

Volume 54, No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 20, 2019

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Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart and Toledo City Councilwoman Yvonne Harper

## Reflection on the Journey as a Gender Perspective Peace Educator

By: Colins Imo Guest Column

"Gender, as the concept is generally used in works that deal with the differences and inequalities between men and women, is a socially derived concept, a culturally varied construct that assigns to men and women a set of cultural roles and social functions, only minimally determined by their respective reproductive and sexual characteristics" – Betty Reardon

"The oppressed suffer from the duality which has established itself in their innermost being. They discover that without freedom they cannot exist authentically. Although they desire an authentic existence, they fear it. They are at one and the same time themselves and the oppressor whose consciousness they have internalized The conflict lies in the choice between being wholly themselves or being divided; between ejecting the oppressor within or not ejecting them; between human solidarity or alienation; between following prescriptions or having choices; between being spectators or actors; between acting or having the illusion of acting through the action of the oppressors; between speaking out or being silent, castrated in their power to create and re-create, in their power to transform the world. This is the tragic dilemma of the oppressed which their education must take into account." - Paulo Freire - Pedagogy of the Oppressed

#### Reflection on the Journey as a Gender Biased Peace Educator

There is a time when one has to make a fundamental choice concerning where one stands on issue especially as it involves gender. My journey into the gendered world happened by accident like most exciting stories in life. In a world where planning and order seem to be the hallmark of how things should be, flexibility can be a virtue.

I was in South Africa in 2001 for the African Youth for a Culture of Peace Training workshop in Cape Town, after which I proceeded on holiday for the desired rest and to recharge my battery. I was invited to participate and assist in the facilitation of a Gender Advocacy Program (GAP) by some mutual friends. I gladly accepted it was my first visit to South Africa and the opportunity to see George Town was tempting. GAP was to build an inclusive and empowered South Africa.

The Gender Advocacy Program (GAP) strive "towards a society in which South African's particularly those that are marginalized can participate in policies and decision making at all levels of South African life for the achievement of gender equality. The Women and Governance Programme has been operational since 1998.

Through the Women and Governance project, GAP's advocacy call for the increase of women's representation in governance structures. The proj-

### The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's *Truthful* African American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen - Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist Megan Davis – Columnist Zahra Aprili – Columnist Robin Reeves – Columnist Mary Louise – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster Jessica Crans - Layout

#### A Certified MBE

The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604 Phone 419-243-0007 \* Fax 419-255-7700 thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com ect's goal is to contribute to a society where women are equally represented in all structures of governance and women are skilled and empowered to avail themselves for the leadership positions". The vision was inclusivity and empowerment which resonates with some of my core values.

At the workshop I got my first shock, I was the only male in the room and was also the young-est. It was a beautiful workshop of immersion into the world of these women who every day of their lives play various roles which the society do not recognize. As the only male in the room, I was the representatives of all other men and made to appreciate our position and



Colins Imoh

prejudices. It was an eye-opener and an initiation into gender issues. Since then my impression and thinking have changed, due to personal and professional contacts. In 2015 I was contracted by Search for Common Ground as a Youth and Women Advocacy Consultant; interestingly it was called women not gender. In that role, I was working in 13 communities in the Niger Delta supporting and empowering women to change their communities. It was an illuminating experience working with these two groups that are marginalized in our communities; striving to enable them to be the change and transform their communities. Studying the various approaches carefully to peace education, they made an impressive impact on me; I appreciated much the critical approach which resonates with my thinking concerning social issues. Our works in schools are similar to the integrative approach with a lot to learn. Dr. Betty Reardon comprehensive approach argument with its relationship to changing social values and world view to have a reduction in violence is compelling, but in the midst of all these approaches, one has to make a decision on which is the most compelling. I, therefore, read the work of Reardon again- the Gender Perspective on Peace Education - and I was convinced that is the place to be. It struck a chord within, and for me, it is the most

 $\dots continued\ on\ page\ 12$ 

### **Community Calendar**

#### February 23

Warren ÅME Gospel Extravaganza: "Changing Minds, Changing Lives; 4 to 7 pm; Welcoming dancers, singers, poets, gospel rap artists: 419-324-4189

#### February 24

Indiana Avenue MBC 73rd Church Anniversary Celebration: 4 pm; "Don't Worry about Anything, Instead Pray About Everything; "Guest speaker Pastor WI. Perryman of Jerusalem MBC

WL Perryman of Jerusalem MBC Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr. 4 pm; Guests Bishop Duane Tisdale and Friendship Baptist Church

#### March 9-10

St. Paul MBC Annual Men's Day Weekend: "Men Don't Stop in the Storm," Saturday Prayer Breakfast at 9 am with guest speaker Rev. Floyd Smith of Calvary MBC; Sunday Morning Service at 10:45 am with guest speaker Rev. Stanley Clark, associate minister at St. Paul: 419-246-2886

#### March 10

Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr: 4 pm; Guests Pastor Melvin Barnes and the Greater Faith Fellowship Church

#### March 1'

Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith Jr.: 4 pm; Guests Pastor Roger Carson and Southern MBC

#### March 24

Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr. 4 pm; Guests Pastor James Willis and St. Paul MBC

#### March 31

Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith Jr. 4 pm; Guests Pastor Nathan Madison and Fourth Street Baptist Church of Lima, OH

## What Is "Blackness," You Ask...?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq Guest Column

Presidential Democratic candidate Senator Kamala Harris recently has been facing some social media flack revolving about and around her, and cherish "Our" tent "blackness" or allegedly, the lack thereof.

We need to protect and cherish "Our" tent "blackness" or allegedly, the lack thereof.

I daresay that such provocative attacks come from people who either oppose her politically or wish to gain a name for themselves if they can force Kamala Harris to stumble in answering a cultural/ethnic question that has the arms of an flailing octopus.

For those who are memory challenged, remember similar types of attacks came against Barak H. Obama regarding his, "blackness" as to being raised by white grandparents and who was born of a union of a white American woman and a man from Kenya.

Also, you need to understand that within the minority or black community there are those who are self-appointed "anointers of blackness" and whose commentary is the supposed gold standard as to what qualifies for getting and keeping your "black card."

The mental traps that black people must assiduously avoid is being tempted to malign our political candidates with badges of dishonor and lack of being credible, "In Da Struggle" because they may have a spouse of a different ethnic grouping or their jargon sounds a bit too "white" or they have political pronouncements that may seem sketchy and thus are not viewed as being of importance to the black community.

Fortunately, there are no tried and true top 20 "black" questions, that if, even graded on a curve, if you miss four or five, you are deemed racially suspect and thus unable to fully identify with, "Da Struggle."

I mean...listen. Frederick Douglass, an unassailable champion for the black race, was married to a white woman. Who questions the street cred of the light-skinned Black Panther, Angela Davis, who can spin philosophical loops around even the most learned debaters?

The famed pugilist, Jack Johnson, was known to cavort with white women and the early religious leader, Father Divine was married to a Caucasian.

Does anyone throw shadow at either the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., because of his pronounced and perfect use of the English language or that of the late Senator Barbara Jordan from Texas who was an oratorical genius?

One thing we do not need as black people is a litmus test to determine who is or who is not "black enough" to engage in the civil rights struggle.

If you do not own a dashiki, do not like the twisties hairstyle, prefer Bach to Miles Davis and would not be caught dead, in public or private, chowing down on chitlins or Hoppin John, you have nothing to apologize for.

"Our" tent has enough canvas to give everyone sustenance and cover as long as you reject racial foolishness and do not stab each other in the back.

Yes, even the much maligned Omarosa can find shelter in "Our" tent!

The only miscreants who need to be watched and checked are those who blatantly and intentionally cause havoc or a ruckus because their politics or social commentaries reveal a mindset or an attitude that denigrates people of color in order to benefit their handlers – white people who have a malignant agenda against us.

Yeah, we have stumble bums in "Our" tent along with those criminally minded who engage in black on black crime and those whose ambitions are not high minded but nonetheless, "Our" tent is still intact and our resolve is to keep it going in the right path and direction in spite of their distractions.

"Our" tent boasts of brilliant educators, politicos, musicians, architects, doctors, craftsmen and craftswomen, housewives, firemen, artisans, athletes, mechanics, pastors, inventors and others whose gifts and callings populate the sciences and the arts.

It includes those who see themselves as gate keepers of "Our" tent, but they too must give ample leeway for those who political persuasions are different but not harmful. Including those are people who choose to wear the "R" or the "D" and even the "T" political affiliation.

Yes, and it even encompasses those who prefer a vacation in Austria versus a safari in Botswana or attending an opera as opposed to sitting in a jazz club listening to the geniuses of a Sonny Rollins or a Art Tatum.

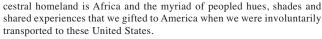
If we let cosmetic appearances and personal taste cause division and duress within "Our" tent, it means that we have succumbed to the inane gibberish of political foxes and carnivores who mean us no good.

Regardless if your worship facility is a humble storefront that seats a maximum of twenty or a airy sanctuary in which five thousand can run the aisles with room to spare, it still remains, "Our" tent.

We need to protect and cherish "Our" tent as important, needful and which has a great recorded history initially embedded in the ancient bedrock of Africa.

"Our" common ancestors did not originate from the Scottish Highlands or from the plains of the Danube River or the steppes of Outer Mongolia or from the Canadian Rockies.

"Our" common ethnic denominator or an-



So, the next time Kamala Harris is called on the carpet to defend the color of her marriage spouse or the originations of her parents or the style of her hair or her enjoying latkes instead of black-eyed peas and cornbread, slowly pump your cultural brakes...pause and remember, she is in "Our" tent!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com





## Harlem-Based Order of Black Nuns Advocates for the Poor on the Hill

The Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Poor Heart of Mary head to the Capitol to talk relief for low-income people with nation's lawmakers Issue call to action to young people on poverty

The Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Inc. (FHM), one of only three orders of mostly black nuns in the United States, recently headed to Capitol Hill to urge the lawmakers to not abandon the nation's poor. The Harlem-based order, which was founded in 1916 to serve and educate the impoverished, met with members of Congress to place the needs of low-income Americans front and center in legislation. The sisters were in town for the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering February 2 to 5 and joined other Catholic leaders in doing outreach to the legislature on Catholic priorities

Members of the order met with Harlem congressman Adriano Espaillat and aides to Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristin Gillibrand as well as Representatives Eliot L. Engel.

The FHM yearly feeds 22,000 New York families with its St. Edward Food Pantry in Staten Island, the need increasing since Hurricane Sandy despite news reports touting a robust economy.

"We are not politicians. We are women of faith, encountering Jesus in our neighbors," said FHM Congregation Minister Sister Gertrude Lilly Ihenacho. "It is our moral responsibility as a religious community with a charism of social justice and pastoral care to work for justice, be the voice of the voiceless and through our ministries to defend, protect and uplift human dignity, empowering the poor to rise above poverty."

Ihenacho was joined by Sisters Precilla Takuh, FHM, and Anne Okorie, FHM, in advocating that Congress preserve funding for nutrition programs to prevent hunger in children and adults, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SSFP) and

**Social Media Training** 

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, which aim to help the one in eight American households that are food-insecure. In addition to promoting anti-hunger programs, the sisters urged legislators to invest in the affordable housing and community development programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) as homelessness is on the rise for the first time in six years at the same time that available housing units are on the decline.

With locations in Harlem, Staten Island, Yonkers and Owerri, Nigeria, the FHM continues its work to help provide basic needs to the people. The order, once facing closure is currently increasing its numbers and seeking additional women who wish to serve God by serving his people.

The order issued a call to action to young leaders to join forces with the FHM to work together to help meet basic human needs, including joining the sisters in prayer for Divine intervention; assisting in its work around the U.S. to alleviate food insecurity affecting 15 million American households, shelter the homeless, educate the needy, and empower the vulnerable by removing the root causes of hunger, poverty, homelessness and encouraging self-reliance and development; and joining with the FHM to advocate for those less fortunate to the powers that be.



The FHM with Rep. Espaillat



The FHM visit Sen. Gillibrand's office





## Black History Month Program Welcomes First African American Woman Elected to Ohio Supreme Court

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"If I Can, You Can" was the theme of the Black History Month Program hosted Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club (PBWDC) on February 16 at the Premier Banquet Hall. This 15th annual event was chaired by Yvonne Harper, PBDWC president and Toledo City Councilwoman.

The program officially opened as attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and heard a spoken word presented by Lydia Myrich of Toledo School of the Arts. "This demonstrates what we believe in at Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club. It's not just about history, but empowering our youth and watching them succeed," explained Paula Hicks Hudson, Ohio state representative who served as event mistress of ceremony.

PBDWC members honored retired Ohio Senator Edna Brown with a special recognition. Brown received a standing ovation, token of appreciation and full-page color advertisement documenting her acknowledgements. "I want to thank Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club for this honor," said Brown.

The banquet room was arranged by allowing schools to designate a speaker who would present remarks on behalf of the school in front of the entire crowd. These speakers were also accompanied by other students from the same school, and ranged from step performances, poetry and musical selections

"I want to personally thank PBDWC for this opportunity and our sponsor Honorable Mayor of Toledo Wade Kapszukieqicz," said Whiter Elementary School Principal Eric Remley as he introduced the students who presented a musical and historical rendition of "This Little Light of Mine," to a standing ovation.

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Elected Officals and Comunity Leaders



Lucas County Treasurer Lindsay Webb and Councilwoman Harper



Navarre Elementary



Lydia Myrich of TSA



Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart and Toledo City Councilwoman Yvonne Harper



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## Federal Commission Assembled to Commemorate 400 Years of African American History

The federal commission created to coordinate the nationwide commemoration of the arrival of the first Africans to the English colonies in North America will meet at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington on Wednesday, February 13.

In 2019 the 400 Years of African-American History Commission will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival in August 1619 of the first Africans to North America at Point Comfort, Virginia, at what is now Fort Monroe National Monument, a unit of the National Park System. The anniversary will serve as a touchstone to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States to recognize and highlight the contributions of African Americans since 1619. It will encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand understanding and appreciation of the contributions of African Americans.

Established by Congress and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2018, the commission is comprised of 15 members recommended by governors, members of Congress, civil rights and historical organizations, and the Smithsonian Institution. It is administered by the National Park Service.

The commission's work will highlight commemoration activities across the country including the August opening of a new visitor center at Fort

Monroe National Monument, a partnership between the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service. Additional events and programs are in development by the NPS, other agencies, and partner organizations. As plans are finalized, the commission hopes to have an online resource where the public can learn more about how to participate in the commemoration.

"This is a year of celebrating the many great achievements of peo-

5:30 p.m. Networking
6:00 p.m. Documentary (75 minutes)
7:15 p.m. Discussion

Thursday, March 7th, 2019

Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo
3100 Glendale Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43614

ple of African descent," said commission chairman Dr. Joseph L. Green. "We are celebrating a people who overcame adversity and impossible odds. We want to use this moment to create legacy, to build people and communities."

The commission meeting on February 13 will be held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture at 15th Street and Constitution Avenue NW in Washington. A public question and answer forum about commemoration activities will be held as part of the meeting from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICATM

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## William Pickard Coming to Toledo for Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Manhattans Pub & Cheer and the Northwest Ohio Conservative Coalition are co-sponsoring a dinner featuring William F. Pickard, PhD, speaking on

"Millionaire Moves – Black Entrepreneurship" on Monday February 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Manhattans Pub & Cheer, 1516 Adams



William Pickard

Street, Toledo, OH 43604. Philanthropist and frequent lecturer at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, William F. Pickard, Ph.D., is Chairman of Global Automotive Alliance, Co-Managing Partner, MGM Grand Detroit Casino, CEO, Bearwood Management Company and co-owner of five African-American newspapers. In 1982, President Reagan appointed Pickard to be the first chairman of the African Development Foundation, and President George H.W. Bush tapped him to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy Negotiations in 1990.

Tickets for the dinner are available on Eventbrite for \$27 (search under "Pickard dinner" or use link below) – copies of Dr. Pickard's book "Millionaire Moves: Seven Proven Principles of Entrerpreneurship" can also be purchased through Eventbrite for \$12 when you sign up for the dinner.

A limited number of books will also be available for purchase at the dinner. Pickard will be happy to autograph his book!

Pickard will also be speaking on Tuesday February 26 at the Jones Business and Leadership Academy 430 Nebraska, Toledo OH at 1 p.m. and at the University of Toledo Doermann Theatre at 7pm. For information on these events, please contact Jones Principal Ward Barnett (419) 671-5400 or Jennifer Pizio, Director of Office of Inclusion at UT, (419) 530-5566.

## The Art of the Cut

By Megan Davis

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Art has long been viewed as visual works displayed on the walls and shelves of museums and galleries around the world. Whether a traditional open space with high ceilings or a modest showplace, the venues in which art can be observed are often places where few are in one space at a time while still voices and soft soles whisper through exhibits where the works are intangible.

The scene at the Toledo Museum of Art's GlasSalon on Sunday was quite different from what regular patrons and those who don't frequent museums have experienced; and was far from the quiet of a reverenced portrait.

The Art of the Cut was a culmination of art and culture in motion, a work that began as many masterpieces do. The concept was to bring together visual art, haircutting and men's health in one space. This work was cultivated by The TMA's Circle, ProMedica Outreach's Robin Sulier-Charney and local barbers who drew up the plans of this event over a period of several months. They wished to create an opportunity for the community to utilize their senses in ways that would engage them in the process of creation while educating them on the disparities of healthcare among African Americans.

The Glass Pavilion at the TMA was built as a home for its collection of glass art and also for use to both teach and study glass in art and function. Its structure is a work of art in and of itself and pays homage to the rich history of glass production in Toledo.

The pavilion has different galleries, class-rooms and gathering spaces and is home to The GlasSalon, a multi-functional event space that is used for educational and recreational purposes. On Sunday, the GlasSalon was transformed into a platform that housed barbering stations and served as a catwalk for models, performers and speakers to deliver their work, display their craft and express their vision to connect the three entities for the greater good.

Robin Sulier-Charney is a champion for health in the African-American community. Her efforts over the years have brought health screenings into local barbershops, to provide blood pressure and cancer checks for men to

take, sometimes first steps in improving their health

She has partnered with a number of local shops and organizations to find creative ways to engage the community in the dialogue and the action of learning about preventative-overreactive health.

As a community outreach coordinator for Promedica, she has the heart to create opportunities to teach people of color about the benefits of screenings and regular health checks. The Art of the Cut happened in part because of her dedication to outreach and meaningful partnerships with area businesses and organizations such as The Circle.

"The Circle is all about inclusion and we wanted to have an event that reached black men, bringing in doctors and barbers, who serve men regularly" said Brittany Jones, a member of the museum's Circle group. The Circle group is specifically dedicated to promoting programming that reaches new audiences. These programs often marry creative art with health to bring life to what many regard as a subdued experience. The Circle group has been busy planning a number of interesting events, with Art RX being their next one on May 11th. This event will bring the art of dance and health to center stage with an instructor and a body-moving soundtrack.

Local barbers, however, were the focal point of The Art of the Cut, showing the community how they take a blank canvas of multi-textured hair, to create cuts that represented different eras. Eras from the 1950s to present day were the inspiration for the haircuts that were created.

Wes Fisher, a client of Stacey Fletcher, owner of Fletcher's Hair Design, was one of the models who received a cut from the 1950's era, a fresh take on a classic look, with the added perk of donning a full red-hued beard.

From boys to men, and even women, haircuts were performed as each barber-artist shaved, faded, parted and sculpted designs through the decades. Andre "Drizzy the Barber" Johnson, of Foster's barbershop said, "I love what I do,



Members of TMA's Circle group



Quartet Water, Jason Bates, Tony Derden, Tawann Gaston and Jacob Bates



Tawann Gaston sculpts Jacob Bates' hair into a masterpiece

Photos by Megan Davis

I am grateful to be among men who are always teaching and encouraging me."

He handcrafted a 1990's cut with a crispy

... continued on page 13



Black History Month Program... continued from page 5

Justice Melody Stewart of Ohio Supreme Court was the featured speaker. She was elected in November 2018 and is the first African-American woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. She previous served on Eight District Court of Appeals, served as court's Administrative Judge, earned a Bachelor of Music from College Conservatory of Music, earned a Law Degree at Cleveland State University, and a PhD from Case Western Reserve University.

Supporters of Our Champions of Education: Bowsher High School sponsored by Cecelia Adams, PhD of Toledo City Council; City Park youth sponsored by Judge Arlene Ginger, Jack Wilson, ACA Retailers, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur; Ella P Stewart Academy for Girls, sponsored by Toledo Federation of Teachers No. 250; Glenwood School, sponsored by Laborer's Local 500; Groomed for Greatness sponsored by Judge Stacy Cook and Judge Gary Cook of Lucas County Common Pleas; Lindsay Webb, Lucas County Treasurer; Twyla Wheaton, Mary Johnson and Maynard Porter; Grove Patterson Academy sponsored by Andre' Washington, of A. Philip Randolph Institute; Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, sponsored by Rev. John Roberts, PhD, pastor; Jones Leadership Academy, sponsored by Neighborhood Health Association; Leverette School sponsored by Lisa Sobecki, Ohio State Representative; Martin Luther King Academy for Boys, sponsored by Judge Myron Duhart of Lucas County Common Pleas; Navarre School sponsored by Edna Brown, former Ohio State Senator.

Old West End Academy sponsored by Keith Mitchell, Esq; Pickett Academy sponsored by Paula Hicks Hudson, Esq, Ohio State Representative; Reynolds School sponsored by Dorine Mosley of PBWDC and paraprofessionals of Reynolds School; Robinson School sponsored by Northwest Ohio Building Trades; Rogers High school sponsored by T-Bonds; Rosa Parks School sponsored by Anita Lopez, Esq. Lucas County Auditor; Scott High School sponsored by WilliAnna Moore, United Way president Wendy Pestrue, J.D.; and Toledo NAACP; Sherman School sponsored by Law Offices of Wittenberg & Philips; Spring School sponsored by Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Gary Byers, and Pete Gerken of Lucas County Commissioners; Start High school sponsored by UA Local 50 Plumbers, Steamfitters and Service Mechanics; Toledo Early College sponsored by Sheriff John

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Whiter School sponsored by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz; and Woodward High School, sponsored by George Gusses, Esq. and alumni.



Rogers High School



Sherman Elementary



Toledo School for the Arts



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, and Spring Elementary



Woodward High School





# **Social Security Questions and Answers**

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security

Toledo, OH

Guest Column

#### Question:

What can I do at www.socialsecurity.gov?

#### Answer

There are many things you can do on Social Security's website. You can conduct most of your Social Security business with us online at www.socialsecurity. gov/onlineservices. You can get an estimate of future benefits, find out if you qualify for benefits now, and even apply for benefits. You can complete a number of other tasks online, too, including replacing your Social Security card in some states. You can estimate your retirement benefit using our Retirement Estimator, which allows you to get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefit based on different retirement ages and scenarios. You can even open your own my Social Security account to plan for and manage your benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

#### **Question:**

Can I refuse to give my Social Security number to a private business?

#### Answer:

Yes, you can refuse to disclose your *Social Security* number, and you should be careful about giving out your number. But, be aware, the person requesting your number can refuse services if you don't give it. Businesses, banks, schools, private agencies, etc., are free to request someone's number and use it for any purpose that doesn't violate a federal or state law. To learn more about your So-

cial Security number, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

#### Question:

I'm 17 and eager to start my first summer job, but my mother misplaced my Social Security card. How can I get another?

#### Answer:

If you know your Social Security number, you may not need to get a replacement card to obtain employment. However, if a prospective employer requests it, you can get a replacement Social Security card by following the steps below. There is no charge for a Social Security card, but you are limited to three per calendar year and 10 replacement cards during your lifetime.

You will need to

- Show the required documents. We need to see different documents depending on your citizenship and the type of card you are requesting. Go to www. socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber to find out what documents you will have to show;
- Fill out an Application for a Social Security Card; and
- •Take or mail your application and original or certified copies of the original documents to your local Social Security office.

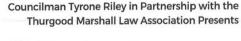
For more information, read our pamphlet, Your Social Security Number and Card at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

#### **Question:**

Why should I sign up for a my Social Security online account?

#### Answer:

... continued on page 11







For Students In Grades: 9TH - 12TH (DIVISION I) 6TH - 8TH (DIVISON II)

Essay Question: What was the original purpose of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Is the 13th Amendment relevant today?

Who is James Mitchell Ashley?

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

Entry submissions are due by March 4th, 2019 at 4:00pm



Let's get r.e.e.l.

Join the *r.e.e.l.* team for a glass of wine and light refreshments for information on what we are doing to make a difference in the lives of our youths that will empower them for life's journey.

Time & Location
Friday February 22, 2019 from 5pm – 8pm
The Truth Art Gallery & Event Center
1811 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Reaching Encouraging Equipping Leaders (R.E.E.L.)

We are a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) year-round Educational Etiquette and Mentoring Organization serving youth and young adults from ages 10-18 in the Toledo area.

Please call to register: 567-277-6337

The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section

# \$15 Minimum Wage Would Help Two Million Ohioans

A bill being introduced in the Ohio legislature to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2023 would raise wages for about 2 million Ohio workers, according to a report released today by Policy Matters Ohio (https://t.e2ma.net/click/z9jb4h/bvwsuvc/jhnutjc). They include 1.6 million workers now earning less than the current value of the wage, and 450,000 workers who already earn a little more, but would likely see a boost as employers adjust pay rates to hire and retain skilled workers.

The federal minimum wage peaked in 1968 and would be worth \$11.83 today if it had kept place with inflation. Ohio's current minimum wage, \$8.55 an hour, is worth 28 percent less than the 1968 level. The state economy has grown by 88 percent since then. Ohio voters responded in 2006 by raising the minimum wage and setting an inflation index to prevent further losses. The current proposal would recover the rest of the lost ground and enable Ohio's low-wage workers to share in the wealth the state has achieved since then.

The bill, sponsored by Representatives Kelly, Weinstein, Adam Miller, Joe Miller Lepore-Hagan, Russo, Boyd, Miranda, Kent Smith, Kent, Ingram, Sweeney, and Boggs is currently under review by the Legislative Services Commission.

The policy would benefit a broad cross-section of Ohio workers. Most are adults who have already graduated from school. It would improve equity by raising wages for 42 percent of working women and 54 percent of black workers. Ohio women earn just 82 cents on the dollar compared to men, and wages for black workers have fallen by \$3 per hour since 1979.

Recent research has shown that increases in the minimum wage have not resulted in substantial job losses (https://t.e2ma.net/click/z9jb4h/bvwsuvc/z9nutjc) or consumer price increases (https://t.e2ma.net/click/z9jb4h/bvwsuvc/f2outjc). A Policy Matters case study found that when the Greater Cleveland Food Bank raised its minimum wage by 21.7 percent, its operating costs (https://t.e2ma.net/click/z9jb4h/bvwsuvc/vuputjc) rose just 0.5 percent.

"Low-wage workers are creating wealth for their employers and the economy," said Michael Shields, Policy Matters Ohio researcher and the report's author. "But today's policy landscape makes it harder for them to bargain for their share. Passing a living minimum wage is a critical step to enable all Ohio workers to share in the wealth they help to make possible."

Read online (https://t.e2ma.net/click/z9jb4h/bvwsuvc/bnqutjc)

## **Tidying Up Your Finances**

Special to The Truth

The cultural phenomenon sparked by professional organizing consultant Marie Kondo has motivated millions worldwide to declutter. While cleaning out your closet and making a financial plan may be two very different things, tidying up your finances can also "spark joy."

A Certified Financial Planner (CFP) can help you commit to a plan that helps you take control of your spending, providing you with confidence today and a more secure tomorrow.

Here are 10 ideas to get you started:

- 1. Write down your financial goals and post them somewhere prominent, such as your fridge. These can be small goals, like "I will bring lunch to work three days a week," or bigger goals, like "I will pay off my student loan."
- 2. Calculate your net worth to get an overall picture of your financial standing. Your net worth is everything you own minus everything you owe.
- 3. Update (or create) your budget showing what money is coming in and what's going out. Make sure it's not in the red, meaning you're spending more than you're earning.
- 4. Consider opening a Christmas club-type savings account to pay for big-ticket personal expenses. Originally pioneered during the Great Depression, Christmas clubs were financial accounts people added cash to throughout the year. They then used these savings to buy holiday gifts, helping to avoid the holiday spending "hangover." You can create your own by automating savings each month, ideally in an interest-bearing account. If you save \$75 a month, you'll have \$900 over the course of a year (or even

more, if you earn interest).

- 5. Start gathering tax documents like W-2 and 1099 forms and receipts for charitable contributions. Taxes are right around the corner. Do them early if you can.
- 6. Check your credit report. With Credit Karma, you can check your credit reports from TransUnion and Equifax for free weekly. Additionally, you can check your report from each of the three main credit bureaus once a year for free with AnnualCreditReport.com.
- 7. Set a deadline to pay off credit cards in full. This will help motivate you to take control of your debt.
- 8. Rebalance your 401(k) about once a year to see if you are out of balance from your original goals. For example, if your allocation was 60 percent stocks and 40 percent bonds, but stocks had a good year, you might now have a 65 percent stocks and 35 percent bonds allocation, so this will have to be rebalanced.
- 9. Increase your savings plans. This could be your employer plan at work, your own emergency fund, or both. Consider raising your contribution by 1 percent a year.
- 10. Meet with a CFP professional. If you haven't begun planning for retirement or tying your financial goals to your life goals, there's no better time than now to start. You can find a CFP at letsmakeaplan.

As you put your belongings in order, consider your finances. Simple measures can help you tidy up your finances.

Courtesy StatePoint



#### Social Security.. continued from page 10

my Social Security gives you a personal online account you can securely use to check your Social Security information and do business with us. With a *my Social Security* account you can:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits if you are still working;
- Get a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain criteria and reside in these locations;
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits:
- Change your address or telephone number;
- Start or change your direct deposit;
- Get a replacement Medicare card; and
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

To find all of the services available and set up an account, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

#### **Question:**

I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

#### Answer:

Yes, we do. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include What You Can Do Online, Working While Disabled - How We Can Help, Apply Online for Social Security Benefits, and Your Social Security Card and Number. You can listen now at www. socialsecurity.gov/pubs.



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## Ohio Cut Funding, Eliminated More than Half **Its Civil Rights Enforcement Staff since 2000**

Although hate crimes are on the rise and more Ohioans are filing civil rights over 2016. complaints, two decades of funding cuts have reduced enforcement capacity at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) to meet rising demands, according to a new report from Policy Matters Ohio (

Since 2000, state policymakers cut funding for the OCRC by \$1.4 million in today's dollars, nearly 20 percent. Today OCRC has a staff of 80, compared to 199 in 2000, a loss of more than half the staff. A regional office was closed and the agency had to curtail education and outreach.

OCRC staff are working in an increasingly demanding environment. Between 2016 and 2018, the number of cases filed with the OCRC rose by 27 percent. The #MeToo movement brought more sexual harassment victims forward. Sexual harassment cases filed with the agency rose by 41 percent between 2016 and 2018. The agency has become more efficient, as investigative staff averaged 94 completed investigations per staffer, an 8 percent increase

"Whether they are black, white or brown, and whatever their gender, all Ohioans deserve fair treatment," said report author Wendy Patton. "We all deserve protection from discrimination and harassment."

Federal policies are making it more difficult for victims of harassment and discrimination to seek redress. The Trump Administration now allows federal contractors to force workers to resolve sexual harassment and discrimination through arbitration, which keeps the claims secret. The administration also weakened sexual harassment enforcement on campuses.

"The state must safeguard the civil rights of all Ohioans in an era of increasing tension and decreased protection," Patton said. "Policymakers have a chance to restore funding to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission in the 2020-2021 state budget and ensure all Ohioans have recourse from discrimination."

#### Peace Educator... continued from page 2

compelling approach to peace education. It does not make sense to exclude a significant population of citizens on account of how the look by men who feel they know it all.

Women have a lot to play in the quest for peace in society, especially in marginalized communities. I recall discussing with Leymah Gbowee, my alma mater colleague at Eastern Mennonite University who later won a Nobel Peace Laureate. We happen to be in the same department studying conflict transformation at that time; she recalled how she mobilized the women of Liberia to question the senseless and killing of the Liberia civil war.

Her intervention contributed to the signing of the peace accord in Accra Ghana and the ending of that war. If she and other women had not intervened, the war could have lasted longer with its casualties being mostly women and children. It is a classic case of the contribution of women to peacebuilding in Africa. In our communities, lots of such stories are told, but the constant is that the women intervened against all the odds to make it happen. Let's imagine what could happen or could have happened if women are allowed to come to the table? Our world could be a better place.

It is imperative that I define where I am coming from and the baggage



I carry. In a world that is continually changing, our conception of reality shapes the way we view the world and interacts with it. The beginning is an understanding of who we are and our place in the scheme of things. In the words of Socrates centuries ago "know thy self." The use of this concept implies the importance of understanding ourselves as human and our behavior. I am a male African that have lived most of my life in Africa working in diverse settings in the continent. Most African society is structural in roles that allocate the task to women and men. These roles are different from society to society; some are empowering, but most are not. The classic tale is that the male is favored more than the female.

I carry this baggage and reading the work of Reardon and Snauwaert (2014) the perspective that resonates with me most was this statement that the "fundamental purpose of integrating gender into peace knowledge is to inspire such action and to illuminate the requisite peace learning that could enable us to transcend patriarchy and its multiple forms of violence, opening the space in which to construct a nonviolent gender-equal society".

In the society where I come from patriarchy is the norm, education has not changed the situation, a critical mass of empowered people have not started questioning the status quo. Peace cannot be achieved in isolation; everybody should be involved. Reflecting on the definition of patriarchy, am convinced that there is a need to dismantle the structures of oppression inherent in the system.

I have a preferred option for the oppressed. Patriarchy oppresses and dehumanizes, Reardon and Snauwaert (2014) define it as a "social, political, and economic system of control and domination structured regarding a hierarchy of human relationships and value that is based on socially constructed gender differentiation. As such, it bestows unequal power and value onto males who exhibit its most important values and traits, excluding and oppressing those who do not".

The power patriarchy bestows on the custodians is unfair and unhealthy, it has led to the exclusion in this situation not just women but every other person who does not belong to the patriarchy group. It is in this respect that youth are included, I worked in Holland in 2003 coordinating the biggest network of young peacebuilders then in Africa comprising more than 200

One of the factors the kept popping out as I visit this country working with these youths is the question of exclusion. This inclusion of youth is also in line with the work our center has been doing in the past ten years. These are the reasons that convinced me that the gender perspective to peacebuilding is the most compelling approach.

Reardon, B. A., & Snauwaert, D. T. (2014). Betty A. Reardon: A pioneer in education for peace and human rights. London: Springer.

Reardon, Betty A., and Snauwaert, Dale T. (editors), (2014a) Betty A. Reardon: Key texts in gender and peace, SpringerBriefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice No. 27 (Cham - Heidelberg - New York - Dordrecht - London: Springer-Verlag, 2014).

Ed. Note: With over 12 years' experience in peacebuilding, civic education, human rights, development and environmental management, Colins was the pioneer Partners for Peace Project Manager. He has also worked as the African Desk Coordinator of the African Network of Young Peacebuilders at the UNOY secretariat in the Netherlands, where he coordinated various peace building activities in Africa.

## Good Kids, Bad City by Kyle Swenson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

Your hands were clean.

Freshly washed, not a speck of dirt, they were as clean as your conscience. You did no wrong; instead, you promoted what was good and right. But in Good Kids, Bad City by Kyle Swenson, past actions sometimes don't mat-

Over a decade ago, somewhere near Kyle Swenson's desk at a Cleveland-area weekly newspaper, letters piled up from prisoners begging for journalistic investigation of denied crimes. Like many newsfolk, Swenson was skeptical of those vows of innocence, so he dismissed the letters and others like them. Still, because he was fresh out of ideas for his monthly feature story, he agreed to meet someone to talk about a crime that happened before Swenson was even born.

Kwame Ajamu arrived with a box of papers that shocked Swenson to his core.

On May 19, 1975, as Swenson learned, author courtesy Josh Marks salesman Harry J. Franks was collecting from

his accounts when he was shot and killed on a Cleveland sidewalk. Coming home from a pick-up basketball game, Ajamu, Wiley Bridgeman, and Rickey Jackson pushed into a surrounding crowd and saw the white man bleeding on the concrete, but they didn't stick around. The situation seemed under control. Franks was dead; there was no reason to linger.

They hadn't been there when Franks was shot, but on May 25, Bridgeman, Ajamu, and Jackson were arrested and charged with murder on the basis of a false account given by a 12-year-old boy, a lie that folded into more mistruths encouraged by corrupt police. Jackson, Ajamu, and Bridgeman swiftly went to trial and were ultimately sentenced to death. Their sentences were later commuted to life.

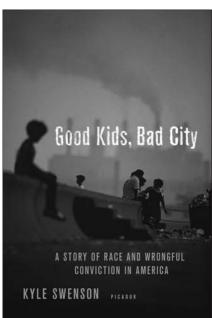
Released in 2003 after making parole, Ajamu had "talked about his case to anyone who would listen" but no one believed him. That changed in 2011, when a lawyer suggested he take his story to a newspaper reporter.

They arranged to meet at a coffee house. Ajamu "was nervous."

"That's when," says Swenson, "I walked through the door."

That sentence reads as though it should have a cape and SuperPowers, doesn't it? But no, there's much more to Good Kids, Bad City and author Kyle Swenson was merely a catalyst: he was the listener Kwame Ajamu

To help readers better understand the subtleties of this tale and its



full impact, Swenson shares the history of Cleveland, Ohio, a highly progressive city nearly two centuries ago but one that slowly fell victim to racism further complicated by corruption. Thorough accounts put things into keen perspective here, especially when we're invited into the home lives of the accused men and their families and we get to know the men as boys. And yet, even with those once-happy sightlines, this story might've been just another tale of wrong accusations, except for one thing: Swenson also tracks the accuser, the boy,

c.2018 Picador \$29.00 / \$38.00 Canada 289 pages



Good Kids, Bad City

as he grows up.

That story-within-a-story mushrooms in a way that you'll want to see. It'll outrage you as it fascinates. It's a draw that makes Good Kids, Bad City a book to get your hands on.

#### Art of The Cut... continued from page 7

part, on model-artist Yusuf Lateef whose experience with this event was a positive effort to embrace black men and their roles in families and the community by bringing health into the picture.

There were several barbers on the platform whose creations were captured in time with music by DJ Mpress, an Elite Team DJ. As over 250 attendees danced to the African-American soundtrack of R n B, soul and hip-hop, they greeted one another with long hugs, dap and salutes to fashion and hairstyles.

Guests were regal and eclectic altogether, singing along with the the barbershop quartet, Water, comprised of brothers Jacob and Jason Bates, Tony Derden and Tawann Gaston. They sang popular music from artists boy bands like Boyz II Men and even Jodeci, Joe, Tevin Campbell and many others while dressed in barber-sharp attire.

Gaston is the owner of Groomed barbershops and was one of the committee members who worked on bringing the Art of the Cut to life. His impeccable skill and attention to detail was evident in his work on the platform and performance with the quartet. What was even more evident was the impact he has on his own sons, who worked alongside their father, sweeping the remnants of hair from the platform, dressed in slacks with bold dress shirts, ties and classic suspenders.

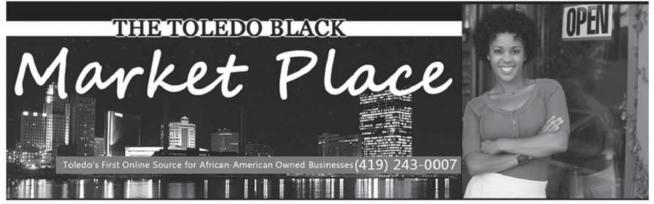
Each member of The Circle like Natalie Gray, Connie Pearson, and Zahra Collins were among the diverse group's many hostesses, who greeted guests upon entry and served as guides through the well-planned event. The main hall, lined with tables, snacks and a cash bar was a meeting place for attendees to mingle, network and take in the wonder of an event that brought them together. Inside the GlasSalon,

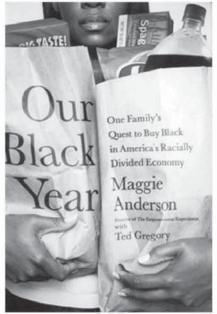
Dr. Brian Dolsey, a cardiologist at Promedica shared the importance of men taking charge of their health, to be present for themselves and their families sooner, than later. Having performed heart surgeries earlier in the day, he gave a call to action for men to stand up for better

At the close of the live exhibition, barbers like Corvette Derden of Fletcher's Hair Designs, created haircuts as inspired by art on display at the TMA. Derden's intricate redesign of Jaume Plensa's sculpture, "The Soul of Words" was a showstopper.

Emcee Toi Creel, of NBC 24, who donned era-appropriate attire for each set, narrated the barbershop experience adding insight to the connection between art, African-American culture and grooming and













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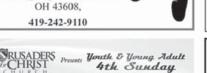
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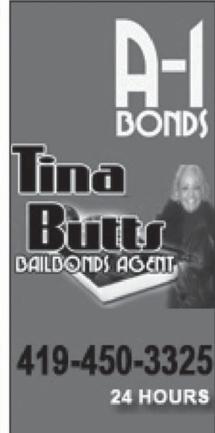
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#### Page 15

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS ELECTRICAL SERVICES -AUTHORITY WIDE IFB19-B001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive sealed bids for Electrical Services – Authority Wide. Received in accordance with law until March 11, 2019, 3:00 PM ET. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



#### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has a great opportunity for you to join our team! We currently have openings for seasonal maintenance staff. If you are going to work, why not do it in the beautiful outdoors. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. Graduating high school seniors may apply if 18 years of age or older. \$9.00/ hr. Duties include cleaning and facility and grounds maintenance. Employment varies through December based on need. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to learn to use power tools and equipment. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com<a href="http://www.Metropark-">http://www.Metropark-</a> sToledo.com> to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has openings for seasonal Natural Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$11.00/hr. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management preferred. Some outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture preferred. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com

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 to view detailed position description and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

## LEAD NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has openings for Lead Natural Resources Conservation Assistant. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$12.25/hr. Up to 40 hours per week. Some training or coursework in environmental sciences or natural resources management required. Some outdoor work experience with natural systems, forestry or horticulture required. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com<to view detailed position descriptions and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

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#### ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment facilities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age requirement and an annual income requirement of no more than \$23,550.00 for one person or \$26,900.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden apartments offer one bedroom, private patios, with individually controlled thermostats for heat and air conditioning.

Abundant Life #1 offers bathtubs, while Abundant Life #2 offers walk-in showers and pull cords for emergencies.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous facilities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.





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## NANBPWC Second Annual 60's, 70's, 80's **Fundraiser**

The Toledo Club of (NANBPWC) National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. held their second annual 60's, 70's and 80's Fundraiser Cabaret on Saturday, February 9 at the UAW Hall at 5411Jackman Road.

Since February is Black History Month, a series of posters were displayed highlighting Aretha Franklin and Prince designed by Denise Black-Poon.

The fundraiser was a great night of fun for everyone in attendance.

In honor of "Heart Month," donations for chocolate heart shaped boxes of candy were given out to guests.

Music was provided by DJ Big Trav who kept the dance floor full as he played music with a blast from the past.

Door prizes were given throughout the night that were donated by the Toledo Club Members.

NANBPWC INC Toledo Club President Frances Collins, PhD, thanked everyone for their support as she lead the special feature of the evening. A contest for the best dressed costumes from each era was a great highlight of the evening. Three gifts for each decade were voted on by the audience for first, second and third place costumes.

Clara Brank and Delores (Dee) Bates were the co-chairs for the fundraiser and were given much praise for the wonderful job in planning this event.

Toledo Club members consist of: Collins, Toledo Club President, Black-

Poon, Alexii Collins, Denise Cardwell, Wilma Brown, Mary F. Dawson, Ethel Scott, Marquita Scott Chong, Crystal Darnell Harris, Carla Smith, Mironda Harris, Barbara Tucker, BJ Tucker, Beverly Tucker, Deborah Carlisle, Karen Jarrett, Donna Todd, Tommie McGee, Iris Pat Page Jones, Sarah Burkes, Sherry Reed, LuCynthia Jones, Wanda Terrell Galloway, Brank



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