



Volume 54, No. 8

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

February 27, 2019



## R.E.E.L. Is Ready to Help!

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# Race for 2019: First Take

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

The Truth Contributor



*We cannot afford to do our enemies' work by destroying each other.*

- Audre Lorde

The hyper-opinionated comments on social media indicate that most voters are already focused on the 2020 presidential elections. However, Toledoans should be careful not to sleep on the approaching 2019 municipal contests. While Lucas County Democratic Party Chair Kurt Young and kingmakers such as David Fleetwood or Theresa Moore might insist, rightly, that the slate of candidates is still in flux, several district seats for Toledo City Council are expected to be highly competitive. The results could be interesting given the Party's penchant for political slugfests where their candidates knock each other out allowing an "lesser ranked" and unexpected outsider to succeed instead.

Here are my early projections on the district races:

District One:

Kelly Westmoreland is a Democratic Party name on the rise. She is sharp, committed to the community and would provide a much needed youth infusion to city council. However, Westmoreland is probably ineligible to run, having recently moved out of the district and attempting to complete graduate school studies.

Look for incumbent Tyrone Riley to be re-elected despite a rash of negative press and a possible challenge from Republican Tina Scott. Riley, possibly against his wife's wishes, very badly wants to complete another stint on council before being term limited.

District Two:

No Democrat will attempt to enter a primary against incumbent and Council President Matt Cherry, who has a campaign war chest that any mayor would envy. Mark Wagoner and the Republican Party could provide opposition but it won't stop Cherry from being re-elected.

District Three:

Although incumbent Peter Ujvagi desperately wants to complete the work he began on the Marina District, getting re-elected will be a challenge for the long-term public official. Ujvagi's previous race was too close for comfort and, as of last week, there are four other challengers for the Democratic Party endorsement.

Although defeating an incumbent is difficult, it is conceivable that Ujvagi could be knocked out in the primary due to the growth, vibrant economic activity and ethnic change occurring in the Historic South compared to the stagnation that is taking place in the Birmingham neighborhood, his traditional base of support.

District Four:

The Democratic Party will gear up and heavily support incumbent Yvonne Harper for re-election to District Four. There are two words for challenger June Boyd, who recently screened for the Party's endorsement. They are: (1) No. and, (2) Chance!

Although Boyd may pick up a one or two points due to support from former mayor and her longtime friend Carty Finkbeiner, this should be a walk for Harper,

who tirelessly works to solve problems for her constituents. Harper will also have use of the Party apparatus including foot soldiers who will be out in force raising money, knocking on doors, getting people to the polls and making phone calls, an advantage Boyd will find impossible to overcome.

District Five:

Sam Melden takes another shot at being elected to city council by going after District 5, an open seat due to term-limited incumbent Tom Wanievski. Outspoken progressive Connor Kelley, a recent University of Toledo grad, will challenge Melden who is has been labeled as "safe, cautious and careful with his words."

Although District Five has been a past stronghold for the Republicans, it is very possible for political control to change hands but GOP Chairman Mark Wagoner will have a lot to say about who will challenge the democrat that survives the primary.

District Six:

Former police officer Chris Delaney is the incumbent in this tough to call race. Delaney, known as a very quiet but open-minded councilman who faithfully addresses the needs of the people of his district, is not expected to have a primary challenger. Yet District Six is the one that has the most potential to change from Democratic to Republican control.

Conclusion:

While all of the incumbents are expected to win, the two districts to watch closely are the competitive races expected to take place in Districts Three and Five.

In addition, it is wise to also keep a watchful eye on GOP Wagoner. His "close to the vest" strategy is likely to include putting up Republican Party candidates in every district and not giving any Democratic Party candidate a free pass.

A Republican Party candidate with name recognition could give Delaney a run for his money in district six or the Kelley/Melden winner in district five as well as affect the dynamics in all of the other races.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drldperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org)

## Community Calendar

### March 7

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Meeting: 6:00 pm; Featured speaker is Councilman Nick Komives, who will speak about upcoming issues for Toledo and the work of City Council.

### 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 17

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

### April 26-27

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-531-9444

### April 27

The Libbey High School Historical Marker Dedication: 11 am; The former Libbey High School campus.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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# The "Empire" Strikes Back

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

No, this is not an article about the past movie sensation Star Wars and its profitable progeny.

No, this is not about the past and fabled Great Britain and its former empire of colonies throwing their massive military weight around.

No, this is not just about the television series called Empire and one of its celebrated actors, Jussie Smollett.

It is about the "empire" of the Chicago Police Department striking back at a seemingly frustrated actor who crafted an ostensible con game in order to elevate his status in the acting world and presumably to get a salary hike!

Yes, it is about the actor Jussie Smollett who apparently was willing to throw caution and common sense to the wind and concoct a plan to have himself assaulted with racial and homophobic slurs, even to the point of having a noose strung around his neck and having his so called tormentors wearing MAGA hats and uttering, "This is Trump Country!"

If there was an Academy Award for being a first class buffoon and ignoramus, Jussie Smollett would be the presumptive favorite to win, hands down.

If you saw the video of the black chief of police from Chicago, you could readily gauge his contempt and disgust for this alleged con Smollett tried to foist upon the then-believing public.

Smollett thoroughly disgraced himself and is now on a collision course with a judicial system that does not take lightly-fabricated acts of racial/gay violence in order for one to promote one's acting career.

The charge that Smollett is facing is a felony and I do not think that the prosecutor will be bending over backwards to offer Smollett any flowers of a great plea deal in order to make his case go away.

No...I think that the judge and prosecutor will have Jussie Smollett serve some prison time as an example that rip off artists like him who wrongfully consume the trust of the public and who make a police department work overtime in order to expose a juvenile stunt.

Jussie Smollett put his hands and head into a beehive when he went national with his ostensibly contrived story of being assaulted by two men. He was even on Good Morning America and was interviewed by Robin Roberts.

In that interview, Jussie, through crying tears, was using bleeped profanity and vociferously protesting his innocence and how disgusted he was that someone would even remotely hint that he was at the core of his own "assault."

=What is also a sad commentary on this alleged assault is that people who had legal backgrounds including Senators Kamala Harris and Cory Booker also went public with their opinions in spite of the glaring facts that not all of the factual evidence was in place.

What would motivate politicians and entertainers to make knee jerk responses to an ongoing investigation? Was it simply because they were caught up in the racial/emotion of a Jussie Smollett crying on TV that he was a victim of a cruel racist attack?

Was it that they wanted to "be out in front" showing their constituency that they were "down" with Smollett and thus partake of the fame of this Empire star?

Was it that they were trying too hard to identify with the gay community (Jussie Smollett is open about his sexual leanings) and thus incur their political favor that they were first in line to give Smollett cover and comfort?

And who knows what the Empire television series producers will do about the future casting of Jussie Smollett? Will they write him out of the series?

Remember the recent issue regarding the Roseanne television series in which THE main star of the comedy was given the heave-ho due to her intemperate remarks.

How could the Empire producers do less to Jussie Smollett in regards to his contrived lies and teary denials of his involvement in his own assault?

I surmise that the Empire will strike back and with a vengeance at Jussie Smollett since he ripped at the heartstrings of so many fans and struck a long jagged dagger into the confidences and trust of the Empire crew, staff, co-workers and the producing studio.

I mean. How do you make a comeback when the national media is

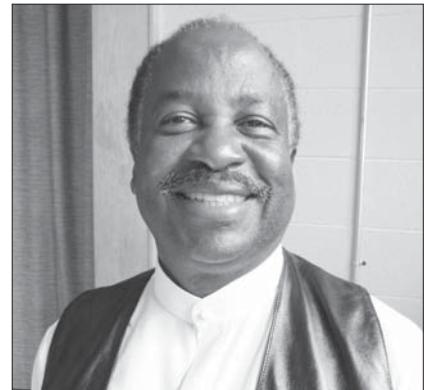
demonstrating sympathies with Jussie Smollett but then, in a flash of intensive police detective work, the assault story...with gossamer wings... comes flailing to the ground?

What struck me the most and what stuck with me the most was the outrage that Jussie Smollett was able to generate from a trusting public that he was a duo victim of race and homophobic attacks but now he will be considered as a pariah. May I suggest that Jussie needs psychiatric care.

It goes without saying and it holds true that the ditty, "Oh, the web that we weave when our intent is to deceive" is applicable here.

If I were to write a balloon caption over the head of Robin Roberts when she was interviewing Jussie Smollett, it would read the same as what she said to Omarosa Manigault when Omarosa was being interviewed by an incredulous Robin Roberts regarding her sudden exit from the White House: "BYE FELISHA!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



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# HRC Mediation Available

Valentine's Day is the perfect day to decide to resolve issues with a neighbor and the newly-formed Human Relations Commission can help.

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## How to Apply

You can apply to participate in the Human Relations Commission mediation process one of the four ways:

- \* Call Engage Toledo at 419-936-2020 or submit using the mobile app.
- \* Call the HRC Mediation Office at 419-245-1518.
- \* Fill out a form online at <https://toledo.oh.gov/services/human-relations-commission/>.

ations-commission<<https://toledo.oh.gov/services/human-relations-commission/>> print, and mail to One Government Center, HRC Mediations, Suite 2200, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

\* Download a form online <https://toledo.oh.gov/services/human-relations-commission/>, print, and mail to One Government Center, HRC Mediations, Suite 2200, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

## Next Step

Once your mediation application is submitted, you will be contacted by a member of HRC's mediation staff for a follow-up. You will be scheduled to attend mediation within 30 days after your follow-up.

## Location

All mediation sessions will be held at the United Way Building, 424 Jackson St. Parking is free.

# Sen. Brown Will Make Pilgrimage to Selma to Commemorate 54th Anniversary of Bridge Crossing

## Brown Co- Led Congressional Pilgrimage during the 50th Anniversary in 2015

This week, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced he will give remarks at several events during this year's Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee on Sunday, March 3, 2019, in Selma, Alabama. The Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee is a commemoration of "Bloody Sunday," which occurred March 7, 1965, when nearly 600 civil rights activists were brutally attacked by law enforcement while peacefully marching from Selma to Montgomery on the Edmond Pettus Bridge. Brown has made multiple

pilgrimages to Selma to commemorate Bloody Sunday with his family and congressional delegations.

"The brave women and men who marched from Selma to Montgomery 54 years ago risked their lives to demand full and equal participation in our democracy," said Brown. "As we see the deliberate dismantling of voting rights all across the country today, it's more important than ever that we honor those foot soldiers and continue to stand up for the rights they sacrificed so much for."

Brown will give remarks during the Martin Luther King & Coretta Scott King Unity Breakfast. He will also deliver remarks at the historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, which served as the focal point where Dr. King and other activists organized the Selma-to-Montgomery marches and voter registrations. Finally, Brown will speak at the foot of the Edmond Pettus Bridge, where Congressman John Lewis (GA-05) and other non-violent protestors were brutally attacked while fighting for the right to vote.

Brown attended the first year of the annual Congressional pilgrimage in 1998 and keeps the photo of him marching through Selma in his office. In 2015, the Faith and Politics Institute organized the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Selma during the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of Bloody Sunday. The events were chaired by Congressman John Lewis, and Brown co-led the pilgrimage with Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). The event had more than 90 other lawmakers in attendance and included visits to Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, and Marion.

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# Toledo PreK Leadership Team Announced

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and ProMedica CEO and President Randy Oostra announced the creation of a leadership team whose members will implement Toledo's forthcoming pre-kindergarten education program. During a press conference on Friday, February 22, the mayor said the leadership team, comprised of representatives from six groups, will implement an educational program that the community "has been thinking about, considering and studying" for a number of years.

"We don't need any more studies or task forces," said Kapszukiewicz. "It is time to act."

The leadership team will be comprised of individuals from the City of Toledo, ProMedica, United Way, the Toledo Community Foundation, Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools. The team has already begun meeting; the most recent gathering was on February 25. Along with the six leadership team representatives, the committee will consist of people from "a diverse variety of 30 organizations" who will meet monthly, said Kapszukiewicz. The working group includes the University of Toledo, the Anderson Foundation, the YMCA, the YWCA, Huntington Bank, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Lucas County Children Services, along with religious community leaders, including the Catholic Diocese of Toledo.

"This is the group that's going to figure out how to do it," said the mayor.

"Access to high-quality preschool programs is a critical indicator and influencer of a child's future educational success and health outcomes," said Oostra. "We are pleased the ProMedica Ebeid Neighborhood Promise is able to support this collaborative effort to make early childhood education available to all our city's children."

"Today is about the future," said Oostra. "Today is about making an investment for the next generation."

ProMedica and the Toledo Community Foundation have provided funding for two consultants for six months – experts who will perform assessments of the community in order to determine the best modal to recom-



mend to the working group based on data and a budget analysis. The two consultants – Linda Dunphy and Andrew Brodsky, PhD – will finish their report in June.

Dunphy has 25 years experience in leading, developing and advancing high impact business and organizational approaches for early childhood/family services on the national, state, regional and local level. Brodsky is a research consultant specializing in early childhood finance, evaluation and policy; he has worked with partners across the nation to help expand and improve systems and programs for young children.

"This is an exciting day," said TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD. "This is an economic revitalization program," he said of the impact that early childhood education will have on the community. "You will do better in Toledo because we believe in early childhood education."

"This initiative is going to change education in Toledo," said Susan Hayward, Washington Local Schools superintendent. "We are so excited in Washington Local for our kids to have this opportunity."

One aspect of the program is to include all prekindergarten providers in the community discussion, however, the mayor emphasized that quality education is the primary goal. "My goal is not to prop up someone's small business," said Kapszukiewicz. "My goal is to make sure kids get educated."

# Diocese of Toledo Bestows Drum Major Award On Community Members as Part of Black History Month Celebration

Special to The Truth

During its Mass for Promoting Harmony on Saturday, February 23, 2019, the Catholic diocese of Toledo presented the Drum Major Awards in celebration of the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Helen C. Cooks, PhD, and Vivian Johnson. Also awarded were aspiring youth Davion Wil-

liams and Malachi Wyse.

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, the principal celebrant and homilist, said,

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## The Soulcial Scene

# Fashions, Fros & Finds

## Otswanii: Deeper Than Wrap

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

Headwrapping is a tradition in African and other cultures that has varied significance for the bearer of the wrap. A Zulu woman may wear a head covering as a sign of respect to her in-laws while the women of the Zion Christian Church wear head coverings inside and outside of the church.

Headwraps may also be regarded as a sign of humility, bereavement and modesty. Likewise, they may be worn in celebrations such as weddings. They too, can cover a "bad hair day" or protect the hair when working out or for many women who work in trades, it is a more fashionable way to cover the head in lieu of masculine du rags, stocking caps and bonnets.

What is less talked about is the stain of negativity surrounded covering the head during slavery. Not only was it difficult for women to maintain the health of their hair due to working long hours in extreme temperatures, it was also a sign of oppression in that women's hair had to be of a certain texture and style in order to be acceptable for employment; something that has been at the center of litigation between employers and schools who often ban African hairstyles from their institutions. Whether it represents marital status, age, or a level of respect, the wrap is deeper than the fabric, color and its placement on the head.

Otswanii, Deeper Than Wrap was an event founded by model, artist and mentor Meecheb whose vision was to educate people about the cultural significance and artistic expression of headwrapping.

The event, which was held at The Peacock in downtown Toledo, began with a headwrapping class at which time guests could ask questions and get tips on wrapping while learning about the different types of wraps and what they represent. Local vendors were on hand, offering handmade goods such as With Sprinkle's cosmetic glitter and body butters as well as body oils and incense.

"We don't have legacies or businesses for our children to inherit." Megan Davis stated during the panel discussion.

"Everything I learned, I had to learn on my own." said Rochelle Mor-

rishaw, dance artist and owner of Fete to Fit. "When my oldest decided this year, that they wanted to go work for somebody else, I looked at them like 'you must not have common sense' because the only option is for them to work for themselves or myself." Morrishaw continued. "I am teaching my children to build generational wealth."

This event gave two small black-owned businesses an opportunity to engage new customers and receive support where they otherwise may not have had the chance to experience.

The panel discussion, moderated by Latisha Williams, included a deep dialogue of pressing issues in the black community today. From questioning whether or not gender roles have changed with the feminist movement to addressing the problem of financial illiteracy in the black community, the questions posed sparked high-octane remarks between the panelists and the audience.

"The male structure is being torn down in our homes. We know society has a target on our heads, but if we don't take responsibility for our roles in the family in the home and community, mentoring them and teaching our sons how to dodge the bullets both in the streets and in politics, we are failing them." Antwan Oxner was replying to the question 'Where is the black male structure in terms of male emotions, the new black man, abuse, fatherless black men and creative black men.'

Elijah Isaacs, photographer and panelist concluded, "It's going to be a process; the instant gratification of it, it's not going to happen overnight. We have systematically been brought down, so we must be patient in rebuilding the broken families who have succumbed to statistics." A process it is. Several guests and panelists shared their experiences in dealing with single parenting, co-parenting and finding ways to break free from the system that has and continues to oppress black families.

Otswanii, a name that Meecheb birthed for this event and experience brought art, culture, history and a healthy dialogue in an enlightening manner much like the Oriyan definition of Ojaswini which means lustrous. With its power letter, "O", Otswanii moved to inspire optimism for black people to embrace their culture, rooted in African soil.

The event closed with a fashion show of select models who were styled by Meecheb, whose creativity expands multiple mediums. Embracing one another, men and women departed The Peacock feeling worthy, loved and connected an experience much deeper than the wrap.

The Truth

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Fete to Fit owner and panelist, Rochelle Morrishaw, with founder Meecheb



Panel moderator and Otswanii model, Latisha Williams



Panelists Rochelle Morrishaw, Megan Yasu Davis, Elijah Isaacs, Meecheb and Antwan Oxner

## The Soulcial Scene

# Preserving Our HAIRitage: When Black Hair Is Against the Rules

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

A cry for social justice has been the purpose of Braden United Methodist Church's annual soul food potluck over the last few years. Attended by church members and people in the community, it is a time to fellowship, learn and discuss the difficult issues black people face today, post the Civil Rights Act.

On Friday, February 22, the fellowship hall of the church filled with the aroma of African jollof rice, Caribbean jerk chicken, black eyed peas, greens, cornbread, fish, and macaroni and cheese, just some of the dishes brought in for the potluck. And it was filled with people; people with stories, those who have overcome and those who are going through.

There were people with battle scars and those who have found success; a gathering of black folks who know and folks who do. The theme was appropriate for the times we now live, where black people are being denied jobs and opportunities for advancement because of their choice of hairstyle albeit the most organic and culturally accurate aesthetic we can adopt.

In Florida, a new rule to allow students to escape bullying by attending private schools was supposed to be a remedy, but instead prevents those students, many of them African American, from attending these schools if their hairstyle is "unnatural". This antiquated ideal is nothing new to private schools and suburban public schools who simply don't understand, and wish not to, the truth about black hair.

Former Central Catholic students, Malachi Wattley and his sister Sapphire Holston, shared their challenges with the school during the event. "I'd never been through anything like this before," said Sapphire as she recalled being bullied by classmates, and taunted about her brother's situation after they were forced out of Central for his hairstyle, dreadlocks.

She was an honor student at the school when her brother began attending after being enrolled with his past-shoulder length hair. Maylin Wattley, the children's mother, shared, "Prior to his enrollment, he went to the shadow days and I spoke with the principal about his hair. When they told me there would be no problem with it, I enrolled my son in the school."

As the story goes, this was halted in Malachi's third week of school. What went from a promising private school education to being at the center of debate on hair, the family and the school, who were on opposing sides, both stood their ground which resulted in the untimely dismissal of the students.

The devastation it caused seemed irreparable. A young athlete felt targeted and will never forget being followed around by police and singled out from the football team which had other students with dreadlocks playing at the time. His sister will always remember how she went from flourishing to withering in a matter of moments.

To their aid at that time, were several community members including Twila Page, a student advocate, who stood with the family as they took on the school and their racially and culturally insensitive policy. The protest fell on deaf ears when the NAACP, Civil Rights Commission and the Catholic Diocese were contacted to resolve the matter.



Mary Mitcham, reciting "400 Years"



Maylin Wattley, Center, with her children Malachi and Sapphire



Rahwae Shuman of TEYC introduces youth artist

Wattley took matters into her own hands and enrolled the children in a Toledo Public School where the bullying began. There, even teachers were asking the children about the controversy surrounding a boy's hairstyle. Students knew [the story] and they faced humiliation, being targeted in a different way at the school.

For Sapphire, she had to receive special accommodations to help her avoid the bullies and for Malachi, the changes affected his academic progress. He too, was an honor student at one point.

But Ms. Wattley, who has two degrees and is a published author and business owner, spoke life to her children, encouraging them to do their best and showing them the many opportunities their education can afford them. She reminded them of their culture and the pride therein, pushing them to focus on themselves since they cannot change the hearts and minds of people who act in ignorance.

Her love and unending commitment to building her children up, led to Malachi being accepted into the ANSAT Aviation school to pursue a career as a pilot and it restored the joy for learning and motivation for her daughter to excel in ways she may not have had she remained at Central Catholic. Both students are on the honor roll today!

"What I went through was just a set up for what is to come. I could not have received so many scholarships and financial support to college if I didn't go through this," Holston exclaimed. She has received over \$150,000 in financial aid to more than 30 colleges, including several HB-CUs and Hampton, Mississippi Valley, Fisk, Bethune Cookman, Grambling, Tuskegee and Freeland, where she was offered full scholarship.

She currently has 26 credits, earning 22 in her junior year of high school and attends the University of Toledo dually. Malachi echoed the sentiment



Ayana Fagan sharing her painting, Girl Power



Corene Davis

... continued on page 12

## Honoring

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Everybody can be great...because anyone can serve." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

## State Bank GIVES

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*The Soulcial Scene*

# 25 Community Leaders Recognized at Award Ceremony

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo (CSRNT) organized their second annual Black Lives Matter Awards on February 23, 2019. The second floor of the historic Frederick Douglas Community Association center was filled to capacity with the honorees, the families and friends of the honorees, along with CSRNT members, and community supporters. The honorees received public recognition, a certificate, a metal decorated in red,

black and blue ribbon.

"Good evening brothers and sisters, we're

... continued on page 13



Photos by Tricia Hall



Honoree Montrice Terry and Son Chase Terry



Honoree Nia Snelling, center, with parents Siqrid and Che Snelling



Honoree Lance Self, and wife Arlinda Self



Minister Terrance Pounds, honoree with family, Rev. Boose and members of Second Baptist Church



Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo



Honoree Patrice McCellan, second from left, and guests

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## The Soulcial Scene

# R.E.E.L. Opens Its Doors to Establish a Standard of Excellence

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

A newly-formed non-profit organization R.E.E.L. – Reaching, Encouraging, Equipping, Leaders – held its inaugural fundraising event on Friday, February 22 at The Truth Art Gallery as dozens of supporters stopped by to give the educational and mentoring program a much-needed boost.

Founders Robin Patterson, CEO, and Michelle Harris, COO, welcomed guests and took a few minutes during the evening to let everyone in atten-

dance know just why they felt this group is important for the community and just how they will accomplish their goals.

R.E.E.L.'s mission is "to provide a standard of excellence which leads to a healthy self-esteem and incomparable character, necessary to be successful leaders in the community." The agency's vision is to educate, equip and empower youth. To accomplish this, the agency will be offering a year-round program with a curriculum broken down into five modules covered over a six-month time frame. Patterson and Harris will be connecting youth to mentors after completion of the six-month program to continue involvement and connections to possible community resources.



Councilman Tyrone Riley and Rev. Leroy Williams



R.E.E.L. Founders COO Michelle Harris and CEO Robin Patterson



Reggie Temple and Aundray Gray




Autumn Gineen and Monique Ward



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### Information Night

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Tuesday, February 12th  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



**Heatherdowns Branch Library**  
3265 Glanzman Rd., Toledo  
Tuesday, March 5th  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Lucas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a Department of the Lucas County Juvenile Court and a member of the National CASA Association

**Make a Difference in a Child's Life**

## The Soulcial Scene

# Simple Tips to Upgrade Your Next Casual Gathering

*Special to The Truth*

From special occasions to everyday get togethers, you can upgrade any gathering without a lot of extra work by serving delicious pairings of small bites and sparkling wines.

Be advised that when it comes to great bubbly, you don't need to spend a lot of money to get a great bottle. For a delicious, wallet-friendly option, try serving Cava, a Spanish sparkling wine made using the same traditional method as Champagne.

One Cava producer offering top-quality sparkling wines is Poema, a family-owned producer that farms its grapes sustainably. To help you plan your next gathering, check out the winery's suggested food pairings for some of its top wines. These will have you covered for each course of the meal:

### Getting Things Started

Remember that guests often arrive hungry, so have your appetizer spread ready to go. Look for a sparkling wine that's versatile enough to pair nicely with most tapas and light appetizers, such as Poema Cava Brut (\$12.99), a sparkler boasting fresh citrus, mineral and Granny Smith apple aromas with toasted bread notes.

Before your guests sit down, start them off with this Brut-style Cava alongside favorite light bites such as roasted potatoes, olive tapenade, jamón and Manchego cheese served with fresh crusty bread, stuffed mushrooms, shrimp fritters or even oysters and other seafood.

### The Main Course

Consider a wine that pairs well with different main course options, such as Poema Cava Rosé (\$12.99), which features fresh notes of strawberry, raspberry and rose petals and a balanced acidity that keeps the wine light and fresh.

Whether you're serving a casual meal of build-your-own sandwiches with

cold cuts and lightly smoked fish, or you're barbecuing lean meats, this versatile wine will work for many casual style meals. For an added bonus, consider a picnic style theme with a checkered table cloth.

### A Fizzy Sweet Finish

Don't disappoint those with a sweet tooth by neglecting the dessert course! Whether you're serving creamy custard, sponge cake, chocolate truffles or brownies, consider pairing with the sweeter-tasting Poema Cava Dulce (\$12.99), which can be enjoyed alongside dessert, or served alone as a refreshing aperitif.

Upgrading your next gathering doesn't have to require a lot of time or stress. The addition of some high-quality sparkling wine will make an everyday gathering more festive and more memorable.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

*NANBPWC... continued from page 16*

who are participating in the Debutante Cotillion Scholarship Program for Debutantes, Deb's N Waiting and escorts.

The workshop presenter was Alisha Durham, NANBPWC - Maumee Bay Club member. Durham focused on getting a clear message to the high school students on why social media affects everything you do, both good and bad, and how your decisions today can affect you in the future.

The students were able to work hands-on to see the impact of words, pictures, historical documentation, privacy and more and see some of the positive and negative effects of Messenger, Instagram, Facebook, Google etc.

The students were asked to "THINK" about the content—is it true, is it inspiring, helpful, necessary or kind?

She asked everyone to be safe online during an open discussion and brought awareness of viruses, trojans, worms, passwords, recording, identity theft, different websites etc.

Over 80 students and adults truly appreciated the workshop and the interactive feedback.

Cotillion committee members Wilma Brown, chairman; Denise Cardwell and Karen Jarrett, co-chairmen and Denise Black-Poon, 1st VP and program chairman were adult participants who supported the importance of the social media workshop as well as Larry Cardwell and Dennis Jarrett. Youth Club 1st Vice President Jada Collins was also in attendance. The workshop series lasts weekly from January through May.

As a former educator, Frances Collins, PhD, Toledo Club president, supports the NANBPW Cotillion Scholarship Workshop Series because the series brings awareness on other topics as well such as: etiquette, how to be a gentleman, safe encounters with the police, physical fitness, mother daughter relationships, human trafficking, etc.



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Who is James Mitchell Ashley?

For additional information, call 419-245-1050  
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Entry submissions are due by March 4th, 2019 at 4:00pm

*The Soulcial Scene*

## The Art of the Cut

By Megan Davis

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

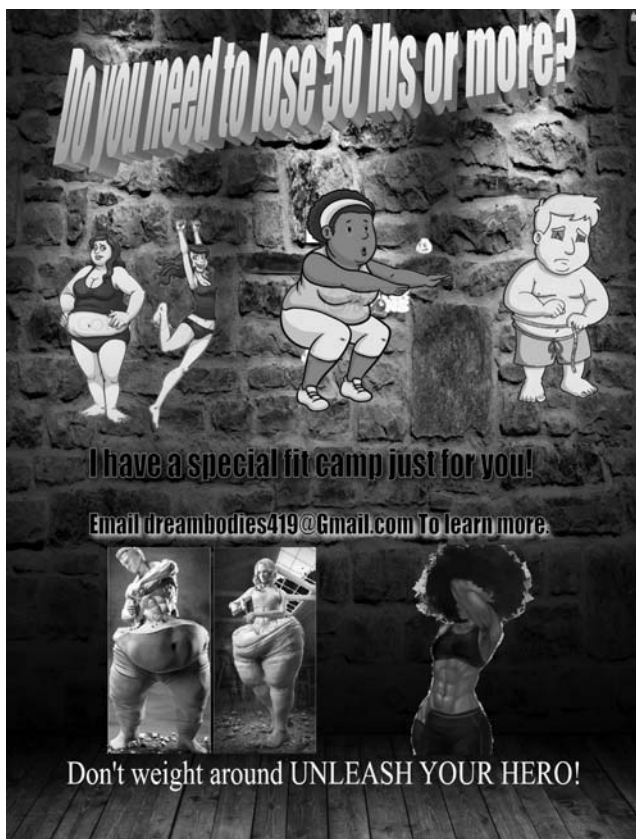
The Art of the Cut, held on Sunday, February 17, at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion, was a culmination of art and culture in motion, a work that began as many masterpieces do. The concept was to bring together visual art, haircutting and men's health in one space. This work was cultivated by 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.



Donnetta Carter and Megan Davis



Photos by Donnetta Carter - The Social Butterfly



*Safe Encounters Workshop... continued from page 16*

members were present to hear very important facts about ways to respond if stopped by the police. Several adult club members also attended the workshop.

Toledo Youth Club President Jordan Collins and Vice President Jada Collins presented the Do's and Don'ts when interacting with police officers.

Black-Poon gave pointers on "What to do if you are stopped by the police." She emphasized the importance of what to say and to have proper identification.

Questions were addressed and the Officer Hicklin and Officer Randall gave suggestions, life stories, scenarios and lots of insight to help provide a better understanding of what could happen in different situations. They stressed that proper conduct is important for a person who may be a suspect, as well as for those who are traveling with that person. The officers mentioned how college campuses have rules that are different from TPD, and other jurisdictions. Everyone must know the laws and rights in every city, campus, school, etc.

Cotillion Chairman Wilma Brown, Cotillion Scholarships/Education Chairwoman Karen Jarrett and Denise Caldwell continue to bring quality workshops for the youth each week and encourage them to be courteous, responsible and set goals. Officer Hicklin also asked youth to set goals and be overachievers. Each officer believes respect is the biggest part of "Safe Encounters"

The officers received certificates from the Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Adult and Youth Clubs for their special commitments and service to the community.

*HAIRitage... continued from page 7*

declaring, "In conclusion, I'd like you to know that I survived Central Catholic."

The school today has changed its policy, at least for the online handbook, removing the banning of natural hairstyles like braids, twisties and dreadlocks. The principal who started the battle with the Wattle family, left within six months of her new appointment there.

Youth members of the Toledo Ecumenical Youth Conference, led by Rahwe Shuman, shared their artistic and oratorical expressions during the event. Ayana Fagan painted a young black girl with an Afro on canvas and said it represented her, beauty and strength while Mary Mitcham recited "400 Years" which she co-authored and ended with her aspiration to become an engineer.

Corene Davis, organizer, led the guests in a medley of Old School gospel tunes like Trouble in my way and I don't feel no ways tired and served as the mistress of ceremonies. Social justice is something near and dear to her as her over 40 year career in diversity made a difference in the climate of companies in Ohio.

The Christian education department of Braden held several other programs during Black History Month, including baptism, youth talks and honoring community/church members for their work and dedication to the people of the city of Toledo. Pastor Cecil J. Fitzgerald Thompson, who lead the potluck in prayer, reminded guests of the importance of fellowship at the table while giving thanks for God's tremendous blessings.

*Diocese of Toledo... continued from page 5*

"2019 awardees Helen Cooks, Vivian Johnson, Davion Williams and Malachi Wyse are outstanding examples of individuals who embody the values espoused by Dr. King."

The Diocese's Drum Major Award is inspired by the words of King when he challenged people to be "drum majors for justice, drum majors for peace and drum majors for righteousness."

Cooks was recognized as a leader in her youth when at 14 she organized a very successful Community Day at Braden Methodist Church; and at 17 she was chosen as the City of Toledo Playground Leader of the Year. Her pursuits and career as an educator fulfilled the potential that she showed as a youth. She has impacted the lives of thousands of students through the Toledo Excel Program at the University of Toledo. Her founding of this scholarship incentive program is her crowning achievement. It is known nationally and internationally for preparing youth for higher education who are from groups otherwise underrepresented.

She is also involved in Toledo Excel's participation in the Peace Project, an international educational exchange program, which brought together Toledo Excel students and students of Ghana, West Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Her successful collaboration with resourceful friends and colleagues led to the first Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth in 1985. She has an enduring legacy as the 35th Annual Conference sponsored by Toledo Excel is scheduled for January 29, 2019 at the University of Toledo. Toledo Excel's 30th class will begin June 2019.

Cooks retired as a University of Toledo Associate Professor in 2006. In 2016 she was named by the Board of Trustees to the rank of Professor Emerita for her service to University of Toledo and the Judith Herb College of Education. She is a proud graduate of the Jesup W. Scott High School where she has been inducted into its Hall of Fame; and earned her undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees at University of Toledo. She also worked side by side with her late husband James Cooks in a food service business, which she continues to manage. She is the proud mother of five adult children, grandmother of 12 and great-grand mother of five children.

Courage, strength, faith, love and commitment are a few of the adjectives to describe Johnson, a lay leader at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Toledo. She has served with dedication and grace for many years as Chair of St. Martin's Evangelization Ministry. Other ministries in which she actively participates are Liturgy and Consolation. She is also a Eucharistic Minister and Lector.

Johnson's prayer ministry for those who are imprisoned touches all who have been impacted by a loved one's imprisonment. Core staff at St. Martin de Porres nominated her for this award because of her love and devotion to her family, Church and community. She participates, contributes and supports the Church in any capacity when called upon to serve. She leads by example, making evangelization a personal mission with her large extended family. She is a role model for all parishioners as they witness her bringing her grand-children, great grand-children, nieces and nephews into the Church and makes a commitment by walking with them in their own faith journey. It is not lost on fellow parishioners as she sits surrounded by her loved ones at Mass.

Her service to the Church and her impact on these young lives is immeasurable.

Williams is the son of Bryan Williams and Latoya Devaughn. This young man is impacting the St. John's Jesuit High School community through his leadership in its Social Justice Alliance, where he helps raise awareness on subjects such as housing inequality and gentrification. A talented composer of hip hop music, he sang one of his works on racism during announcements as a St. John's Social Justice Awareness Week activity.

William's service for credit hours include serving food to those in need, volunteering in a nursing home, participating in an Appalachian Immersion project in West Virginia where he helped run a camp for youth. His activism for social causes includes his participation in the 2018 Washington D.C., "March For Our Lives". He has led fellow students through their Kairos retreat. His nomination from a St. John's teacher provides a portrait of a well-rounded honor student who is also talented in the arts and shows potential for great things.

Wyse is the son of Lloyd and Katrina Wyse. He is known for seeing the good and bringing out the good in others. He prioritizes relationships, scholastic achievements and downplays his prowess in athletics. His character and personality marked him early as a youth with potential for leadership; leading to his selection to attend Salesian Leadership Camp. He is senior class president at St. Francis de Sales High School.

He is described as humble but his vibrant personality is brought to bear on everything he touches, including mock trial participation, performing in student musical productions, Afro Club, Asian Culture Club and campus ministry. He fulfills his service credit responsibilities and for two years has served as camp counselor for incoming St. Francis students.

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# Brown White Black: An American Family at the Intersection of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Religion by Nishta Mehra

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Column A or Column B?

Truth is, you don't fit in either. You're unique, from your toes to your hair, inside and out. People can try to categorize you, but it just won't work. As you'll see in the new book *Brown White Black* by Nishta J. Mehra, there's a lot to learn.

One of her earliest memories still stings.

Nishta Mehra was "about seven or eight years old" when she was shopping with her mother and a little boy called her the n-word. She cried then, not because she was black but because she wasn't.

As the child of parents from India, Mehra is "brown" but she "came of age not fully at home in either black or white spaces." She was an only child with few other Indians nearby, and she had to blaze her own trails through whatever discomforts she might feel in social, religious, and cultural situations – something that was exacerbated when she went to college and she "realized that I was queer."

Today, Mehra's life is "complicated."

Her internal narrative always included children but never a wedding. While in college, though, she met a white woman who became her professor, then her partner, then her wife. Nineteen years Mehra's senior, Jill had assumed that she'd never have children, until the idea of adoption became so appealing that the two women carefully searched for a gay-friendly agency.

Nine months later, they were the mothers of a black baby boy.

It takes a lot of restraint to continue to kindly answer questions about being "a two-mom, three-color family," says Mehra. People say things that are hurtful or that make her angry but that's also given her a better awareness of the privilege she had and of the institutions and limitations of gender assumptions and roles and of racism in America.

"I often wonder if what feels so essential to me now," she muses, "would still be on our radar if we did not have a black son."

Sticks and stones, as the playground saying goes, are more damaging than mere words. It's a retort that author Nishta J. Mehra disputes, but conflictually so.

While so very valuable as an entry into the national conversation on the meaning of language and family, *Brown White Black* may also seem somewhat rant-like. Mehra makes many excellent points: in how she shouldn't have to explain her life, her son's life, his love of "girly" things, or her shorn head; on why she allows him certain freedoms; on having children, and the panoply of choices.

But then, curiously, she questions the choices of others in childrearing, friend-making, and mundane things

like "car sticker families," focusing particularly on language ("words matter") and seemingly refusing to allow for even the slightest of natural human awkwardness.

"We're making it up as we go," says Mehra on gay marriage, and that's a sentence to remember if you tackle this book. *Brown White Black* is certainly a thought-provoking look at modern American families but for some readers, it just won't fit.

## Community Leaders... continued from page 8

here to celebrate our community," said Washington Muhammad, a CSRNT member, as he opened the program and introduced the mistress of ceremonies, Rashya Ghee.

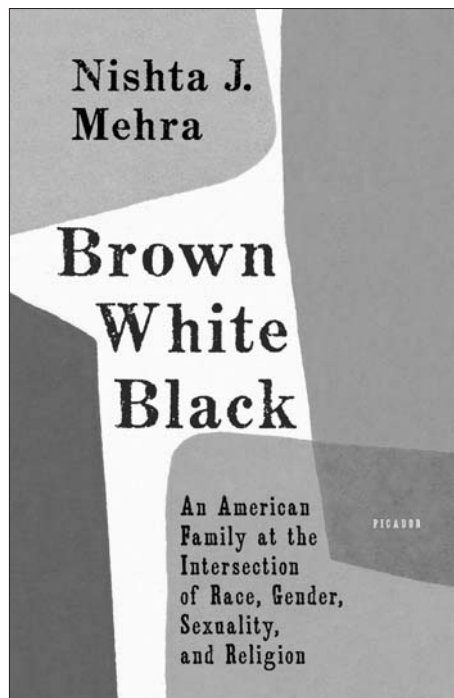
Immediately following the opening, Carmen Miller delivered an acapella rendition of the Negro National Anthem, and members of CSRNT read the organization's mission and guiding principles. Guests and honorees dined on a full course meal and fine music.

"I knew the lives of black lives were worth fighting for. It was worth the fight. We have awarded over \$17,000 in scholarships to our youth and I want to make sure we continue that work and continue to celebrate us. We will continue to fight against police brutality, but will also continue to celebrate ourselves every year," explained Chairman Ruth Leonard.

2019 honorees were: Timothy Pettaway Jr, Danny Ricardi, Patrice McCellan, Keisha Snow-Beley, Lonnie Ghee, Sheena Barnes, Nia Snelling, Verelucia Mendoza, Rob Pasker, Lance Self, Mike Rob, Marcus Boyd, Derrick Brooks, Tina Butts, Terrance Pounds Sr., Kwinlyn Tyler, Khadirah Muhammad, Blair Johnson, David Ross, Montrice Terry, Zia Cooke, Anthony Barnes, Derrick Brooks, Leigh Utley and Tiara Armstrong.

The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo was formed on November, 25, 2014; this was the day after the media announced that Michael Brown's accused killer in the St. Louis, MO area wouldn't be indicted. The group's mission is to bring awareness to the injustices experienced by black men, women and children who are disproportionately murdered, attacked, provoked and harassed by law enforcement. The mission also addresses needing an end to police brutality, request for accountability and consequences for police brutality, and demand for justice because in order for all lives to matter black lives must matter.

For more information about Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo consider visiting their Facebook page by searching for the agency's name. Their meetings are held Tuesdays at Padua Center, located at Nebraska and Junction.



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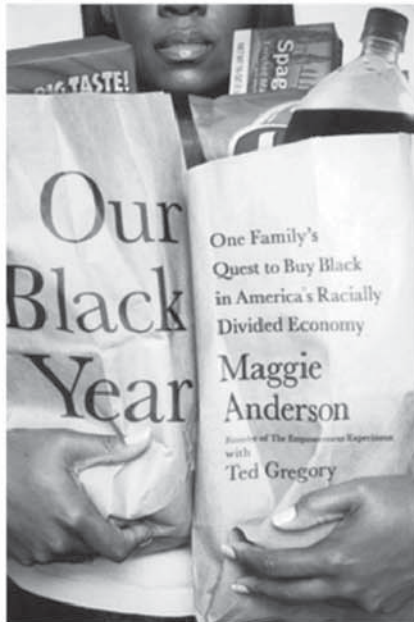
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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 27, 2019

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## 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](http://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.



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## JOB FAIR AT THE TOLEDO ZOO

The Toledo Zoo will be hosting a job fair on Thursday, March 7 from 3-7 p.m. to fill more than 200 part-time and seasonal positions. The Zoo is looking to hire friendly, outgoing individuals with customer-focused attitudes to fill a variety of guest service positions. Join the team... everybody's Zootin' it!

Job fair attendees are asked to park in the Anthony Wayne Trail parking lot, enter through the Zoo gates and follow the signs to the Malawi Event Center. Zoo parking and admission fees will not apply. Business casual attire is preferred. Attendees are requested to bring a professional resume or completed Zoo application, available at [toledozoo.org/jobs](http://toledozoo.org/jobs) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/jobs>>. The last walk-in time will be 6:45 p.m.

Most positions require a minimum age of 16, however, some require candidates to be 21 with a valid driver's license. Those interested must be able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Some positions may also require working in all weather conditions, the ability to stand for extended periods of time and extensive walking on Zoo grounds.

For questions regarding the job fair, please email [toledozoojobfair@toledozoo.org](mailto:toledozoojobfair@toledozoo.org) <<mailto:toledozoojobfair@toledozoo.org>> or refer to [toledozoo.org/jobs](http://toledozoo.org/jobs) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/jobs>> for specific details and position descriptions.

The Toledo Zoo provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

## GROUND 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](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.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](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>> 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) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>> to view detailed position descriptions and job requirements. Must apply online. EOE

## LUCAS COUNTY ENGINEER PERMIT MANAGER

Lucas County Engineer, is accepting applications to fill the **Permit Manager** position. Application deadline is February 18, 2019 at 4:30 pm. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Permit Manager" from the list to read more or apply.

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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 [abundantlifeofperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeofperrysburg.org).



Call to place your ad:

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[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)



## NANBPWC Toledo Club Social Media Workshop

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc.- Toledo Club (NANBPWC) presented a workshop on "Social Media" on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at Keyser Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. This workshop was a series of educational presentations for students

*... continued on page 10*



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## NANBPWC Safe Encounters Workshop

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. - Toledo Adult and Youth Clubs, Maumee Bay Adult and Youth Clubs presented a special workshop entitled, "Safe Encounters" to students participating in the Cotillion Scholarship Program on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Keyser Elementary School.

NANBPWC -Toledo Club's First Vice President and Program Chairman Denise Black-Poon served as Mistress of Ceremony. Toledo Adult Club President Frances Collins, PhD; Stephanie Kynard from the Maumee Bay Club and Jordan Collins from the Toledo Youth Club welcomed everyone and emphasized how important this program is to youth and adults.

Vanice Williams from the Maumee Bay Club shared the purpose of "Safe Encounters" by explaining that the program is designed to promote safe interactions between police and citizens, particularly youth and young adults. It is essential that we help young people learn how to respond when approached by law enforcement officers.

The anticipated outcome is to build or re-establish wholesome relationships between young people, especially minorities, and law enforcement personnel.

Lieutenant John Hicklin of the Toledo Public Schools Dept of Public Safety and Deputy Sheriff Sonya Randall, of the Lucas County Sheriff's office partnered with NANBPWC Inc., to bring awareness and answer questions to help high school students become more knowledgeable. Over 80 students from the Cotillion Debutantes, Deb's N Waiting, Escorts and Youth Club



Wilma Brown

*... continued on page 12*

