But jail is not the place for people with addiction and mental health issues.**
- **Even better, taxpayers will save millions every year by focusing on treatment and not costly jail time.**

Vote for Issue 10

A Better Way

Paid for by Citizens for a Safe Lucas County
Issue 1 Will Help Thousands of Ohioans Re-enter Workforce

Each year, barriers that keep people with criminal convictions from getting certain jobs contribute to $3.4 billion in foregone wages, according to new analysis from Policy Matters Ohio.

From getting a fishing license to running Bingo games, Ohio has more than 1,000 laws that limit what people previously convicted of a crime can do: some 850 relate specifically to jobs and entrepreneurship. These roadblocks range from a background check to an outright prohibition against working in a certain job. One in four jobs in Ohio contain these hurdles, known as collateral sanctions for punishing people long after they served their time. On average, they pay 10 percent -- $4,700 -- more, according to Policy Matters Ohio.

Issue 1 reclassifies minor drug possession felonies as misdemeanors. The report finds 524 are triggered by a drug conviction, and 296 of them apply to felonies only. Issue 1 removes those barriers to work for Ohioans with a drug conviction and no more serious crime.

“Issue 1 opens up more jobs to people by reducing nonviolent drug offenses from felonies to misdemeanors,” Policy Matters Researcher Michael Shields said. “When people can earn a living, their chances of committing another crime drops. That makes our communities safer.”

If Issue 1 passes, people convicted of nonviolent, low-level drug possession, or those who commit non-criminal probation violations, will be redirected to community sanctions or treatment instead of prison. People in prison will be able to earn sentence reductions by participating in education and rehabilitation programs. The money saved by reducing the prison population will be redirected to communities to fund victims’ services, rehabilitation and safety programs.

Ohio law limits access to public sector jobs, careers in health care, driving jobs, and more. Because many are in one of Ohio’s strongest industries – health care – jobs with these barriers are among the state’s fastest growing. By 2024, they are projected to grow by 11 percent versus 5.4 percent.

Ohio’s growing drug crisis affects people across the state. Women are a growing share of the state’s prison population – nearly 39 percent are there for drug offenses, compared to 25 percent of men. African Americans are six times more likely to be convicted of a drug offense, even though they use drugs at similar rates of white people.

“Ohio has one of the worst drug epidemics in the nation,” Shields said. “If Issue 1 doesn’t pass, more people will find themselves locked out of the job market. That’s not good for anyone.”

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Community Calendar

October 13
Calvary MBC Annual Cancer Awareness Workshop: 11 am; Agencies and vendors with helpful information; Free lunch after workshop Calling all former Angelic & Jerusalem Mass Choir: It’s that time again Rehearsals for HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WILL be Saturdays 12:00 noon Jerusalem Baptist Church Exodus 31 Art Show: 7 pm; Beacon International: 567-868-9194

October 21
Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists 2018 Scholarship Auditions: 3 pm; Open to students 7th through 12th grades and young adult organists; Hope Lutheran Church: 419-473-1167 ext 230 New Hope MBC 1st Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Otis Jones and First Lady Dara Jones; 11am and 4 pm services: 419-243-4902 or 419-244-2964 St. Paul AME Zion Church Correctional Lay Sunday: 11 am; Guest speaker Bonita Adams of Walls Memorial Chapel AME Zion New Prospect MBC First Home Coming Service: Calling all past, present and future members and friends; 11 service with guest speaker Rev. Casey Diggs; 4 pm service with speaker Rev. R. Carson of Southern Baptist Friendship Baptist Church - The Future Ship is Sailing: Bible-based, youth ministry dedicated to inspiring, uplifting and leading young people to Christ. Classes K-12 are forming and offered to all young people every Sunday morning from 8:30-11:30: 419-475-1264.

October 28
Calvary MBC 89th Church Anniversary: “A Church Founded on Faith Inspired by Hope and We Give Thanks;” 4 pm; Guest Church Phillipians MBC of Lima and Pastor B. Lamont Monford

November 7
Effects of Addiction on Our Families and Communities: 6 pm; Question and answer session with community leaders; Robinson Elementary; Become part of the solution to end addiction in Lucas County


An ASSETS Toledo Success Story

The CEO/Director and Lead Educator

Charmaine Galloway was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. Working with children is a great passion in Galloway’s life and she has impeccable credentials in this industry. She has obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Family Life Education; an Associate’s Degree of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education Technology and she has an Early Childhood Center Director’s Certificate.

She also is a graduate from ASSETS of Toledo. A program that educates and provides helpful information to entrepreneurs on how to run their business successfully.

Galloway was the director and lead teacher at her licensed home childcare for over 10 years. She was blessed in January 2016 when she was able to finally fulfill her dreams and open Amazing Grace Educational Childcare, a full-time childcare facility that can care for up to 88 children.

In the past Galloway was the director at a former daycare, a lead preschool teacher at several daycare centers in her city and she was also a child care food program monitor for Lucas County and other surrounding counties in Ohio.

She has also written and published two children books.

The Author/Entrepreneur

Being the wearer of many proverbial ‘hats,’ Galloway is the CEO of Amazing Grace Educational Childcare LLC. She is also a published author under Racquel Williams Presents (RWP) Publishing Company and she is the founder of her own publishing company, Charming Gal Publications.

She is the CEO of Charming Gal Boutique where she designs jewelry for women by request. However, the most important ‘hat’ she wears is that of mom to her two children, Shayla and Shayne. Following her dreams as a writer and entrepreneur will leave a beautiful legacy for them by encouraging them to work hard to achieve their dreams because their mom didn’t quit reaching for hers.

Writing has been her passion and a positive emotional outlet since middle school. As a teen, writing in her journal allowed her to escape the negativity of her world. Around that time, she also began writing her first Christian fiction novel. She finds joy in creating unique and awe-inspiring story-lines for the characters in her stories. Ingenuity and imagination are mainstays and compasses in her work.

TARTA Public Hearing Brings Objections to Proposed Service Cuts

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority held a public hearing on Thursday October 11 at the Kent Branch Library and the audience of bus riders expressed their disappointment with the proposed service cuts TARTA is suggesting.

The looming financial crisis has prompted TARTA officials to propose shorter operating hours and to cut Sunday and holiday service altogether. Other proposed changes include: modification of Muddy Shuttle and Walleye Shuttle

... continued on page 6
Senator Convenes First-Ever Statewide Coalition Following Efforts to Launch MBK Chapters across Ohio

Last week, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) joined Columbus community leaders to help launch the first-ever statewide coalition of the “My Brother’s Keeper” (MBK) program in Columbus. My Brother’s Keeper was launched by President Obama as a national initiative to address the opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color, and to ensure all young people reach their full potential.

“All of the work by everyone here today is so critical to making MBK a success,” said Brown. “We need a long-term strategy that allows all our students to reach their full potential—not one that accepts that an entire segment of our citizens will grow up with limited options.”

MBK Ohio will work with local chapters to offer support and provide resources that help Ohio communities sustain and grow their local MBK chapters. Brown’s office worked closely with The Ohio State University and the Kirwan Institute to develop this statewide My Brother’s Keeper coalition.

“All of us have a role to play in lifting up our youth. MBK Ohio will bring together advocates and communities to promote action, investment, and policies that create more opportunities for our young people,” said Kyle Strickland of the Kirwan Institute.

MBK Ohio is aligned with President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper national initiative with the goal of ensuring that all youth receive a quality high school education and graduate with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training.

Brown has been a champion of the My Brother’s Keeper program in Ohio, leading efforts to launch local My Brother’s Keeper initiatives in Springfield, Toledo, Mansfield, Lorain County, the Mahoning Valley, and Stark County. He has also highlighted programs in Dayton, Columbus, Akron, and Cleveland with Broderick Johnson, President Obama’s Chair of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force.

In September 2014, President Obama issued a challenge to cities across the country to become “MBK Communities.” This challenge represents a call to action and encourages communities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. Nearly 200 mayors, tribal leaders, and county executives across 43 states and the District of Columbia have accepted the MBK Community Challenge.

The six goals of the Challenge are:

- Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally ready;
- Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade;
- Ensuring all youth graduate from high school;
- Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training;
- Ensuring all youth out of school are employed; and
- Ensuring all youth remain safe from violent crime.

Community leaders can lay the groundwork for an MBK Community in four steps:

1. Accept President Obama’s Challenge.
2. Convene a “Local Action Summit” to build an MBK Community.
3. Conduct a policy review and form recommendations for action.
4. Launch a plan of action, next steps, and a timetable for review.
Ramona Collins: Nurturing Jazz in Toledo, Celebrating Her Own Milestone

By Asia Nail
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

You may not believe this, but we have news about the local state of jazz music: good news, and more good news.

It should come as no surprise that Toledo, Ohio is a city well known for producing and supporting great music.

Dynamic Toledo jazz singer and area favorite Ramona Collins, blazed a bright spotlight on our town’s contributions to jazz history. She also told us about the lost history of our city’s notorious underside, where Toledo’s jazz scene was born and still covertly thrives.

Collins detailed the life of Art Tatum, whom many regard as the greatest jazz piano player who ever lived. From this legendary pianist, to the genius ‘Father of Vocalese,’ Jon Hendrix, “Our very own resident artists have created a hotbed scene of jazz music right here in our hometown. And for that we must continually celebrate,” she explains.

First on Secor Road in West Toledo, and then on Tedrow Road in South Toledo, Collins recalls her many treasured shows at Rusty’s Jazz Café, where live jazz was performed seven days a week until 2003.

Collins is optimistic about the future of jazz in Toledo, despite the closure of our most iconic lounges of the past.

“For this to be the town of the late, great Art Tatum we really have to do better...”

...continued on page 11
It’s On: Early Voting Is Underway and the Dems’ Bus Rolls In

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Early Voting started in Ohio on October 10, 2018 and hundreds of voters went early to the Lucas County Early Polling site, at 1301 Monroe Street, and then celebrated the opening of the season outside the polls. Lending their voices to the celebration were Democratic candidates who rolled into town on the “People First” campaign bus.

The Movement was there – Tina Butts’ organization, the local arm of the Ohio Democratic Party, focused on driving up the local minority vote – playing music and making sure that volunteers were signed up to help get people to the polls.

Arriving on the bus were statewide candidates – Zack Space for Auditor and Rob Richardson for Treasurer – accompanied by U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and J. Michael Galbraith, candidate for U.S. Congressional District 05 seat – currently held by Republican Bob Latta.

Also arriving were Jeanine Donaldson, candidate for the Ohio Board of Education; Lindsay Webb, Lucas County Treasurer; Gary Byers, candidate for Lucas County Commissioner, Joe McNamara, candidate for judge; Paula Hicks-Hudson, candidate for Ohio House seat District 44, Teresa Fedor, candidate for Ohio Senate District 11 and Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper, who served as the master of ceremonies for the speeches that followed the arrival.

The early voting center was busy all day as early birds took advantage of the opportunity to get their voices heard on Day One. As is her custom, Joe McNamara and Jodie Summers arrived at the polling site at about 5:30 a.m. and waited for the doors to open.

Early voting continues until Election Day. The schedule is 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, from October 10 to October 26; 8:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Friday, October 29 to November 2; 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday, October 27 and November 3; 1 to 4 pm, Sunday November 4 and 8:am to 2 pm, Monday, November 5.

If your landlord refuses to provide you a convenient accessible parking space, that could be discrimination.

419-243-6163 toledofhc.org

Suspect unfair housing practices? Contact us.
Fair Housing Center Unveils the “Keys to Opportunity”

After the Annual Meeting at The United Way of Greater Toledo on Wednesday, October 10, board members and supporters of The Fair Housing Center walked across the street for their Courtyard Connection event.

Originally to be held in the courtyard, the event was moved in the main lobby of The Fair Housing Center, due to light rain. Despite the change, the community and staff enjoyed networking and refreshments, before the unveiling of a very dynamic key statue.

This past spring, The Fair Housing Center hosted a Community Key Collection, gathering nearly 20,000 old keys from people across the community. Dane Turpening, artist and owner of Toledo Twisted Iron, fused the keys together to create a new public artwork, The unique “Keys to Opportunity” sculpture will represent the role fair housing plays in opening the door to the vital resources that enable us to thrive.

“We’re excited to unveil this new sculpture, which was created by our entire community,” stated Alan Sattler, Board chairman of The Fair Housing Center. “Each and every person who donated—even those who donated just one key—helped to build this sculpture. These old keys were lying around in junk drawers and garages, and now they’ve been given new life and are part of something permanent. We hope this artwork raises awareness of how your ZIP Code matters, symbolizing the connection between where you live and your opportunities for success.”

Did you know your FICO® Score can affect how much interest you pay on a loan?

| Credit Score: 630 | Monthly Payment: $228 |
| Credit Score: 770 | Monthly Payment: $214 |

Improving your credit score can help you save money.

If you’d like help reviewing your credit before purchasing a home, contact:
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo (419) 691-2900
- Northwest Ohio Homeownership Development Agency (419) 243-3734
- ONE Village Financial Opportunity Center (419) 724-5640

KNOW YOUR CREDIT SCORE

For Example:
If you took out a 30-year fixed-rate loan for $40,000

- Credit score: 630, Monthly payment: $228
- Credit score: 770, Monthly payment: $214

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you’d save $5,262 over the life of the loan

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Social Security Column

Why Social Security Is Important to Women

By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

Social Security plays an especially important role in providing economic security for women. In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation’s history. But, women face greater economic challenges in retirement. Women:

• Tend to live longer than men. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average, until about 87, while a 65-year-old man can expect to live, on average, until about 84;
• Often have lower lifetime earnings than men; and
• May reach retirement with smaller pensions and other assets than men.

Social Security offers a basic level of protection to all women. When you work, you pay taxes into the Social Security system, providing for your own benefits. In addition, your spouse’s earnings can give you Social Security coverage as well. Women who don’t work are often covered through their spouses’ work. When their spouses retire, become disabled, or die, women can receive benefits.

If you’re a worker age 18 or older, you can get a Social Security Statement online. Your Statement is a valuable tool to help you plan a secure financial future, and we recommend that you look at it each year. Your Statement provides a record of your earnings. To create an account online and review your Statement, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

If your spouse dies, you can get widow’s benefits if you’re age 60 or older. If you have a disability, you can get widow’s benefits as early as age 50. Your benefit amount will depend on your age and on the amount your deceased spouse was entitled to at the time of death. If your spouse was receiving reduced benefits, your survivor benefit will be based on that amount. You may be eligible for widow’s benefits and Medicare before age 65 if you have a disability and are entitled to benefits. You also may be eligible for benefits if you are caring for a child who is younger than 16. Our “People Like Me” website for women has valuable resources for people of all ages. You can access it at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women. To read more about how we can help you, read and share the publication What Every Woman Should Know at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf.

Robin Reese, Executive Director of Lucas County Children Services, will speak at L.I.F.T. 2018 - MIDWEST Conference!

L.I.F.T. 2018 – MIDWEST African American Professionals and Allies Conference is 14-days away, but that doesn’t mean you have this much time to register and #BEINTHEROOM.

Register today!

L.I.F.T.-ing Up the Next Generation of Women is the topic and discussion kicking off the start of our conference!

Other speakers and topics include:

Darlene Slaughter, chief diversity officer for United Way Worldwide (Alexandria, VA) will explore the intersection of leadership and mental health and the role we all play as workplace allies.

Joseph Scantlebury, vice president of program strategy for W. K. Kellogg Foundation (Battle Creek, MI) will share leadership insights on recruitment and retention of diverse talent and the business case for racial equity.

Angel Harris, executive director of Dress for Success Columbus (Columbus, OH) will lead a discussion on how to successfully navigate employment and career transitions, no matter your title.

Alan Nevel, chief diversity and human resources officer for The MetroHealth System (Cleveland, OH) will share his expertise on what it takes to achieve leadership excellence, how executives move effectively into the C-suite - and stay there, off-the-job leadership development and why what you do when you are not at work can help or hinder your career path. Speaker, student advocate and higher education professional Merida Allen, Director of Multicultural Ed-

...continued on page 12
Ramona Collins... continued from page 7

ter with jazz, and I trust we will. We had Rusty's Jazz Café for 40 years and Murphy's Place for about 25 years so it is nice for an exclusive place for jazz music." Until then Collins suggests that ThePub (at Paula Brown's Shop) is a hidden gem for live jazz on select dates.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Ramona Collins was the oldest of nine children reared in Lansing, Michigan. Her mother, the late Alice (Collins) Carter was a jazz pianist and singer, encouraged her daughter to perform at an early age to overcome her shy demeanor.

"Like all the great jazz advocates of the past, present, and future, I'm a Jazz Keeper," says Collins. "Jazz-keeper, is a term we in the local jazz community use to describe a group of passionate people coming together to try to keep jazz alive in these contemporary times."

Many of us are jazz-keepers, whether we know it or not, by Collins' definition. By supporting earlier forms of traditional jazz we collectively keep the genre alive and well.

Ramona has five adult children, Brett, Brin, Brina, Brad and Brandi, who also fit the jazz-keepers bill. Notably, Collins' son Brett is a librarian specialist at The Art Tatum African American Resource Center at the Korn Branch Library. Like their mother they all share a love and appreciation for the genre.

Too many individuals in the new generations have minimal knowledge of the big names and movements in jazz history, but for those eager to expand their jazz knowledge beyond the "smooth jazz" rating the airwaves, it is possible for even a novice to learn a great deal from Collins' musicality.

As a "jazz activist", Collins is very candid about the issues she perceives may hinder our city's progress. Collins sits on a host of committees and boards such as the Toledo Arts Commission, Music Uniting Sisters Everywhere (M.U.S.E.), The Black Swamp Blues Society and the University of Toledo's School of Visual and Performing Arts.

"I sit on a lot of boards, but I'm glad I do because it gives me insight into what's going on," stated Collins. She believes, as individuals foster support in up-and-coming jazz musicians, we will naturally improve the public's understanding of, and participation in, local music events.

"We also must not forget that Toledo has many older residents who have money, are retired and have time to explore," she suggests, "The Heights rooftop bar at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel is one of the few places where the generations blend quite nicely."

Ramona Collins has produced and recorded two independent albums. "Everything Old Is New Again" (1997) recorded at Rusty's Jazz Café and "Live And Lovin' It" recorded at the Toledo Museum of Art (2004), available for download at cdbaby.com.

Collins has the uncanny ability to express musical lyrics while drawing the audience into a world of unforgettable intense singing. For the uninhibited, a Ramona Collins' performance gives a wonderful glimpse of what jazz as an art form has to offer the community. She is a true powerhouse, continually providing significant tributes to the talented musicians of the past who kept the rhythm going.

"I miss the variety sometimes. I've been in every kind of band, jazz bands, funk-bands, show-bands, whatever," recalls Collins when asked about her upcoming venues.

With the advent of YouTube, one can also have a great time listening to original scores of various musicians Ramona Collins may interpretively sing in one of her live performances. One could easily end up buying many celebrated jazz cd's as a result.

Collins will be fulfilling a host of venues this month surrounding the celebration of her 70th birthday this 25th of October.

On October 24 she will be in at the St. Regis Hotel for Detroit Go Go; a five-day festival of Soul and Motown Music. She says, "I am honored to be performing my iconic 1970 recording of 'You've Been Cheating' (a new collection) for their UK and European guests. She will be performing with Drew Schultz & The Broken Habits.

On October 25 Collins will be performing for her birthday celebration at the Registry Bistro, at Jefferson and Superior, an event hosted by Black and White Transportation as a part of the Bistro Series under the Toledo Jazz Orchestra umbrella. She will be accompanied by Josh Silver on piano, Mark Lemke on sax, Brandon Benson on drums, and Jay Ronquillo on bass.

Friday October 26, see her at the Clinton House Restaurant singing Motown and More with Trez Gregory, in Port Clinton, OH.

Collins will continue her birthday performance weekend, October 27, performing her solo "Off The Tracks" show for the Heart & Soul fundraiser supporting Tie Thomas Wernert Center in parlor B on the 3rd floor of Hensville.

Holy Toledo! We would say it sounds like the makings of a Happy Birthday and all that jazz!

Ramona Collins and reporter Asia Nil
Additional Financial Protection for Your Family: What to Know

Special to The Truth

It is hard to think about death, but organizing your financial paperwork, having a will, making sure you have an appropriate amount of life insurance coverage and even writing out funeral plans, can help ensure that loved ones left behind have a little less to worry about during a difficult time.

Draw up a Will

Only 44 percent of Americans report having a will, according to a 2016 Gallup poll, and that percentage drops to just 14 percent for those younger than 30. Even if you don’t own much, a will helps family and friends know that they are following your wishes, which can be comforting. If you have children or pets, it is important to think about their future and who you want to take care of them in your absence. Specify if you have special directions regarding your funeral services, if you want one at all.

Creating a living will is also critical. You’ll want to give your loved ones some guidance on making important health decisions, should you be too ill or incapacitated to oversee your affairs. Another way to help ensure your estate will be properly managed under any circumstances.

Consider Life Insurance

Nearly 90 percent of Americans believe that a family’s primary wage earner needs to have life insurance, but only three in five U.S. adults own an individual or group life insurance policy, according to the Life Insurance Market Research Association 2018 Insurance Barometer.

“Life insurance can be an important part of an overall financial plan. The money can help your family fulfill your plans for them, such as maintaining their current home, attending college and assisting those with special needs,” says Bill Smith, president, Cigna Group Insurance. (All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation, including Life Insurance Company of North America, Cigna Life Insurance Company of New York (New York, NY) and Connecticut General Life Insurance Company.)

Smith also points out that beneficiaries often have other immediate needs beyond receiving a benefit check. Grief counseling or access to legal document review may be available as part of the policy.

Find out what resources will be available to your beneficiaries and list those details with your policy information to make it easy for them to access this help.

And remember, if something changes in your life -- you get married, divorced or have children – you should update your beneficiary information accordingly.

Organize Your Paperwork

Make it easy for your family to handle next steps. Create a personal information organizer containing the following crucial information to serve as a quick reference:

• Personal family information, such as the names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers of spouses, children and dependents.

• Important contact information, including your attorney, landlord, financial planner, doctors, business associates, etc.

• A directory specifying the location of pertinent documents such as your Social Security card, birth certificate, passport, property deeds, insurance documents, loan documents, tax returns, estate planning documents and more.

Want to strengthen your family’s financial well-being? Take steps now to help ensure they will be well-protected, come what may.

Courtesy StatePoint

Melody J. Stewart...continued from page 2

her career but rather because she believes in good government and good public service which she has constantly demonstrated throughout her career and have some balance on the Supreme Court. She thinks that it’s naïve at best and may be insulting at worst to believe the public can have confidence in the highest level of our judiciary comprised of justices who all belong to the same political party.

“I’m running because, in addition to my diverse background, experience, education, and perspectives, a value-added component of my candidacy is that I am a nominee from a party that is different from the entire makeup of our Supreme Court,” she said. “I am also running because I am committed to improving our judicial system. When you are privileged to have attended some of the best colleges and universities our state has to offer, gain a wealth of work and people experiences, operate in a way that does not abandon common sense and always try to constantly be aware of your own implicit or unconscious bias in making decisions, those things operate together to produce better outcomes all the way around. That’s what the people of Ohio deserve -- and that’s exactly what they’ll get with my election to the Supreme Court.”

Paid for by the Ohio Democratic Party

Robin Reese...continued from page 10

Education and Student Leadership at University of Dayton, will speak on the topic Level Up: 21st Century Advice for Minorities in Leadership and the Allies Who Help Them.

A conference workshop on how to become an ally, panel discussions on courageous leadership, and sharing insights from Gallup, Inc. on the ever-changing role of the workplace and the real future of work.

See you there!

Sincerely,
Jason and Kelli Daniels
JAYRAMON LLC
Co-founders, L.I.F.T. 2018 – MIDWEST Conference
No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His
Kingdom in Kansas by Tonya Bolden,
illustrated by Don Tate

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Hard work pays off.
Your parents have said that; your teachers, too. So messin’, start paying attention, knock it down, do your work, and see what happens. Hard work pays off, and in the new book No Small Potatoes by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Don Tate, hard work grows an empire.

Forty cents a day.
That’s how much Junius G Groves made at his first paid job. Before that, he worked for no pay because he was born a slave in Kentucky but as soon as “freedom came,” he headed west. He was about 20 years old then, and strong: some say he walked the whole way to Kansas, over 500 miles! When he got to the Great Kew Valley, he landed a job for 40 cents a day.

Junius G. worked hard and soon, he was making 75 cents a day. Then he was appointed foreman and started making a buck-twenty-five. He saved some of his money and he used the rest to rent farmland, where he and his wife, Mathilda, planted potatoes and chopped wood for sale, so that they could save even more money.

Junius G., you see, had a big dream.
A plot of land near Edwardsville, Kansas, was for sale and Junius wanted it. Problem was, those 80 acres cost more than all the money the Groveses had. That bothered Junius G. but what could he do, except to go into debt? He moved to the land, promising that he would pay the loan off in one year – and he got to work.

First, there was a house to build. There was a forest to clear, so he could plant more potatoes. The Groveses had children to raise by then and the kids pitched in. In a years’ time, they paid every penny they owed and you know what they did then…

By 1902, Junius G. was known as “Potato King of the World.” He sent potatoes north to Canada and south to Mexico. He grew so many potatoes that the railroad built a “hub” to him. He eventually “grew jobs,” 10 children, a community, and a church.

This sounds like a wonderful little life-lesson fable, doesn’t it? A nice tale to encourage industriousness, right? Except that No Small Potatoes is a true story.

It’s a delightful one, at that: author Tonya Bolden shares this hidden tale in a most unique way: her story weaves between the words of Junius G. Groves himself, which shows his strength and ways of thinking. That determination is told as though it’s no big deal, but kids will know better; it truly helps that the story, on Bolden’s side, is made completely relatable through words and language that a child might use, while artwork by Don Tate makes it feel comfortable.

Will you want fries with that? Maybe, because this book will also speak to young foodies who could eat spuds at every meal, as well as four-to-eight-year-olds who enjoy hidden tales. If that’s your child, finding No Small Potatoes will really pay off.

African-American Art Expert to Talk about
BGSU Exhibition

David Driskell, one of the world’s leading authorities on African-American art, will visit Bowling Green State University as the featured speaker for the closing of the School of Art’s “So Much More: Ohio’s African American Artists” exhibition.

Driskell will present “Then and Now: Vital Topics in African American Art,” at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 in Olscamp Hall, Room 113. His talk is in conjunction with a significant 58-piece art exhibit that prominently features work by BGSU alumnus Bernie Casey. Casey, who was best known to the world as an actor and professional football player also was remarkably talented as an artist. He attended BGSU on a football scholarship and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine arts in 1961 and 1966, respectively. He died in September 2017.

In addition to the featured Casey artwork, the exhibition includes work by 18 alumni, current students and other African-American artists from Ohio or with connections to Casey.

“So Much More’ is fundamentally a celebration of the deeply personal and particular vision of the artists who gently but forcefully remind us that we’re all ‘so much more’ than our racial and ethnic identities,” said Charles Kanwischer, director of the BGSU School of Art.

Driskell’s talk coincides with the final few days of the exhibit that is on display in the Willard Wunkelman Gallery at the Fine Arts Center. Driskell, who has been a vibrant and vital force in contemporary art for six decades, has contributed significantly to scholarship on the history of the role of black artists in America. His accomplishments include three Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, a National Humanities Medal, 13 honorary doctoral degrees and, most recently, he was named an American Academy for Arts and Sciences Fellow. The David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the African Diaspora was founded to promote his scholarship and service to the University of Maryland, where he is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Driskell also is an active artist, principally in collage and mixed media.

Following his lecture, a reception will be held in the Fine Arts Center. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public. The art exhibition closes Oct. 21; gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Knopf $17.99 / $23.99 Canada
40 pages

African-American Art
Expert to Talk about
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Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz is seeking interested applicants for the following board and commissions:

- Toledo Sister Cities International. There are two vacancies on the board. The city is seeking candidates with a marketing or finance background or interest.
- Joe E. Brown Park Board. The administration is seeking four people to create this board. Residents living near the park should apply.
- Savage Park Board. The administration is seeking one person to sit on this board. Residents living near the park should apply.

Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest and a resume to mayor@toledo.oh.gov.

Plain Text:

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**NORTHGate APARTMENTS**

610 Stickney Avenue
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“Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes”

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

**Manager of Communications**

LUCAS COUNTY

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the position of Manager of Communications until position is 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 “Manager of Communications” from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Request for Proposal for Mini Grants**

In continuing efforts to foster activities that promote positive mental health and prevent substance abuse, The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Lucas County is pleased to announce an opportunity for funding through its FY 19 Mini Grant. The Board is seeking to provide up to $5,000 in funding to grass roots organizations and individuals that are providing programming that build assets or skills, resources, supports, or coping strategies for the population that the MHRSB serves. A complete description of the “Request for Proposal for Mini Grants” can be found at www.lcmhrsbr.in. Proposals must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, November 9, 2018.

**MOTOWN SWEETEST DAY PARTY!**

October 20, 2018. At UAW Local 12, 2300 Ashland Avenue. From 7 pm to Midnight – DJ, Free Food served from 8 pm to 10 pm, Free Beer. Price $20 for advance tickets; $25 at the door. Presented by UAW Local 12 Civil Rights Committee. Contact Doris Roberts – 419-350-3233

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Ophelia Powell - Passport Required

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Mecca Court #73... continued from page 16

...arships from the “Charlesena Harrison Smith Scholarship Foundation to
Aaliyah Colbert and Jason Johnson, Jr. Colbert, a 2018 graduate of Whitt
mer High School, is currently attending Delaware College; Johnson, a 2018
graduate of Sylvanis Southview High School, is currently attending Al
abama A&M University. Both recipients exemplify the true characteristics
of community service, and their referrals speak highly of their individual
value and aspiring goals.

Mecca Court was honored to have the elected Past imperial Commandress
Dr. Charlesena H. Smith — who served as the 42nd Imperial Commandress
of the Imperial Court, 2009-2011 — and proud to have six appointed Impe-
rial Officers presently serving in the Imperial Court.

The 55th annual Commandress Ball honoring Dr. LaVera Scott at the
Park Inn by Radisson Hotel on October 12, commemorated the many years
of Mecca Court’s existence, charity and benevolence. Guests traveled from
Cleveland, Ellyria, Youngstown, Akron, Columbus, Cincinnati, Springfield
and Dayton, as well as from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky to
attend this gala event.

Jason Johnson Sr., Dr. Charlesena Smith, Dr. Dionetta Richards,
Aaliyah Colbert, Dr. Barbara Brown, Dr. Charlene Miller

The Mecca Court Divan

Jason Johnson Sr. (father of scholarship recipient), Dr. LaVera
Scott, Aaliyah Colbert, Capucine Reta Dickerson (Aaliyah’s mother)

Please join Councilman Tyrone Riley for
Share the Vision

Thursday, October 18, 2018 • from 5-8 p.m.
Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion
2444 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio

This event is to help create connections, business card exchange,
for Minority Businesses in the Toledo area. If you are a minority
business owner that specializes in the Construction Trades, Skilled
Trades or Business Supplies and Services, please attend this exciting
networking event.

For R.S.V.P. and more information contact:
Mrs. Andrea Morrow - Legislative Aide - City of Toledo - 419-245 8011
The Daughters of the Mecca Court No. 73

Mecca Court #73 55th Annual Commandress Ball Honoring Dt. LaVera R. Scott Illustrious Commandress

Under great leadership of Dt. LaVera Scott, Illustrious Commandress, the members of Mecca Court #73, Toledo, Ohio are proudly serving in the 92nd year of the organization’s existence.

The organization stresses and focuses on the development of powerful leaders, encourages health awareness and career planning among youth and adults, provides services to help the disabled and senior citizens, provides for effective networking among its members and other organizations, recognizes and celebrates the historic and current achievement of African American women, exerts positive influence and utilizes role modeling for youth, teenage mothers, high school and college students. The organization of 12 Courts in its inception has grown to over 200 Courts located in the United States, Canada, The Bahamas, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Mecca Court #73, with a present membership of 79, has been instrumental in numerous community involvement projects over the past 92 years, having been in the news, in the newspapers and on television, promoting charity and benevolence within the community and state, and annually at the host convention.

This year under the leadership of Dt. Scott, Mecca Court has been instrumental and very actively involved within the community which has included obtaining and distributing formal dresses and beauty secrets to an area high school and junior high school girls, donations to a senior center and neighborhood library, in addition to other fundraising activities, with additional presentations and holiday donations being made in the coming months.

At their Commandress Ball this past weekend, Dt. Scott awarded scholar-... continued on page 15