

Volume 57, No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

**September 25, 2019** 



Rev. James H Willis, Sr\_ Joseph Sommerville, PhD and Olivia Sommerville

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# **Quest for Black Empowerment**

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor

Say it loud, I'm black and I'm proud!

- James Brown



He grew up in the shadow of the iconic World Theater and black businesses such as The Spot Restaurant, Jimmie's Shoe Clinic, The M&L Bar, and Dorr Dance Hall. On his way to and from school he would often walk past the offices of black lawyers, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. (A&P) and an abundance of other enterprises along Dorr Street while the lyrics of James Brown's black empowerment anthem blared from Art's Gold Coast Record Shop: "Uh, with your bad self; Look a'here, some people say we got a lot of malice, Some say it's a lotta nerve. I say we won't quit moving Til we get what we deserve. We've been [re]buked and we've been scorned. We've been treated bad, talked about just as sure as you're born. But just as sure as it take, Two eyes to make a pair, we can't quit until we get our share. Say it Loud. I'm Black and I'm proud."

Many decades later, the great Dorr Street now "Sings it low. We're Black and Poor," the result of "urban removal." Yet, the mission of incumbent District 1 City Councilman Tyrone Riley, the boy who grew up there and knows the area like the back of his hand, is to "protect, build and save the community" and as much as possible, return the community to its former glory.

A candidate for a third and final term, Riley feels that he has some unfinished business left before he leaves office and agreed to speak to me about his life experiences and candidacy.

**Perryman:** Thank you for agreeing to speak with us. Let's begin by talking about your formative experiences, including growing up.

**Riley:** I remember growing up in the Smith Park area as a child and we lived there until I graduated college. In fact, we lived there for 20 years and still own the house on the corner of Oakwood and Waite. Yeah, so talking about stability and feeling secure and knowing the surroundings, knew it like the back of my hand.

I graduated from Jessup W. Scott High School in the class of 1974 and went to Kent State University, graduating in the spring of 1978. But during that period of time when I was 17 and 18, I worked summers for the City of Toledo in the sanitation department behind the garbage trucks and that's what helped pay my way through school.

**Perryman:** So, you rode on the back of the garbage trucks?

**Riley:** Not only rode on the back of the garbage trucks, but I also threw cans. You're talking about somebody being in the best shape of their life. I had to be up at 6:00 in the morning throwing those cans and kicking them to the curb.

That was my introduction to the City of Toledo, and after Kent State I went on to law school, graduating from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Perryman:** I was attending the University of Toledo on May 4, 1970 when four unarmed student protesters were shot and killed and others injured at Kent State by the Ohio National Guard. You followed right on the heels of that. Did you experience any of Kent's activist spirit?

Riley: Absolutely. When I got to Kent, the activism culture was still present and alive. We were called the Berkeley of the Midwest and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and all of those organization had groups on campus.

**Perryman:** Did you participate in any of



Toledo Councilman Tyrone Riley

**Riley:** When I was there, the administration wanted to build a gym on the site where the 4 kids were killed and at that point in time the students took over the administration building because they were protesting and wanted to maintain the memorial. So yes, and plus my major was political science too! That was a special time of my life.

I then went on to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for law school and also worked with the Louisiana legislature as an intern.

When I got back here in '83, I started working for Casey Jones in the Ohio General Assembly for about four or five years, then started practicing law. I practiced law exclusively until being elected to City Council in 2011.

**Perryman:** How have all of these experiences shaped your role as a council person?

**Riley:** My time at Kent State and in the Ohio General Assembly, that type of activism has stayed with me throughout and has helped me to, I believe, be a better council person. One of the things that we made sure of, for instance, is the new Mott Branch Library where 32 percent of the work was done by minorities. In building Promedica's new downtown headquarters location we had between 12 percent and 15 percent minority workers. So, we want to make sure that those things continue to happen while at the same time ensure that the advancement and promotion of minority businesses still exist.

**Perryman:** What are your thoughts on recent complaints of bias concerning black recruits in the Toledo Fire Department?

**Riley:** Ever since the federal court order and consent decree several years ago it has always been a challenge to get minority representation in the police

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# The Sojourner's Truth

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

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Becky McQueen - Business Manager

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604 Phone 419-243-0007 thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com www.thetruthtoledo.com

# **Community Calendar**

#### October 10

Toledoans United for Social Action Core Team Meeting: 6 to 7:30 pm; Parkwood Seven Day Adventist Church; Discussion on Tenant Blacklisting; Community members are invited to share their stories

#### October (

St. Marks MBC 64th Women's Day: 11 am speaker Mother Betty Johnson of St. Marks; 4 pm speaker Vera Sanders of Ebenezer Baptist; "Stand on Faith and Hope Knowing that God Is Almost There"

#### October 12-13

St. Marks MBC Men's Day Weekend: Saturday at 10 am panel discussion "On Domestic Violence" with Lucas County Division of Domestic Violence; Guest speaker Elgin Rogers of LC Auditors Office; Sunday morning service at 11 am

#### October 23

UT's "Tricks Treats & Dunks:" 6 to 8 pm; Savage Arena; Trick or treat for kids from 6 to 7 pm; Costume contest at 7; Rockets players at various games



# **Recognizing PFC Wilbur Lewis**

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Councilman Tyrone Riley and Toledo City Council recognized PFC Wilbur Lewis for bravery and heroism for events that occurred at Fort Bragg, N.C. on June 6, 1956.

PFC Lewis was involved in a mass parachute jump as part of a demonstration organized by the 82nd Airborne division for General Ne Win, Chief of Staff of the Burmese Armed Forces.

PFC Lewis reacted quickly when he realized that his buddy Private Charles P. Harper's chute was prevented from opening and he successfully caught the shrouds in mid-air and brought them back to earth with no injury.

PFC Lewis was recommended by Capt. Curtis Watters, public information officer at Fort Bragg for the Soldier's Medal for his actions that day.

"What you did is what people dream of doing," commented Riley as he praised the former city employee for his bravery.

Riley's connection with Lewis goes back decades. As a college student, Riley worked for a time with the City of Toledo's sanitation department and Lewis was his supervisor.

"Because of your actions and consideration of how you approached me, I was able to graduate college," Riley told the former Libbey student and 82nd Airborne parachutist.

Councilman Tyrone Riley and Toledo City Council recognized the actions of PFC Wilbur Lewis in saving the life of PFC Charles P. Harper that day in 1956 and noted that on all occasions he served his country with bravery and heroism



Lewis medals





Councilman Tyrone Riley and his colleagues present plaque to Wilbur Lewis



Wilbur Lewis

# Toledo Community Foundation Announces New Program Officer

Keith Burwell, president of Toledo Community Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce the addition of Artisha Lawson, Program Officer, to the Foundation team.

Lawson comes to the Foundation from the Erie Shores Council Boy Scouts of America, where she was the Senior District Executive managing volunteer relationships for the District, Council and community. Through her previous employment, she gained experience with fundraising and program development at local nonprofit organizations including Aurora Project, Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity and Padua Center.



Artisha Lawson

 $Laws on\ reports\ to\ Senior\ Program\ Officer, Patrick\ Johnston.$ 

"Artisha brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be an asset to the Foundation and, specifically, the Program Department," said Johnston. "Her understanding of the local nonprofit community and prior experience cultivating those relationships will aid in her work with the Foundation."

Lawson received a Masters of Organizational Leadership from Lourdes University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Central State University.

Toledo Community Foundation, Inc. is a public charitable organization created by citizens of our community to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families in our area. In existence since 1973, the Foundation has more than 860 funds with assets of approximately \$300 million. The Foundation provides philanthropic services for individuals, families, businesses and corporations to meet their charitable giving needs. For more information about Toledo Community Foundation, visit www.toledocf.org or follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

# JumpStart Already Making an Impact in Toledo

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

These days many people believe they need a lot of money to start a business or prove a concept. Well, there is a new organization in town called JumpStart and they are turning that way of thinking completely on its head.

Many people are guilty of similar thinking yet are fascinated with watching shows like Shark Tank, the Profit and the like. Thankfully, JumpStart gives practical advice for planning your business, starting it, marketing it, and running it post-launch too! And right here in Ohio.

"Back in the early 2000's the business and philanthropic community in Cleveland, Ohio came together with the idea of creating a new kind of non-profit focused specifically on early-staged tech-companies. The community's reasoning for doing that was from 1990-2002 Northeast Ohio, according to Entrepreneur Magazine, was one of the least entrepreneurial communities in the United States. The community wanted to figure out a new approach that could stimulate innovation and small business growth," says Ray Leach, CEO., in the company's introductory video.

"JumpStart is the first venture development organization of its kind, combining the principles of private venture capital and non-profit economic development to help entrepreneurs start and grow their business," shared Nick Worner, senior manager of Communication.

JumpStart was founded in 2004. The original focus was to coach entrepreneurs by finding 15-20 of the most promising first-time local entrepreneurs while investing an average of \$450k into each business.

Their work is now focused on three core areas:

First, making investments by funding tech entrepreneurs and select program graduates with capital to grow their startup businesses quickly.

Next, JumpStart provides technical assistance helping high-potential businesses solve problems, drive growth and create jobs within communities.

Finally, they invigorate businesses by acting as intermediary, working on behalf of private, public and philanthropic funders eager to assist entrepreneurs.

Things really got exciting in 2008 when a series of funders came to Jump-Start and encouraged a broader ecosystem approach. Their new focus would be inclusion on assisting business owners in urban or rural communities. Through state funding and help from dozens of economic development organizations, both early stage entrepreneurs and those needing to scale their already successful ventures, were included.

In 2011 JumpStart expanded into working with a range of national foundations and the U.S. government. These collaborations aid them in helping leaders learn new, innovative ways of thinking while creating a diverse support chain for companies within their local region.

A new set of initiatives was introduced in 2014. A focus on inner-city, non-tech entrepreneurs, as well as small businesses located in poor and disconnected rural communities, was added to JumpStart's objective.

"Since our inception, we've engaged more than 5,470 companies; 51 percent were led by women; 44 percent were led by people of color," explains Worner to The Truth.

JumpStart truly unlocks the full potential of diverse entrepreneurs to eco-



Zobaida Falah and the Grand Prize







Nilanna Thompson

Blair Johnson

Wes Grudzien

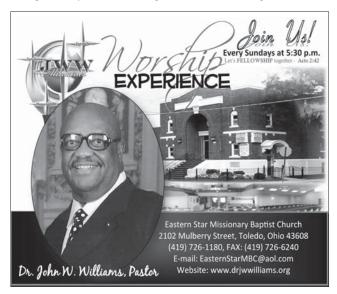
nomically transform their own communities. Whether you are looking for investment capital, technical assistance or both, they're ready to help you.

You can stay abreast to what this organization is doing in your community by following their social media accounts and supporting their events. The information they provide is very similar to information one can learn in those very expensive four-day business workshops, for FREE!

"After attending the Northwest Ohio Impact Entrepreneur Showcase, I cannot help but feel empowered! The practical, logical advice presented by the judges alone was invaluable advice for anyone who wants to start their own business," stated an Impact Program showcase attendee.

If you are an aspiring small business owner, attending JumpStarts's Entrepreneur Showcase might be the muse you are looking for to inspire you.

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#### JumpStart... continued from page 5

"Tonight, the entrepreneurs will showcase their progress and their intended impact on NW Ohio," stated Ocie Irons, JumpStart Senior Partner, and master of ceremonies at Toledo's First Cohort of the IMPACT Program last week.

"Five high potential businesses here in the Greater Toledo area were selected to participate in this program. The competition tonight is the culmination of this portion of these owners' journey. This 12 week intensive program has helped them understand not only the businesses they are developing and creating but also about themselves and how they interact to make their vision come true," said Ocie to attendees.

JumpStart's Impact Program focuses on business advising, industry specific mentoring and collaborative learning. This 12-week intensive program is designed for entrepreneurs to establish a strong network of support from peers, advisors and instructors.

The first sessions focus on understanding the market and the value their business brings to the marketplace. Then they look at their competition and the things their customer base will expect for total satisfaction. By week four investor pitches begin. In week five cohorts learn marketing strategies on presenting their product or service to the public, that lead to long term success. In weeks six-12 cohorts learn how to measure progress over the course of time with things like key performance indicators, financial projections and structuring their work in the SMART way while preparing for The Pitch Competition.

1st Place Prize: \$10,000 and the other 4 Graduates Win: \$2500!

No one walks away empty handed and aside from the financial impact, you will walk away with lifelong nuggets of information or experience to successfully promote your business.

This organization's ability to interconnect diverse entrepreneurs, investors and business experts is impressive. They are leveraging innovation and inclusion to fill gaps in smart and effective ways.

JumpStart also empowers business owners who are not getting monetary investments with fundamental ideas and strategies that can be used immediately, proving to be extremely valuable to over 5,470 businesses and counting.

"If you know someone that can use some business advising, tell them to apply to nwo@jumpstartinc.org. Our business advising includes direct consulting. Let us know what you are trying to accomplish, and what your goals are, and we will help walk you through the steps of accomplishing those goals," states Kenny Farrar, JumpStart's Deal Flow Associate.

"We are all interconnected in this world. Ecosystems exist in life and business; a six degrees of separation to some degree. Six degrees of separation is the idea that all people are six, or fewer, social connections away from each other. As a result a network chain can be made to connect any two people in a maximum of six steps."

Now that you know all about JumpStart they need your help! To economical-

ly transform entire communities they need the community to spread the word. Let's put the six degrees of separation to the test. Their mission of unlocking the full potential of diverse and ambitious entrepreneurs, is in part, up to you. You help to create Impact. SHARE this information! Share your ideas. Share your



Moni Featchurs

businesses. Share with your community.

Here's to our next success story because you did!

Congratulations to NW Ohio Impact Program Graduates - Cohort I:

Nilanna Thompson: "Nailed By Nilanna" Moni Featchurs: "Premier Screenings" Wes Grudzien: "Marketplace Ninjas" Blair Johnson: "BMJ Enterprises"

Zobaida Falah: "Cure" (GRAND PRIZE WINNER)

# Perryman... continued from page 2

and fire department. I think Chief Brian Byrd is moving us in the right direction. However, I think the way that the young lady Adebisi's situation was handled was, not only unfair to her, but also unfair to the community because of the history with the fire department. The situation was not properly handled. I don't think that you allow someone to achieve that level of participation and training and then remove them just before graduation.

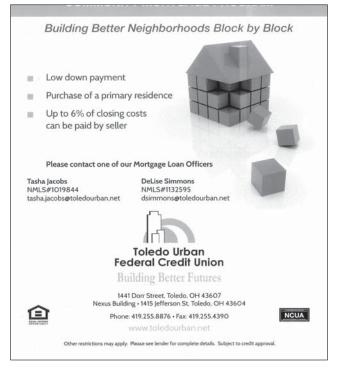
I think that Chief Byrd bears some responsibility for the way it was handled, even though he may have been listening to other staff members. The buck ultimately stops at his desk.

**Perryman:** Please address the relationship between the community and the police department amid complaints about policing tactics and accusations of excessive force.

**Riley:** One of the things that we have to do on a continual basis is have police training, especially when you have officers who probably are not experienced and are required to come into contact with people of different races. The police department has a responsibility to conduct themselves in a professional manner and not overreact to certain situations that they find themselves in. We've seen it far too often where the officers have used excessive force to handle a situation so I think the best way to approach it is with training and

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# Braden United Methodist Church Celebrates 111 Years In Service to the Local Community

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

You may have seen the stately brick structure anchored with monumental white pillars at the top of a grand staircase. On its side, along a portion of I-75, it bears the name in bold letters "Braden United Methodist Church."

The church, which sat at the corner of Lawrence and Woodruff, was in the center of the city, surrounded by families young and old, with varying professions and diverse in age. In its prime, youth filled this space, roaming through the halls, up and down the stairways-in and throughout the classrooms for any number of activities including Vacation Bible School, The Toledo Ecumenical Youth Council, or even the youth choir.

Young brides dreamt of walking down the aisle in fairytale fashion to marry their "Prince" surrounded by family and friends.

This is the Braden many Toledoans know and love. That Braden is now called "Old Braden" since it has been relocated to a new space within the last decade after mounting repairs were needed in the building.

"New Braden" has now been a resident of the Reynolds Corner area since 2009 and sits next door to the Inverness Club where an annual Independence Day celebration is held, as the church hosts a community picnic complete with food and games.

Through the years, Braden has seen many changes, having had two previous locations in Toledo as well as several pastors who have served the congregation, the church is now entering a new season.

Welcoming new pastor, Rev. Cecil J. Fitzgerald Thompson and his wife, Kim one year ago, was a new beginning for Braden, as it is common in the United Methodist Church to transfer pastors to new congregations to take them to their next spiritual destination.

Rev. Thompson came to Toledo from Columbus, Ohio and is a vision-leader with a heart for the people of God and bridging the gap between church and community. He is purposed to equip people for service to fulfill the great commission of sharing the love and light of Christ beyond the walls of the church. His focus is on faith-building by the word of God and elevating the worship experience to develop a deeper connection in fellowship with Christ and one another.

This vision is forging a new direction for members of Braden and the local community. Homecoming, (what is considered at Braden's Anniversary) is Sunday, October 13 at 10:30 AM, with Sis. Kathy Haynes Moore, wife of Braden's former pastor, Roland Moore, as the speaker.

This year's Homecoming theme is "Welcome Home" in conjunction with Pastor Thompson's vision to give an "extraordinary welcome" to anyone who visits or returns to the church. He realizes that there are many factors that keep people from attending church on a regular basis – from work schedules to children's athletic obligations and even unresolved conflict within themselves or someone else – the latter being a major barrier today for many latent church goers.

This new season is not just autumn, but it's Homecoming Season for middle, high school and colleges around the country. It is a season of celebration, community engagement and even fundraising. Braden is now in the midst of their 2019 Homecoming Season, opening it with a Friends & Family (dress down) Day followed by a Tailgate fellowship.

The season continued with "Spirit Week", a week-long set of activities that included Crafternoon, a two-hour workshop where mesh wreaths, upcycled purses and body scrubs were made. There were two "picture

days" where members were photographed for a new member directory and a Friday Night Line dance where the most popular "hustles" were taught.

The week ended with Spirit Sunday, a pep rally of sorts, where the service was filled with praise and worship, a powerful message and music by guest Psalmist Whitney Jones. Members wore Homecoming t-shirts and even took their first congregation "selfie". It is little things like the selfie that sparked the interest of youth and young adults who often decrease their attendance due to school and work obligations.

Learning how to reach people where they are is different today than it was for church 20 years ago. There are a number of ways in which churches now measure engagement, and they include the digital age of outreach

The church has launched an online newsletter, live streaming of weekly sermons from their Facebook page, a new youtube channel and has increased their utilization of social media such as Twitter and Instagram. These tools become vehicles to let people know about events happening at the church as well as sending messages of love and hope to those who seek it

In addition to Spirit Week at Braden, the congregation held their first Total Wellness Health Fair, sponsored by Costco, Sam's Club and a number of Community Health Partners. The health fair served members of



Braden Spirit Day





the community providing screenings for glucose (blood sugar), weight management/diabetes education, stroke and skin cancer screenings.

The Toledo Fire Department supported the event by bringing an engine and sharing fire and emergency safety tips and there were approximately 25 volunteers. Also, they have rolled out faith and fellowship-building

classes as well as preparing for their annual

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# Forbidden Fruit Makes Many Jams

Bring your kids up biblically!
Sunday 10:30 AM
Wednesday 7:00 PM
Flanders Rd Church of Christ
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# **EP Legacy Cup Third Annual Golf Scramble**

About 30 golfers took part in a foursome golf scramble at Valley- \$500, \$200 and \$100. wood Golf Course on Friday, September 20 as part of the third annual EP Legacy Cup to raise funds to support community charities that focus on children and education.

Although it's the third year for the event, this was the first year under the EP name – EP for Empowering People. "We changed the name because we wanted to branch out to a broader audience," said Rev. Jerry Boose, pastor of Second Baptist Church and the event's chief organizer.

After the scramble, the golfers relaxed in the club's dining room for a buffet lunch and to receive the news of prizes. The three foursomes which finished with the lowest scores shared gifts and winnings of

The three main charities benefiting from the funds this year were: Connecting Kids to Meals, a local nonprofit that provides over 500,000 healthy meals to at-risk kids annually; Swanton Schools Backpacks for Buddies, a parent and teacher-led group that provides weekend meals to hungry students at their schools and the J.L. Boose Scholarship Fund which provides financial awards to students who are pursuing post-high school education.

This year's primary sponsors were: Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority - the Crystal Sponsor and the following Diamond Sponsors: Neighborhood Health Association, Designetics, First Federal Bank, CBD 4 Real, Hemp 4 Real and Taylor Automotive Family.



Volunteers Susie Brown, Brianna Bergman, Vera Armstrong, Helen Brown



Wendi Huntley, Executive Director of Connecting Kids to Meals; Rev. Jerry Boose; Demetria Simpson, Executive Director of LMHA



Kevin Dean - of the 1st place winners, and Rev. **Boose** 





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# Fraternity Honors Member With Named Scholarship

Tricia Hall

The Sojourner's Truth reporter

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Xi Tau Chapter established a collegiate scholarship to honor current fraternity member and mentor, Joseph Sommerville, PhD. The fraternity organized a fall classic amateur golf tournament dinner on Monday, September 16, 2019 at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania.



Rev. James H Willis, Sr\_ Joseph Sommerville, PhD and Olivia Sommerville



Ervin Arney, Keith Jordan, Dana Taylor



Roger Myers, Alan Bannister, David Menefee



Stan Crooks, Errol Rudolph, Oscar Jones



Johnnie Foster, Johnnie Jordan



Pathy Davis, Cecelia Adams, Vince Davis, Joseph Sommerville, Joey Sommerville, Olivia Sommerville, Rev. James H Willis Sr.



Doln Godfrey, Heith Woodward, Keleb King

"Dr. Sommerville is 92 years old, the oldest member in our chapter. This man has served as a mentor to all of us, in one capacity or another. He's wise and overall great guy. We wanted to organize this golf scholarship tournament to commemorate his greatest passion, education," explained Vince Davis.

Vince Davis, immediate basileus emeritus (past president) served as dinner moderate. The dinner program opened with a prayer delivered by Rev. James H. Willis, Sr., pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church; where Dr. Sommerville is a member. Toledo City Council member Cecelia Adams, PhD presented a City of Toledo proclamation; and words of gratitude were shared by Crystal Ellis and Jeff Rollins, former students of Dr. Sommerville and current chapter president Alan Bannister.

"I am pleased that my fraternity has sponsored this tournament for students in need. It delights me that I was chosen to encourage these students to press on, and accomplish great things in their lives. This is the first tournament of this nature and I hope to see many more to come because we have so many students in need, which can benefit from this scholarship," said Dr. Sommerville.

The golf tournament was organized by the chapter's committee: Alan Bannister, Vince Davis, Keith Jordan, David Menefee, Eldon Payne, and

... continued on page 11



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#### Questions

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# Friends Help Michael Ashford Celebrate His Birthday

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, September 14, about 45 guests stopped by the house on Collingwood Blvd where Ruth and Michael Ashford have held forth for 17 years, entertaining, during those years, a variety of friends, political associates, colleagues. On this particular occasion, the guests were there to celebrate former State Representative Michael Ashford's birthday.

A DJ played old favorites all night long and guests dined on a variety of foods such as fresh fruit, ribs, chicken wings, salmon and grilled veggies Michael Ashford performing the chores on the grill.



Karen and Mike Craig, Weldon Douthitt, Jean Holden-Hanna and Harvey Hanna





Harvey Hanna and Councilman Gary Johnson







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Michael Ashford

Braden United Methodist... continued from page 7

Fall Extravaganza, a prayer breakfast presented by the United Methodist Women.

When looking ahead at Braden, this Homecoming season has set forth several activities that may continue throughout the year, giving members and people of the community a safe and welcoming place to have fun, share love and grow in knowledge and faith. These efforts are embedded in the life of Braden, as they have always been a church of innovative engagement, having a number of local and professional leaders who offer their expertise and experience to create programming that serves others in a meaningful way.

Braden's Fall Extravaganza will be held Saturday, September 28th at 9:30 AM and tickets are \$15 in advance. Guest speakers will be praying over specific topics that concern us today, then share a catered brunch by Club 300, owned and operated by Helen Cooks, PhD, a long-time Braden member and founder of Toledo Excel.

The month of September will close with a Youth & Young Adult Alumni Sunday on September 29 at 10:30 AM. All current and former Braden youth who were members or participated in community events like VBS, TEYC, Toledo Excel and other activities are encouraged to come back and celebrate with the congregation as the anniversary date approaches.

Alumni Sunday will feature guest Christian Hip Hop Artist Eternal F.I.Y.A.H, singers from Hawkins Elementary School under the direction of Dianne Stubblefield-Moore and speaker Sydney Gregory. There will be special honors and recognition of some retired leaders as well as testimonies from youth.

Braden is The West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church's only African-American congregation and the only one that is home to three retired pastors, two of them former Braden pastors, as members including Roylene Reed (wife of Rev. Albert L. Reed), Rev. and Mrs. William C. Davis, Sr., Rev. Roland and Kathy Moore. As well as the Rev. Josephine Whitley-Fields, retired UMC pastor and life-long Braden member.

Braden is also a part of the local Methodist Ministers Affiliation including Warren AME, St. Paul's AME and Phillips Temple CME, churches which connect through worship and outreach ministry year-round. This series of Homecoming events and activities is a culmination of all that Braden was and still is today. It may look different to some, but it is still faith, love and hope in action.

There is a long history of this church's doors opening to the community with open hearts and minds, welcoming people into the unconditional love and embrace of Christ, and the doors are still open. To learn more about Braden, follow them @BradenUMC on social media, or contact the church at 419-386-2700 or via email.



# **Sundresses and Big Hats Return**

The second annual Sundresses and Big Hats Day Party Fundraiser, Signature Event was held on Sunday, August 18 at the Blarney Event Center in down-

There was entertainment by the duo artists Katrina Barnhill, saxophonist and Christopher James Franks, violinist. Both played several genres of smooth sounds of music. Also available for guests were local vendors, appetizers and wine giveaways. The Best Dress Attire Winner was Debbie Harris.

This year's honoree was The Believe Center and Tonya Duran, executive director, was presented a donation of \$500.00 for community programs.

The 2019 sponsors were Taylor Automotive Family, St. Julian Winery, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper and OMG Production, Tracy Roberts. This event was hosted by Donnetta Carter, MSW, The Social Butterfly, Event Coordina-

The next event will be the eighth annual Christmas Bazaar at The Indiana Ave. MB Church in the Stephenson-Roberts Fellowship Hall 640 Indiana Ave. from 10-4 p.m. Free Admission and open to the public.





Deborah Barnett and Angela Steward



Sonja Smith, Terry Crosby of Taylor Automotive, Tonya Duran of The Belive Center







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#### Fraternity Honors.. continued from page 9

Jeffery Rollins. Gold sponsors: Don Godfrey of Toledo Retiree Golf League, and Kokosing Construction Company; Hole sponsors: Groomed for Greatness, African American Legacy Project, Toledo City Council member Cecelia Adams, State Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson, Eli Antypas Jewelers, Studio 32Nine Salon Suites & Spa, Shirley Williams of Howard Hanna Realtors, David Landrum of Omega Epsilon, Stanford Williams of Omega Psi Phi past district representative, Keith Jordan, and Marcus Newbern of Genoa Bank; and Patrons: Donald Coleman, and Jovan Burke.

"I want to thank our corporate scholarship who supported this scholarship fundraiser. Dr. Sommerville is a great inspiration to me personal, our fraternity and this community," said Alan Bannister.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded November 17, 1911 at Howard University by three undergraduate members: Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. The fraternity's Alpha chapter was established on December 15, 1911. Dr. Sommerville was initiated into the fraternity while attending Morehouse University's Psi chapter. He earned his PhD at The University of Michigan in 1969 and served as faculty at the University of Toledo for 30 years until his retirement in 1997.

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#### Perryman... continued from page 6

another solution to that problem is one of the messages that's being promoted in our community, called 'Get Home Safely'.

Perryman: Make sure you get home safely.

**Riley:** Get home safely, because situations, as we know, can quickly escalate. At the end of the day you want to get home safely, so if that means that you have to comply, then you have to comply because if another misinterprets your actions or demeanor, things can go badly.

And you do have rights, but I think the best way to assert your rights is in the court of law, because you don't want to be a statistic saying that my rights were violated. You don't want to be a statistic and your family is arguing that your rights were violated. So, my recommendation is to just focus on getting home safely

**Perryman:** Let's shift to the upcoming election. During the primary, you were the only leading candidate that didn't reach 50 percent of the votes in your district.

**Tyrone:** I'm also the only one that was involved in a five-candidate race and so I look at it as a contest, but I also look at it as the majority of voters expressed their confidence in me.

**Perryman:** You only received 43 percent of the votes cast in your district, far short of a majority.

**Riley:** Well maybe not a majority. But I appreciate those voters who expressed confidence in me.

**Perryman:** Do you expect the general election to be close?

**Riley:** I'm approaching the election as a challenge and I look forward to whoever's the opponent.

Perryman: What do you hope to accomplish should you be elected?

**Tyrone:** One of the big things that I hope to do is continue to make sure that the new Mott Branch Library and the park in which it exists is a place of destination. I think by that happening, then we can start talking about the revitalization of that entire area. There were a lot of people who did not want the library to be built in that location, but I advocated support for it and we built it there. It's now probably an \$11 million structure with a recording studio, business incubator, computer system, telecom, a lot of things as a result of the community's participation and the leadership that was provided. What we have is a flagship and I don't know of any other community in the State of Ohio that has anything like that sitting right in the heart of the African-American community.

**Perryman:** You have served on council since 2011. Are there any regrets?

Riley: No, I don't have any regrets. It's been a rewarding experience regardless of how the race turns out. And I've had an opportunity that very few people have had in that I've had to grow up and represent our community. You grow up at Smith Park and attend Martin Luther King school, you don't dream of being a City Council person or being a representative of anyone. You grow up like I did, trying to be a lawyer or doctor, but mainly you're out there on the basketball court, on the football field, on the baseball diamond and it was all about getting a place in athletics. And so, I've enjoyed the getting to know and being a part of that growth that's taken place around Smith Park. One of the things that I look proudly at, my father helped build Toledo Hospital. I can say that I was involved and played a role and helped build Mott Branch Library.

Since I began representing our community, I started the Crispus Attucks Black History Month essay contest directed towards sixth-eighth graders and

... continued on page 13

### Tolliver... continued from page 3

"I been informed by my Treasury Secretary and Commerce Secretary that local governments are not spending funds because they do not know which political party has the right or the authority to continue in power and thus pass valid legislation and to spend taxpayer monies! My advice is for everyone to wait until we get more definite news of what just transpired. If you hear reports of the Russians, the Iranians or North Korea committing these acts, do not believe it...it is FAKE NEWS. Believe only what you hear from me!"

DAY EIGHT (presidential address to the nation):

"My fellow Americans. The past few days have been very troubling to say the least. Our democracy has been attacked by unknown persons and we

have not been able to certify our cherished election results. I have repeatedly asked the Democrats, who are still engaged in the Russian Hoax, to calm down and pass legislation to fund full investigations into what has transpired.

They insist that Russian and Putin are behind these attacks. I spoke to Putin and he, in the strongest of terms, denied such involvement and since his denial was so strong, I believe him! My Director of National Intelligence has indicated that it will take at least four to six months to unravel what just transpired.

As it now stands any verifiable vote tallies for Congressional elections and the office of the Presidency are in shambles; I will do the following to restore calm and law and order:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 351: That, I Donald J. Trump, as President of these United States do hereby declare a national emergency commencing on to-day's date and ending six months from now and the following shall be enforced until further notice:

THAT, I declare null and void the recent national elections for Congress and the Office of the President due to allegations of rampant election fraud and misconduct by unknown actors.

THAT, I extend the tenure of my office of the presidency for an additional six months or until this crisis is satisfactory resolved.

THAT, I hereby deputize the National Guard of all 50 states to restore law and order and they are to be under my direct supervision or that of the Department of Homeland Security.

THAT, I direct Congress to pass emergency financial legislation to fund an investigation of what happened to our election results and I appoint Mitch McConnell to head up that investigation and he is to report back to me within six months or as more time as he deems is necessary.

THAT, I appoint my Attorney General, William Barr, to do any and all needed and necessary acts to effectuate the above provisions and he is to have plenary powers to accomplish these goals in an expedient manner. I further suspend all laws of habeas corpus and public demonstrations of more than three persons until this national emergency is resolved.

Signed,

Donald J. Trump, President

Note: minutes after this executive order is passed at a secret location in Camp David, police sirens are wailing in the background and those who are seen as detractors from this executive order are being picked up for questioning of their involvement in this election debacle.

And, in Moscow, Putin watches all of this from his CNN hookup, smiles, takes another sip of chilled Champagne and quietly utters, "Donald, you are the best useful idiot ever!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



# The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You can't breathe.

There's really no describing the panic when that happens. Your ribs struggle to rise, your chest feels like it's being stomped, you're on fire, and your brain screams. Your arms flail. Your hands grasp at nothing, and then – ahhhhh, you gasp. And in the new

c.2019 One World \$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada 416 pages

novel, *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, nothing's better than the first breath of freedom's air.

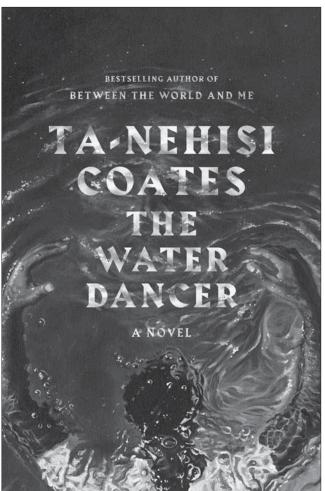
Hiram was drowning.

One minute, he was in the carriage and the next, he and the horse were struggling in the water. Oddly, though, the lack of breath, seeing his half-brother float away, tasting mud on the riverbanks, none of that bothered him. He thought he saw his mother dancing on the bridge, but she was sold away years ago; the water felt familiar but everything did, all the time. Hi grew up knowing he had a gift that allowed him to see his ancestors and to remember everything, and this drowning was one of those things.

He woke up in a bed wearing fresh clothes that belonged to his half-brother, Maynard. Hi's father – the man who owned him – was weeping because Maynard was lost, and Hi realized then that whatever relationship he'd had with his white father was over.

His life at the great house on Virginia's Lockless Plantation, over. That his father looked the other way when Hiram showed interest in Sophia, a housegirl Hi delivered every weekend to his father's brother for reasons Hi preferred not to think about... done. His whole life was spent as a Tasker for people who owned him, toiling for Quality folk and thinking that if he did the right things, he'd be rewarded with some sort of equality or freedom or....

Or he'd been fooling himself.



He'd never be equal to the Quality. He'd never love who he wanted to love, or know for certain that he'd never be sold Natchezway. And that meant just one thing.

It was time to run.

Hunched over. That's what you'll be with The Water Dancer: hunched over as you read, to protect your heart from this story and because the anticipation of what's to come is too much to handle if you're upright.

Using a little magic, the full meaning of which may not become totally clear until nearly the end of this tale, author Ta-Nehisi Coates captivates readers with language rich and reminiscent of poetry or song. The beauty of those words is calming-not-calming,



Ta-Nehisi Coates

like lying on a fresh-smelling, springy bed of moss on the edge of quiet woods, waiting to hear heavy footsteps you know are coming. Cue the ominous music, but don't think that this is a horror novel. No, it's more of an escape-novel-thriller-love-story-drama-history with a cast of characters that couldn't seem more real.

One of them, in fact, was real so look for her and don't worry if the plot of this book doesn't make sense at first; it will soon enough. Just settle, let the words wash in, and *The Water Dancer* will knock the breath out of you.

#### Perryman.. continued from page 12

ninth-12th grade students. We've given out over \$3200 in prize money to kids who have participated. I created Smith Fest, another rewarding activity where we've given away 600 brand new bikes to kids in the community. I've done the construction career fair where we try to bring our partners from the skilled trades together with our youth in order to give youth exposure to the skilled trades. I can go on and on.

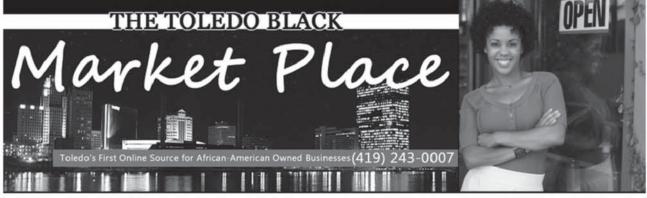
And, I've also introduced a variety of legislation to help protect the community. We introduced that legislation that requires anyone that wishes to establish an internet café first must obtain permission from the community; legislation to prevent storing used cars in residential areas; and, legislation is currently pending to make Family Dollar and Dollar General stores subject to the same spacing requirements as convenience stores. I'm just out there trying to protect the community, build the community and trying to save the community and that's the mission.

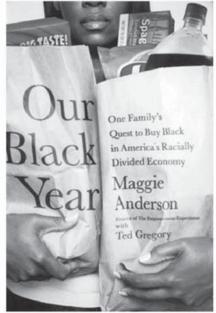
So, I will say this, there have been challenges along the way and I've personally experienced some growth and development but I've enjoyed the experience. But, no, there are no regrets.

**Perryman:** I appreciate you taking the time.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, DMin, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org













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# **CLASSIFIEDS**

September 25, 2019

Page 15

### MEET, GREET, SHOP & SING! WITH DJ MISS T

at The Truth Art Gallery 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH Sunday October 20th, 2019, 2pm-6pm (Vendors, Poetry, and Karaoke) No cover charge. Stop by and say hi!

# DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Special Programs (Emerging Young Ladies and Padua Potters Garden Club) and co-leader of the After School tutoring program. The successful candidate will be skilled at designing programs and engaging young women and men in active involvement. A degree in education or social work is required. The position will be hourly, some Saturdays, with benefits. Please submit your resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com by September 20. Job description is available upon request.

#### BLACK & BROWN UNITY COALITION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

THE BLACK & BROWN Unity Coalition is seeking an Executive Director with a commitment to improving the human condition of those underserved in our community, a passion for community outreach to achieve our goals and objectives

The Executive Director is the key management leader of the Black/Brown Unity Coalition. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the administration, project management and strategic plan of the organization. Other key duties include fundraising, marketing, and community organizing. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors.

For more information please contact: Mrs. Juanita Greene

@ 419-255-0097 First Church of God, 3016 Collingwood Blvd. Toledo Oh. 43610 email fco-goffice@bex.net

### **TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY**

TLAS Fellowship Program is hiring up to six attorneys in Lucas County, Ohio. Successful candidates must be licensed with the Ohio Supreme Court. Graduates from an accredited college of law who are awaiting Ohio bar results will be considered for the program. Please see http://www.nlada.org/node/27416 for a more detailed description. Email cover letter and resume by October 11, 2019 to: ToledoLegalAidSociety@Yahoo.com

# SNOW PLOW OPERATORS WITH VEHICLES

The City of Toledo, Streets, Bridges, & Harbor Division is interested in contracting with owners/ operators of snow plow vehicles for plowing on residential streets during heavy snow conditions. All bids must be received by 1:30 PM October 22nd, 2019. For a copy of the bid proposals and specifications visit https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22576 or contact:

STREETS, BRIDGES, & HARBOR 1189 W. Central Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43610 PHONE: 419-245-1589

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Educational Requirements: Bachelor's Degree from a recognized college or university. Also, prefer at least, 2-5 years experience working: in social work and/or an Alcohol/Drug Prevention Program.

Computer expertise in Microsoft Office, which includes Word, Excel, and Publisher; have the ability to work some evening and weekend hours as needed; Ability to write clearly and concisely and to work independently. Ability to work with youth from diverse backgrounds. Must have reliable transportation and pass a background check

If interested, please send resume and cover letter by September 25, 2019 to: jspangler@bbbsnwo.org

#### PRODUCER:

WGTE Public Media seeks a full-time, Producer to coordinate, acquire, and edit short and long form videos as well as live studio and field productions.

Previous experience in videography and digital editing required. Experience with Adobe Premiere, After Effects, Final Cut Pro, and directing/ technical directing strongly preferred. Candidate must be willing to work a flexible work schedule, including evenings and weekends.

Bachelor's degree in a field such as liberal arts, radio & television broadcasting or journalism preferred; or a minimum of an Associate's degree in a related field, or two years related experience and/or training required. A valid driver's license is required.

Send your cover letter and résumé to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614, or employment@wgte.org. EOE/ADA

# PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY MINI-GRANT CYCLE

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) is seeking proposals for our upcoming Community Mini-Grant Cycle. Interested grassroots organizations that provide services to the population that MHRSB serves are encouraged to apply. Services can include programming that offers skills, strengths, resources, supports, or coping strategies. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on October 24, 2019. Direct all questions to netmail@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. A complete description of the "Request for Proposal" and information on upcoming Grant Writing Workshops can be found at http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/.

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The REAL BLACK FRIDAY TOLEDO! Black Business Expo is conveniently located within the central city of Toledo at The New Life Center on the campus of Bethlehem Baptist Church. This attractive, secure, one-level building offers 7,000 square Ft. of opportunity for vendors to have a wonderful and interactive experience with convenient and easy to access parking. The event is inside and will take place come rain or shine!

The event will take place November 29, 2019, from 11:00am until 5:00pm. Early bird registration is open now and you can take advantage of a 25% discount on the purchase of your table until September 27, 2019. Tables are limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to sell on the hottest shopping day of the year. Visit www.ivinstitute.org to register.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Ivy Entrepreneur Institute at 419-989-6771.



# Momentum 2019 - A Weekend of Dancing, Singing, Visual Arts

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The 2019 Momentum festival hosted by the Toledo Arts Commission and sponsored by ProMedica took to the streets and Promenade Park September 19-21 featuring dancing, singing, film, glass works and a host of visual arts in a wide assortment of media.





The fun began on Thursday evening with an array of ethnic, contemporary, traditional and interactive dance performances in the downtown and warehouse district including Mawtini Dabkeh Troupe, We R Hip Hop, the Aegela Center for Middle Eastern Dance, the Scott High School Marching Band Dancers ad many more.





At that same time, Rhonda Sewell of Toledo Lucas County Library and Reginald Temple of First Federal Bank, both members of the Arts Commission board, held an event – Step Out 4 Art – at20 N. Gallery for local members of African-American organizations to participate in the Art Loop. The Step Out 4 Art brought together Black Frog Brewery with liquid refreshment and J'Mae's Home Cooking for snacks on the same street as much of the dancing and the performance by the Scott High School and University of Toledo marching bands – the vision of Jason Stumbo of UT and Candice Harrison of TPS.



Reggie Temple, John Jones, Kendra Smith, Jason Daniels, Rhonda Sewell, Rodney Eason, Micheal Alexander



Film screenings in Promenade Park with the Supernova Digital Animation Festival and the Momentum Intersection – the debut of new works be the Alibi Studio, Sean Merchant and Zac Weinberg in their collaboration of the artistic medium of glass and the manufacturing processes.

On Friday temporary arts projects were on view but the highlight of the festival, Chaka Khan, was on stage during the evening.

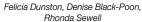




Visiting Author Deborah Porter

Saturday's grand finale was indeed grand with a Festival Park schedule that included T.H.E Modern Dance Company, the Toledo Opera, the UT Rocket Steelband, the Toledo Symphony and Bitch, Thunder.







Tonya Rider, Diana Patton, Sandra Osby

In Promenade Park Latin jazz, Middle Eastern dance, local hip-hop and r & b, chamber pop, reggae, gospel, Tejano all took the stage along with the UT High School Honors Orchestra.





UT High School Symphony Orchestra

At Imagination Station, the Toledo Mini Maker Faire presented more than 25 diverse makers with demonstrations and hands on activities – a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness.