

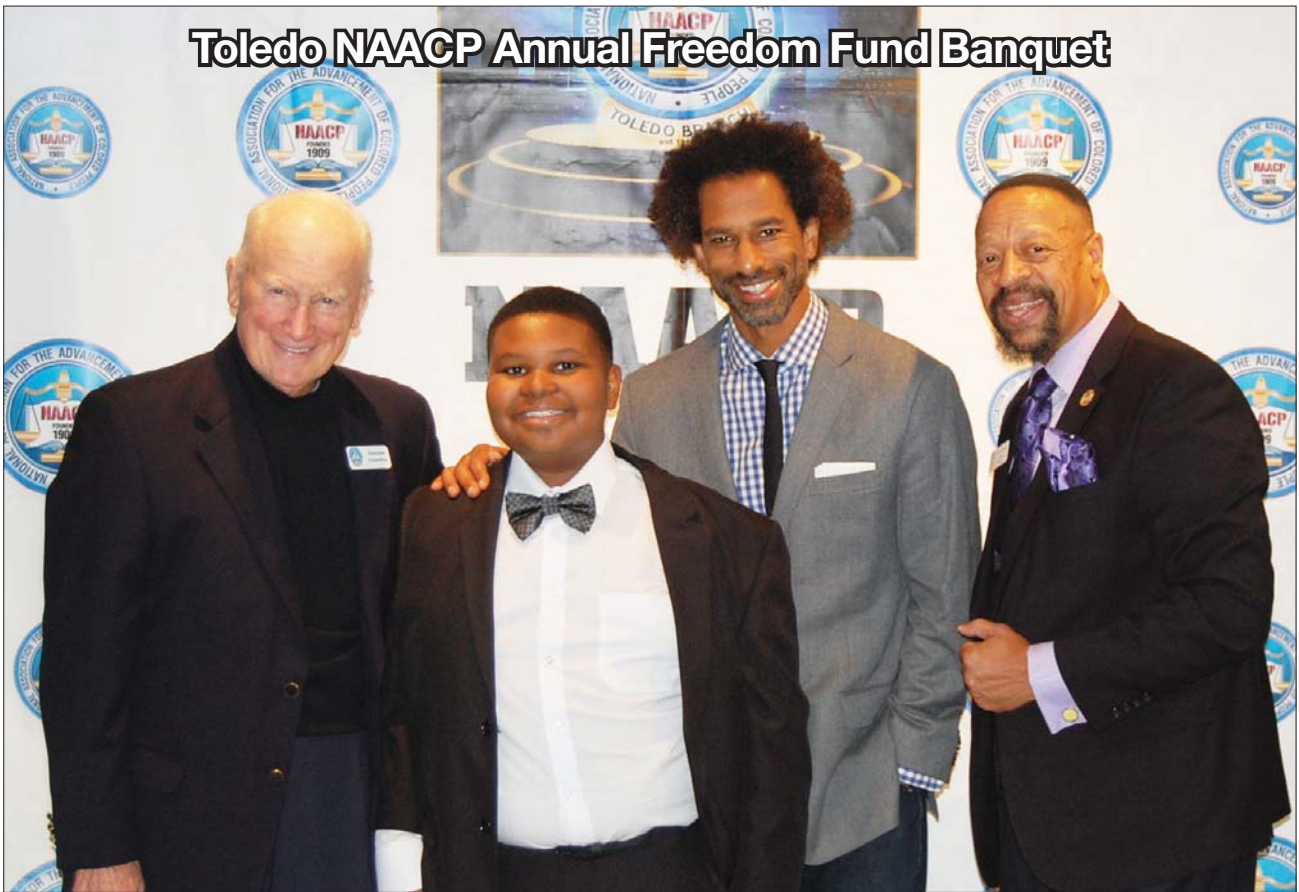
The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 58, No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 30, 2019

Toledo NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Banquet



Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Jaden Jefferson, Toure, NAACP President Ray Wood

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A Late Peek

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor

I endured the personal humiliation of being vilified as the “madwoman” with the strange name, strange hair—you know what that means—and with the strange ideas. Those ideas being that all people deserve equal representation.

—Lani Guinier



After a seemingly endless campaign season, we are finally less than a week away from the general election to be held in Toledo on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

As we approach the homestretch, it is “all over but the shouting” for many of the political contests, as the outcomes appear to be fairly certain. In others, however, the conditions are ripe for a surprise.

In today's column I take a late look at how a few contests are poised to shape up on election day.

Toledo City Council Winners:

District One: Tyrone Riley

Riley failed to get a majority of the vote total in the primary election. If the 57 percent of the people who previously voted against Riley now cast a ballot for his opponent Shaun Strong in the general, this could be a close race. Although Riley has been known to ‘shoot himself in the foot’ politically, Strong has also recently been the victim of unnecessary self-inflicted wounds of his own.

Riley has endorsements in hand from Fire Fighters Local 92, Northwest Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council, Toledo Police Patrolmen's Association, AFSCME Power in Action and Plumbers and Pipefitters Union. These endorsements and experience take Riley over the top in what could be a tight race.

District Two Matt Cherry

Cherry, current council president, is often criticized for his unconditional support of the Kapszukiewicz administration's agenda and not having command of city council's own agenda. Yet, he has the support of the Building Trades and Construction Council, who is out knocking doors for him. Labor wants Cherry on council so he wins this race with approximately 65 percent of the vote over challenger Abigail Sadowy.

District Three Theresa Gadus

Perhaps the biggest tossup of all of the current council matchups. Gadus, very civically-involved but soft-spoken, has been out knocking doors but East Toledo has been leaning more conservative over time, giving the ‘backwards-looking’ Glen Cook the potential to provide Republican representation on council. However, the word on the street is ‘the more Cook talks, the more good things come to Gadus.’ So, if Cook continues to stick his foot in his mouth, Gadus wins this contest in a close one.

District Four Yvonne Harper

This battle is a head-on collision of two old-school politicians with similar passions but different styles. Yvonne Harper, the incumbent, is perhaps more defiant and pugnacious, while the challenger June Boyd, is perhaps, a passive-aggressive pugilist whose counterpunching commentary can be sharp, cutting and effective.

I think Harper wins this race handily as a result of being in touch with the needs of her constituency. Her ‘I'm In the Community’ mantra has proved to be true as she seems to stick up for the people of her district even if her thinking on the wedge issues in her district does not always align with conventional wisdom.

District Five Sam Melden

Despite the Republicans pouring an avalanche of money into District 5, Melden has kept his nose to the grindstone by knocking on doors and, surprisingly, expressing a progressive agenda. The young politician has learned much from his previous defeats and is bringing up new issues, developing a turnout model which targets youth and talking to and about those people that might not otherwise have voice or representation.

Melden's opponent is Tom Names, a professional engineer who retired in 2014. Names feels that his understanding on issues like fixing city streets and expanding the water treatment system is a professional experience that is missing on city council.

The Republicans will turn out to support Names but Melden has expanded his campaign to include talking to anyone and anybody under the age of 40 in order to start recruiting for a new generation of leaders. Melden wins with over 60 percent of the vote.

District Six Chris Delaney

The only interesting thing about this contest is that when Delaney wins, will he then almost immediately announce that he wants to run for Lucas County Sherriff to replace the retiring John Tharp.

The retired Toledo Police officer was employed by TPD for over 30 years and his father worked as the corrections administrator for the Lucas County Jail. Delaney, the incumbent, wins this race hands down.

Toledo Public Schools:

Board Member Sheena Barnes

Representation is paramount in a school district where a majority of the students are students of color. The Toledo School Board has not had an African-American member since Randall Parker III, who was appointed in April, 2015 to replace Cecelia Adams but lost in his bid for a full term later that same year. Councilman Larry Sykes also previously served on the TPS Board through 2013.

Look for Sheena Barnes, an African-American woman, to win a spot on the Toledo School Board. Barnes is transparent and passionate and will inevitably ruffle feathers with some of the School Board's establishment. Her message around representation is important though, and will carry her through as she fights both for the students and respect for herself. I think that the TPS parents and students will appreciate it.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Community Calendar

November 1

Braden United Methodist All Saints Day Community Festival: Toledo area youth invited for an evening of fun activities, treats and prize; Friendly costumes welcome: 419-386-2700

November 16

The Junction Coalition 7th Annual Health and Wellness: 10 am to 3 pm; Frederick Douglass Center; Massage therapy, financial advice, healthy food options, medical screenings, stress tests and evaluations, disaster preparedness and water democracy: 567-255-4601 or 419-408-0998

Trump Playing the Race Card ... Again!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Of all the possible odious words that can be uttered in these United States, there are two that are jockeying for the first-place trophy in the annals of American history.

This foul word has a documented history of generating paralyzing darkness, terror, unmitigated hatred and wrath against people of color. A word whose history has coils and tentacles that reach from hundreds of years in the past to the present.

Only in America could these two vituperative twins be allowed oxygen to breath, populate and influence our culture and how we view one another.

The time in American history where America debauched itself with the African slave trade; and by strength of sheer will and brute power, America converted kidnapped Africans to that of chattel slaves.

One word we are acutely aware of and that is the unspeakable "N" word. A word that, to my great sadness, is still used by certain black ninnies who parade themselves around as if they are the savants of black history and culture and who, misguidedly believe, that they using such a vile slur means it is being defanged and re purposed for good.

Not so now and it never will be so, but I will leave that for another discussion at another time.

The current word that Herr Trump is now trying to get mileage out of in order to help his losing impeachment cause is invoking the word, "lynching" to explain how he is being treated by the Democrats.

What a load! Imagine, if you would, an extremely wealthy and ignorant white male who grew up with both a silver and gold spoon in his mouth, trying to pimp off the documented images of African Americans being lynched as being his personal political experience!

Oh, this is so rich and raw about a person who has repeatedly demonstrated that he does not possess a modicum of decorum or knowledge when it comes to discourse about the agonizing and myriad issues of race in America

Trump's potty mouth on issues of race is documented for all to see and hear. No fake news! Trump has shown a peculiar venom to debase all things black and to engage in race baiting tactics (such as using the word, lynching) in order to gin up his political base.

Regrettably that same base which, unless they denounce his use of that sor-did word now being used as a political foil, will be typecast as the howling mobs so frequently seen at the lynching of African-American males and females (yes, children were also lynched!).

Crazed and fiendish mobs of white folks that yodeled and howled to the moon when innocent black men, women and children were, without any accompanying rules of law, dragged to the nearest tree and, with or without an accompanying bonfire burning them, were murdered as if they were just a foaming mouth rabid dog.

No grace. No mercy. No last words. Just barbarism of the first order and yet this president, an embarrassment to the White House; and who possesses no sense of historical analysis,

would place himself at the center of one also being lynched!

At the center because the Democrats have chosen to uphold the rule of law over that of a con, a cheat and a fraudster and for that, Trump's sycophants in the Republican GOP Senate are willing to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to his race mongering gibberish.

Is Trump using the "L" word for his own political gain and profit?

Of course he is! What else does he know? He is an opportunist of the first degree and has no shame in debasing himself and the White House with his racist shenanigans.

Herr Trump knows the atomic bomb impact that such a word will have in the political debate about he being possibly impeached; and he tosses that "L" word out like a hand grenade and sits back to enjoy the explosion.

I contend that when historians of this abnormal time, record how a certain swath of ugly Americans chose hate over enlightenment, conspiracy theories over truth and debauchery over civility, that Trump will be properly assigned to the dust bin and his name will forever remain a reproach to any politician who would remotely consider repeating his Trumpian ways.

So, go ahead Herr Trump, resurrect the hateful images of the "L" word and spread its dung like a thick lotion on the hateful waters that you constantly churn and see what turns up on the shores.

You will be the eventual loser and regrettably America will have to bear the thick keloid scars you have inflicted for a generation to come.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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Remember to Vote Yvonne Harper Council District 4 November 5, 2019 General Election



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Letter to the Editor

Citizens of Our Great Community Deserve Better

By Councilman Tom Waniewski

When I was growing up in north Toledo off Lagrange Street, my three brothers and I fought often. We also loved each other a lot. There was something endearing, as I look back, on this sibling dichotomy that took place in our neighborhood of manicured lawns and freshly-painted wood-frame homes. But brothers being brothers, the rivalry got a bit heated occasionally inside our well-kept, two-bedroom home.

One day, when both our parents were working and my oldest brother at 13 was babysitting, things got a bit rough. In frustration over something I can no longer recall as the source, I picked up a Downy bottle to throw at my brother. It was a small, plastic, empty Downy bottle. What harm could come out of throwing a small, plastic, empty Downy bottle? Plenty as it turned out. The bottle hit my brother square in the mouth knocking out his two front teeth.

I had another Downy moment a couple of months back when, in my attempt to resolve a long-standing nuisance in the district I represent, I used an entomological term to describe the ongoing nuisance that was creating an unhealthy environment for neighbors. Next to pot holes, nuisance complaints are the largest number of calls I receive. It was the wrong choice of words. It hurt people. And I regret using it.

Since I consider myself somewhat studied in English lexicon, it seemed like the right metaphor. As harmless as an empty plastic detergent bottle. I was wrong. After meeting with Councilman Larry Sykes, and another meeting with Pastor Cedric Brock and Earl Mack of the Buffalo Soldiers, the historical context became clear. These community leaders, who have worked so hard to erase prejudices and right the ship of inequality in our community, helped me see the pain such a metaphor can bring. In other words, what I thought was a minute descriptive really wasn't at all. Never mind the fact that I painted a business climate with too broad a stroke of negativity.

I've worked a long time helping people of all races and income levels. From my volunteer work and fund-raising for non-profits, public service

has been in my DNA in the upbringing from wonderful parents and a supportive church and school system. So knowing that I had hurt others was not sitting well with me. All citizens of our great community that I love deserve better.

The community leaders with whom I've met are leading the charge and fighting the good fight. Sykes, Brock, and Mack are to be commended for their work. But there has to be more. And it has to come from me and people like me by empathizing with the inequalities and reaching out to correct it. Otherwise I'm defeating their hard work and reaching for that Downy bottle again.



Councilman Tom Waniewski

NYT Report Found That Frank LaRose's Purge "Was Wrong About 20 Percent"

The Ohio Democratic Party this week provided the Ohio Secretary of State's office with an updated public records request in response to their refusal to turn over any documents related to the voter purge that removed more than 180,000 registered voters from the rolls ahead of this year's election.

"Frank LaRose claims to value transparency, but his office is clearly stonewalling our request for information about how they handled the error-riddled voter purge they conducted this fall," said Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper. "As the New York Times documented earlier this month, it was concerned Ohioans, good government groups and voting rights advocates that caught LaRose's errors and kept him

... continued on page 12

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Local Advocates Speak out about Lead Poisoning Issue

Sojourner's Truth Staff

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was held this year from October 20 to October 26 and local advocates commemorated the occasion with a press conference and a call to the city's administration to start working now to get the appropriate legislation in place to prevent more casualties.

Members of the Toledo Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition, faith-based leaders, representatives from social justice organizations and community advocates stood at the podium with Toledo Councilman Larry Sykes and the Black and Brown Coalition on Tuesday, October 22, to vent their frustration at the current state of affairs in the city's on-again-off-again battle to rid dwellings of lead poisoning.

"Lead poisoning is not a political issue, this is a moral issue and we will do what is necessary to rectify this issue and save our children," said Bishop Robert Culp, pastor of First Church of God and co-chairman of the Black/Brown Coalition.

Since 2016, when the first lead ordinance was passed, noted Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren AME Church, an additional 1,000 children with elevated blood lead levels have been diagnosed, which only includes those who have been tested.

Lead-based paint is the most common source of lead exposure for young children and much of Toledo's older housing stock still contains lead-based paint. An estimated 3,500 children are afflicted by lead poisoning in the Toledo area, it is estimated, and between 45,000 and 60,000 homes contain such paint.

Children afflicted by lead poisoning will suffer health and cognitive development issues, and a life-time of social, educational and economic effects that will significantly impair their life outcomes and ability to succeed.

The 2016 ordinance approved by City Council was struck down by the courts as being too biased against some homeowners. Since then, according to George Thomas, an attorney with the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, enough work has been done to correct the legal deficiencies that the city administration can now go forward with the task of bringing together the interested parties to hammer out the new legislation.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine also commemorated National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week by holding two events with members of his Lead Advisory Committee – one at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital and one in Toledo at Marshall STEMM Academy, a Toledo Public School.

"We do not have to wait," wrote Sykes in the days before the press conference held by local organizations. "We and our legal counsel, ABLE, have carefully reviewed the current court case. Nothing prevents the City from passing a new ordinance that simply avoids the legal issues in that case. Lead poisoning doesn't wait for frivolous law suits and neither can we. It's our understanding that the city's law department has also concluded that City Council may proceed."



Bishop Robert Culp



Councilman Larry Sykes speaks on lead poisoning issues

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This Is Our Watch....

By Dominique Warren

The Truth Contributor

This year I had the pleasure of serving as one of a few black legislative directors for the 116th Congress in the Office of Representative Rashida Tlaib. It became all the more important when we were assigned to serve on the Committee on Oversight and Reform chaired by Elijah Cummings of Baltimore, Maryland.

I had met Chairman Cummings years before while living in West Baltimore during the uprisings after the murder of Freddie Gray. With a booming voice and stated determination to fight for justice, truth and for black liberation, he was truly inspiring, living up to his reputation as a giant among men.

I would later live a few blocks from there when I raised my daughter Lois and would often see him in the community because he was firmly rooted in Baltimore and its residents. He had a youth program that served thousands and he worked feverishly to ensure that Baltimore youth were able to reach their full potential.

He said that "our children are the living messages we send to a future that we will never see" and his service compelled him to ensure that the future was better for them.

He was a stalwart of justice, pursuer of truth. When we were asked to be on the Oversight Committee, I was overjoyed because I knew the work that we would undertake would be central to ensuring our nation and democracy was strengthened and we were defending people who could not defend themselves.

Our first hearing was on the exploding prices of prescription drugs and how Big Pharma has been profiting on the market while people were suffering without medication, dying, and going bankrupt to stay alive. He knew that the role of Congress was to serve people, not shareholders and without action, people will die due to the lack of access to life-saving medications.

My last hearing with Chairman Cummings was about the abuses of immigrant children at the hands of the Department of Homeland Security in detention facilities. Like dozens of times before, Chairman Cummings commanded



the room and demanded accountability saying that it's not just about the deeds that we do to children, but the memories of these traumatic experiences committed by the government that will remain.

He was a defender of democracy. The Committee on Oversight and Reform had a tremendous responsibility for investigating interference in the 2016 election as well as oversight of the conduct of President Trump and his administration in whether they purposely acted in ways that undermined the rule of law and democracy. This responsibility weighed heavy on the Chairman and on all of us as we were charged to pursue the truth and where that may lead us. The Chairman and his team were the best there are on the Hill and we found numerous laws broken and institutions weakened to interfere with federal elections, accountability and to inflict suffering on citizens.

He passed major legislation out of the Committee to protect elections, root out corruption and self-dealing in the federal government, and to hold elected and confirmed officials to the highest ethical and moral standards. He was the North Star for Democrats in the House and never lost legitimacy in the truths and facts that he told to the American people.

He was a fighter for Black Liberation. He had what King said was the fierce urgency of now. Chairman Cummings "realized that with African American people where we've been blocked from being all that God meant for us to be, I don't have time to be patient."

A colleague of mine and I reached out to the chairman on the day of the Christchurch terrorist attack by a white supremacist, asking for a hearing on white supremacy and its threat to our way of life. He didn't just grant us one hearing, but three, that confronted white supremacy on the consequences of inaction, the lack of federal response, and on transnational white supremacy. Allowing young senior staffers to lead on issues such as this was the norm for him. He also focused lately on the effects of childhood trauma and what it means for our future, particularly for children of color. I will be forever grateful to him for embracing our fight for a better nation.

This was his watch. "I'm begging the American people to pay attention to what is going on. Because if you want to have a democracy intact for your children, and your children's children, and generations yet unborn we've got to guard this moment... this is our watch," said Chairman Cummings.

As our most sacred rights, such as voting rights, have been attacked and weakened the chairman was adamant about preserving those rights. He admitted that despite being in the last leg of his amazing life, that current events increased the need for him to work day and night to preserve and strengthen this democracy for not just African Americans, but all Americans.

His life was a call to action for us to work harder for a country that we own and for a future that we deserve. As Chairman Cummings exhaled his last breath and ended his watch on this earthly domain, we must step forward because this is our watch.

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

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The Soulcial Scene

Indiana Avenue MBC Holds Trunk or Treat Festivities for Kids

Several hundred children and their parents turned out for Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church's annual Trunk or Treat festivities on Sunday, October 27 on the grounds of the church. From 4 to 6 p.m., children, ages three to 12, were treated to carnival games, horse-back rides and trunks full of goodies.

The event spread from the Fellowship Hall, to the lot across the street and back to the parking lot where dozens of trunks were open with treats for the children.

The evening was sponsored by Indiana Avenue MBC and hundreds of church members and volunteers.



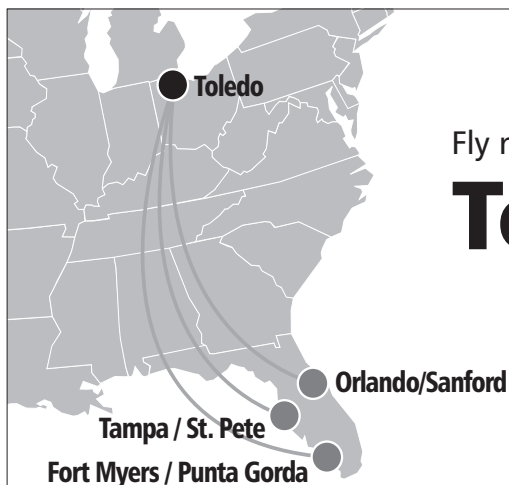
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On October 20, DJ Miss T (Tosha Easter) organized a Meet, Greet, Shop & Sing at The Truth Art Gallery bringing together vendors, artists and an appreciative group of attendees for an afternoon of fun.

DJ Miss T coordinated the event, played positive, encouraging music, and recited poetry. She also had karaoke for the guests (as well as vendors) and passed the mic to other poets in the building.

There was also a well-received performance by Tony Stuart, singer. Others who performed include: Spoken Truth, Rita, C.C. and her daughter Savanna Lyric.

The event vendors included: Karen Scales, Wisdom Speaks Now, LLC; Nathan Conner, Conner Designs & Paintings; Tara Turner-Hughes, Taharah's

... continued on page 12



Elijah Smith, Deejae Misstee, Jodie Summers



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The Soulcial Scene

Couture Toledo Fashion Weekend

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Autumn Gineen "Atelier" introduced her art, fashion and designs to an appreciative audience on October 11 and 13 at The Truth Art Gallery with her Couture Toledo Fashion Weekend.

"I wanted to bring more awareness to the art of sewing by incorporating local artists work in some of the pieces. This is a dying art that many of us want to see brought back into action," said Gineen of her event.

The total numbers for attendance for the weekend were about 80 people. The next fashion weekend will be July 31-Aug 2, 2020. You can find Gineen's custom jewelry, accessories and items from the runway show inside the Truth Art Gallery. Pieces are for men and women.

"My goal is to raise enough funds to open a non-profit artists' studio where people of all ages and genders can express themselves artfully. These classes will include artists sessions, sewing lessons and more," she said

The weekend's participants included: Expressions Models – Iasha, Amber, Omega along with other models – Kristine, Airica, Marcelia, Mackenzie, Stazia, Deseana, Johanna, Toshaand Ivory.

Some of the other designers who contributed to the event were Diana L. Evans with model Aviance Hill; Victoria of Brand - Curve Envy with Model Tenysa Roberts and Edwanna Streeter.

Vendors Jamés Atim and Clothing brand Ayaiya added to the show as did Chawone Ardrey the caterer of Savannas Soul Kitchen

Gineen extended thanks to the show's managers Myrtle Sparks and Virgillio Baker

"Special thanks to Tamiko Davis, McKinney Tariq Chapman and my children for the assistance and late-night sewing sessions," said Gineen.

"We are bringing the city together, one stitch at a time."



Miss Tee and Autumn



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The Soulcial Scene

Rhonda Foster Feted and Honored by UT and Her Toledo Friends and Family

On Friday, October 4, UT recognized 15 outstanding graduates, Rhonda Foster, PhD, among them, at the Homecoming Gala in the Lancelot Thompson Student Union.

Foster became the VP for Patient Care and CNO at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles this past summer, attaining a position in which she oversees 4,000 employees and a budget of almost \$400 million in a hospital that is ranked number five in US News and World Reports for its comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services, its research and medical staff as well as its designation as a magnet hospital.

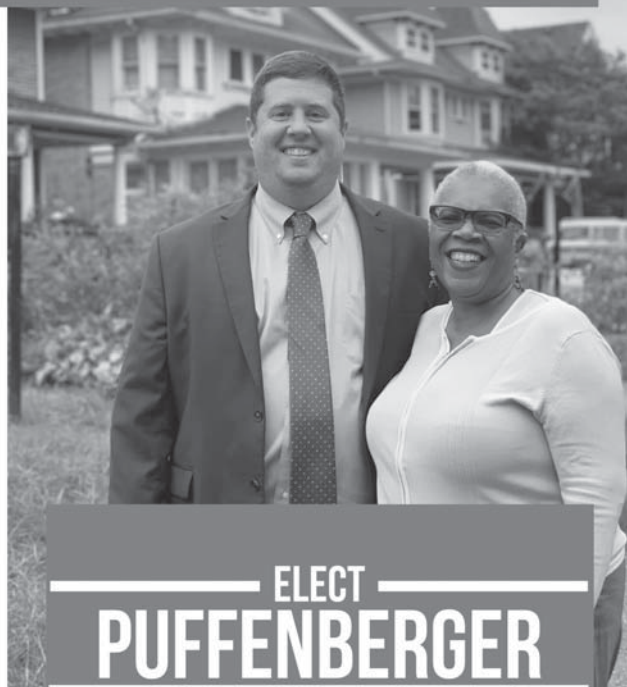
Her weekend in Toledo also included a meet and greet on October 3 at the Radisson Hotel, UT Faculty Club sponsored by her long-time Toledo connections.



City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD, presents Council plaque

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Mecca Court #73 Honors Illustrious Commandress Daughter Barbara Brown

Special To The Truth

Mecca Court #73, Toledo, celebrated the Daughters and honored the 69th Illustrious Commandress, Daughter Barbara Brown, at a fabulous luncheon at Crosby Conference Center, Toledo Botanical Gardens on Saturday, October 5.

Beautiful musical selections were sung by Siritha Cunningham, an outstanding Praise Dance was performed by Janay Temple and numerous presentations, remarks and gifts were presented to the Illustrious Commandress during the program.

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Past Commandresses - Front Row L-R: Tanya Roach, Delores Bates, Danielle Shockley, Claudia Roberts, Mamie Hart, Barbara Turner, Jackie Stevens, Delores Shorter, Vivian Carroll and Pamela Hopkins (seated in wheel chair). Second Row L-R: Charlene Miller, Debbie Dean-Mitchell, Joyce Aldridge, Gloria Tisdale, Jeanne Harris, Lena Davis

The Soulcial Scene

NAACP... continued from page 16

chael Key of People Missionary Baptist Church leading an invocation, a vocal selection by ACT-SO participant Alanna Hicks and then remarks from Toledo NAACP President Ray Wood.

"I want to welcome all of you to our 104th annual banquet. Everyone looks great tonight, and we're excited to celebrate another year," explained Wood before he asked all executive officers of Toledo NAACP to stand and receive a standing ovation for their community contributions.

The banquet annually acknowledges community efforts and selected the Association of Negro Business & Professional Womens' Club, Inc. Maumee Bay (NANBPWC) and journalist Jaden Jefferson for the 2019 recognition. The Maumee Bay NANBPWC was chartered 48 years after the national organization was organized.

The local club launched a black college tour for students during their spring break. Students were able to visit up to nine colleges each year. The 2020 tour will mark the club's 17th year organizing the college tour. "This is a labor of love for us, we do this tour each year for the babies. We've had over 100 students attend historic black colleges or universities since 2002," explained Trevor Black, Maumee Bay NANBPWC member and black college tour co-creator.

Jaden Jefferson is currently a sixth grader attending Maumee Valley Country Day School. He has covered the news and attended the 2019 Democratic Debate, CNN, The Ellen Show, and others. Jefferson reports, writes, edits, and posts stories on his YouTube channel called Jaden Reports NOW. "It's an honor to be honored by this prestigious organization. I want to thank my family," shared Jefferson.

Accomplished writer, journalist and critic Touré was the featured speaker. Touré has worked as a co-host on MSNBC, featured writer in Rolling Stone magazine, professor at NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music, and published author. He delivered a passionate speech that covered community impact, injustice, and racism. "We as a community are used to loss. When we fight against injustice, we are fighting for our country. It's our country too. America is sick right now, and we must see through Trump's lies to make our America great again," explained Touré.

He also explained how to identify and deal with micro-aggression. An example of micro-aggression provided by the speaker, is when an individual of the majority race publicly questions the professional skills of the minority race. "People may not mean to be racist, but this is not about uncovering racism but defining it by biases. It's not your purpose to educate people about racism. A win is just living your life, in your own way. Don't take the weight of that responsibility. Their ignorance is theirs to own," said Touré.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909. The NAACP was formed partly in response to lynching and the 1908 race riots in Springfield. The



Trevor Black

NAACP established its national office in New York City in 1910.

The Toledo unit was chartered in 1915 and the list of past presidents include: Benjamin Fisher, Albertus Brown, Charlie Cottrell, E.L. Wheaton,



Deborah Sims, Trevor Black, Ruby Worthy, Birdena Martin

Mayme Duffy, Rev. J.M. Howard, D.F. Washington, Father Walter Stanley, Clarence Smith, Francis Alexander, Rev. Calvin Stainaker, Mayo Harris, PhD, Rev. Clyde Adams, Jacob James, Robert Franklin Jr. Esq., Anthony Banks, Harold Moss, Anderson Cheeves, Rev. A.L. Roach, J. Frank Troy, Rev. Robert Culp, (Interim) C. Jack Dale, Rev. W.E. Merriweather, (Interim) Yvonne Howard, Samantha Adams, PhD, Rev. George Maize III, Rev. Charles Ware, George Davis, Jr, Rev. Floyd Rose, LeRoy Williams, George Davis, Jr, Judge C. Allen McConnell, Theresa Gabriel, David Taylor III Esq., WilliAnn Moore and Rev. Kevin Bedford.

Mecca Court... continued from page 10

The Past Commandresses were also recognized with each receiving a certificate of special recognition and appreciation for their service, dedication and support from the Illustrious Commandress. There were 16 Past Commandresses in attendance and a beautiful memorial service was rendered for the deceased Past Commandresses.

In attendance and extending remarks were Daughter Lena Davis, Past Commandress and Imperial Deputy for the Oasis of Toledo; Noble Mark McBee, Past Potentate of Mecca Temple #43 and Imperial Deputy of the Oasis of Toledo; the Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple #43, Noble Rodell Ramsey, in addition to the Illustrious Commandress, Daughter Barbara Brown. Daughter Debbie Dean-Mitchell, Past Commandress, served as the Mistress of Ceremony.

The Illustrious Commandress' theme this year is "Respect ~ Compassion ~ Communication,"

Mecca Court #73, Toledo, chartered in 1926, is a Constituent Court of the Imperial Court, Daughters, a female auxiliary of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc., a fraternal, charitable and benevolent organization, with over 200 Courts in the continental United States, Canada, The Bahamas, Germany, Italy and Japan.



Illustrious Commandress, Daughter Barbara Brown

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Fedor Appointed to State Report Card Study Committee

Last week, State Sen. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) was appointed to a state study committee that will examine Ohio's school report cards.

"We need to fix our broken school report card system," said Fedor. "There is increasing evidence that school report cards, across the board, do not reliably measure the quality of education that our children receive. In fact, they're a better measure of poverty than academic achievement. This causes a harmful ripple effect impacting our children, our schools and our communities."

The 10-person State Report Card Study Committee will work with educators, advocates, parents and the business community to evaluate the current report card system. By December 15, the committee will report their findings

to the Ohio General Assembly.

A former public school teacher for 17 years, Senator Fedor is passionate about Ohio's children and their futures. She has been an outspoken critic of Ohio's flawed report card system and its direct impact on the placement of schools under the supervision of academic distress commissions. She is the Ranking Minority Member on the Senate Education Committee and, during the approval of the 2019-20 state budget, served on the Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education.

Also appointed to the study committee Monday were state Sens. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and Louis W. Blessing, III (R-Colerain Twp).

Rep. Lisa Sobecki Announces Appointment to the State Report Card Study Committee

Last week, State Rep. Lisa Sobecki (D-Toledo) announced her appointment to the State Report Card Study Committee.

"I am pleased to be the only Democratic member of the Ohio House appointed to this committee," said Rep. Sobecki. "Being appointed to the com-

mittee, I look forward to ensuring that the new state report cards are actually reflective of the hard work and dedication by our school districts across Ohio."

Rep. Sobecki is eagerly waiting for the study committee to start working on the state report cards. She represents Ohio's 45th House District in Toledo.

DJ Miss T... continued from page 8

Garden; Kesha Russell, Natural Vibe, LLC; Elaina Wilson, The Glitter Fairy With Sprinkles; TBT, The Bunny Team; Keisha Newton, Pyoor Candles (pro-

nounced Pure); Rita Spencer, Rita's Handmade Arts & Jewelry; Jodie Summers, Tears of the wounded, Inked Truth and Spoken Truth;

Brooke Oatneal, Sweet Tooth by Brooke; C.C. and Savanna Lyric - Savanna's Soul Kitchen

"Today's event was so much fun," said Tara Truner-Hughes of Taharah's Garden. "Entertainment of poetry, karaoke, and met some wonderful down to earth individuals! I love going to vending events! I love getting to meet new inspiring people! There are so many people in this city With different talents and you would never know unless you get out there and meet new people. Thank you so much for inviting Taharah's Garden to be a part of your amazing event today! I enjoyed myself! Thanks again

NYT... continued from page 4

from wrongfully removing tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters from the rolls. Now LaRose is pretending they don't have any documen-

tation -- not a single email -- that can explain what happened. Their refusal to turn over public records violates the law. It's preposterous."

The LaRose public records request comes in the wake of a blockbuster New York Times report that "volunteer sleuthing" found that 40,000 eligible Ohio voters were set to be purged by LaRose this fall.

That translates into an error rate of about 20 percent.

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Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl's Brave Fight to Walk by Meredith Davis and Rebekah Uwitonze

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

On the day you took your first steps, your parents were very proud.

They took pictures of you standing by yourself with a one-tooth smile on your face, and then they called Grandma and Grandpa to tell them you were walking! It was reason to celebrate and you walk now without thinking about it, but in the new book *Her Own Two Feet* by Meredith Davis and Rebekah Uwitonze, first steps aren't always second nature.

One thing was for sure: Rebekah Uwitonze was independent.

Born with her feet twisted sideways and backward, her shoulders stiff, and her middle fingers bent to her palms, Rebekah never let her problems stop her from anything. She could feed herself – she wasn't a baby! – and though it took awhile to figure out how to quickly reach the bathroom a few feet from her back door, she otherwise got around just fine.

So what if she crawled, or lurched about on the tops of her feet? So what if folks in her Rwandan village told her parents to let her die when she was born? So what if some people said she was "cursed"? As long as Rebekah stayed strong and smart and loved, her feet and her hands weren't important.

Yes, she'd seen doctors: when she was small, they tried to turn her feet but it hurt a lot. It didn't work, either, nor did a second attempt, so when a white stranger came to her parents' home and offered to take Rebekah to America to fix her feet, she was afraid. She remembered being left at the

c.2019
Scholastic
\$17.99 / \$23.99 Canada
208 pages

hospital, and how much it hurt. Still, as Papa said, "Chance comes once" and so Rebekah went with a translator on her first airplane trip from one continent to another.

But Bugesara, Rwanda was nothing like Austin, Texas! In Texas, dogs are allowed in the house and on the bed. There were new foods to try, a trampoline to play on, and new holidays to experience. Rebekah learned English, made new friends, and ate French fries while her surgeries healed and she learned to walk again.

But then it was time to leave Texas and go home. Was she ready for it?

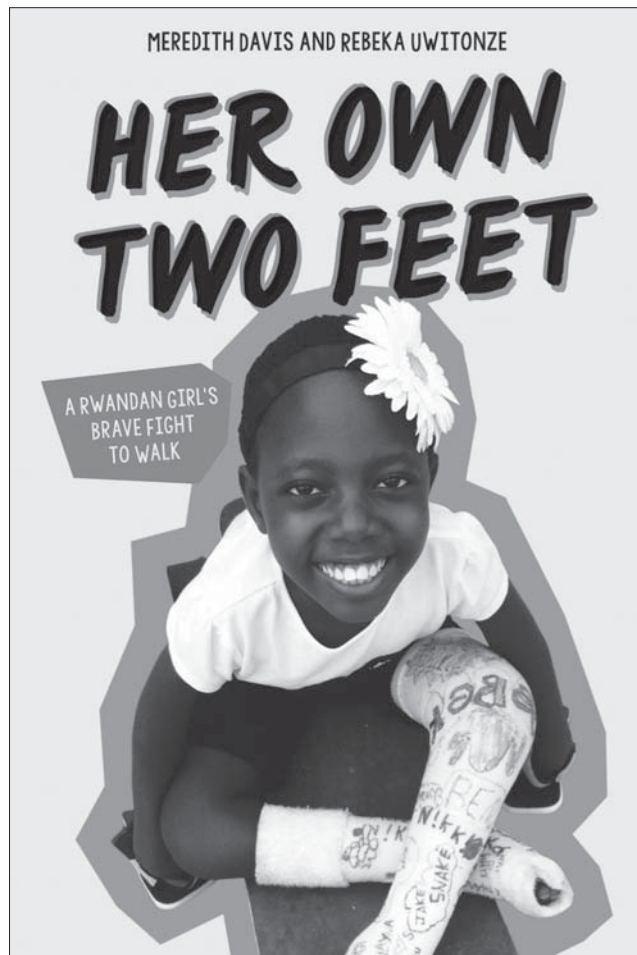
Some days, nothing goes your child's way. From the moment she wakes up until the second she shuts her eyes, it's one thing after another but this is for sure: have "Her Own Two Feet," and things will fall into perspective.

Beaming strength from every page, authors Meredith Davis (the matriarch of the Texas host family) and Rebekah Uwitonze tell the latter's story in a matter-of-fact way that elicits compassion without begging for it. That gives readers a chance to quietly observe Uwitonze's determination, practicality, and her sheer bravery in a quest to overcome a disability. Without being a spoiler, this will leave your child cheering.

"Chance comes once," as Uwitonze's Papa said, so seize it and find Her Own Two Feet. If your eight-to-12-year-old wants a good biography or a tale of gratefulness, having it is the first step.



Her Own Two Feet authors; Courtesy Meredith Davis



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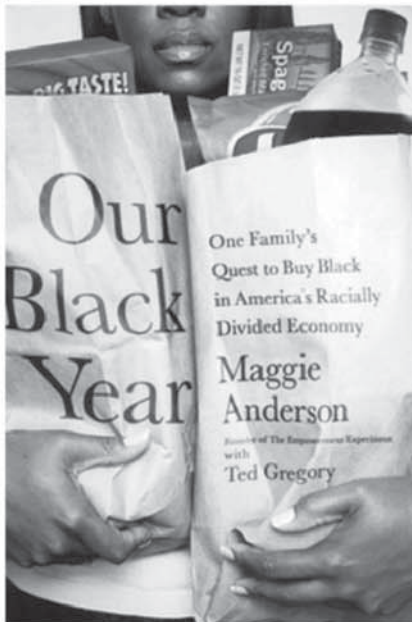
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Maggie Anderson
Author of The Empowerment Experience with Ted Gregory



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When: Every 4th Sunday
Time: 11:00 am
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CLASSIFIEDS

October 30, 2019

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ATTENTION AFRICAN AMERICAN VENDORS!

Join us for the 2nd Annual REAL BLACK FRIDAY TOLEDO! Black Business Expo. If you are an African American owned business looking to market your products or services to HUNDREDS of customers, register today to be a vendor at the largest Black Business Expo in Northwest Ohio.

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.

CONTRACTOR INVITATION

We need you!! The City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhood and Business Development (DNBD) is looking to increase its pool of Contractors for residential rehabilitation and lead abatement projects.

To enlist more contractors, the DNBD is hosting a Recruitment Event for all general contractors who have a Home Remodeler's License, Renovation, Repair and Paint (RRP) Certification, and/or Lead Abatement Certification. The goal is to share with you opportunities to bid on DNBD projects and increase the pool of eligible contractors for DNBD construction and rehabilitation projects. The DNBD has many opportunities for qualified contractors, i.e. single-family owner-occupied and tenant-occupied housing units.

Please mark your calendars for: Date: Monday, November 4, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Location: United Way of Greater Toledo – 424 Jackson St. (free parking)

(Refreshments will be provided)

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Toledo - Wabash Cannonball Trail North Fork Extension, Fulton County, Ohio** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, November 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of construction of a 12 foot, 6.14 miles long multi-use trail along the abandoned Wabash Railroad from State Route 109 to the Lucas County line including railing upgrades on a bridge over Swan Creek. General construction includes earthwork, erosion control, aggregate base, asphalt pavement, wooden guardrail, pavement markings, signage, mulching and seeding. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Tuesday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$40 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

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

The bidder must be an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) pre-qualified contractor. Pre-qualification status must be in force at the time of bid, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project is minimum seven percent (7%).

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

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

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David D. Zenk, Director



Position: Minority Health Program Coordinator

The Minority Health Program Coordinator works to achieve improved awareness and health outcomes for minority populations experiencing barriers to health equity. Through education, advocacy, public relations, research and leadership, the incumbent will promote minority health and work towards solutions that address personal, family, and community problems faced by minority demographics. Incumbent will oversee all Health Department functions related to the goals set forth by the Commission on Minority Health (CMH). The incumbent will coordinate with the Health Commissioner to increase staff cultural understanding and competency. The Program Coordinator will work under the supervision of the Director of Health Promotion with direction of Health Commissioner.

Basic Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, Health Promotion, or closely related field
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to communicate across a broad cross-section of groups and individuals
- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Grant Writing and reporting experience
- Valid driver's license, reliable transportation
- Ability to work non-traditional hours, including nights and weekends, and ability to work evening and weekend hours

Responsibilities:

- Maintains current knowledge and understanding of issues concerning cultural competency/health equity in healthcare and their potential impact on health disparities. Works to develop health-marketing plans that address each of the priority disease states and/or health conditions.
- Serves as a liaison by establishing, promoting, and maintaining a collaborative long-term partnerships with various community agencies and groups and governmental entities in the implementation of and operations of the coalition in the establishment of a local office of minority health targeting health disparities in the communities. Develops policies and strategies to support health efforts and advocates for the implementation of strategies and policies to reduce health disparities within the community.
- Assists in and develops educational materials which meet the needs of agency service providers and is considerate of various educational, ethnic and socio-economic levels and community groups. Administers, coordinates, or completes special projects including grant writing.

More information available at: <https://www.lucascountyhealth.com/about/career-opportunities/>

Please email or mail cover letter and resume to:

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The Soulcial Scene

Toledo NAACP Celebrates with Annual Banquet

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The annual Freedom Fund Banquet was held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Stranahan Great Hall, and the theme was "When we Fight, We win." Over 250 attendees comprised of NAACP members, sponsors and community supporters gathered for this annual banquet organized by Toledo NAACP.

"I want to thank the Toledo NAACP for this opportunity tonight. I can't stress how important the 2020 Census is to our community. They are trying to stop us from voting and from being counted. Everyone must be counted every 10 years," shared

Andre Washington, state of Ohio NAACP officer during his official greetings during the banquet.

Guests dined on food catered by We Be Ribs and listened to various musical selections performed by Organized K-OS Band. WTFG's Kristian Brown served as the mistress of ceremony for the entire program that opened with Pastor Mi-

... continued on page 11



Judge Josh Lanzinger, Christina and Ron Collins



Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Jaden Jefferson, Toure, NAACP President Ray Wood



Rev. Perryman, Tom Puffenberger, and Sheena Barnes



Jarvetta Barnes, Juanita Collins, and Elizabeth Cardenas



Endorsed by U.A.W. Local 12, Councilman Tyrone Riley and U.A.W. President Bruce Baumhower discuss future plans.

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James Jefferson and Emil Bates

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Brittany Moore, Treasurer



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2. Equity for all of our students.
3. Provide more wrap-around services for our TPS students and families .

"She's deeply compassionate and big hearted and I advocate for her because she advocates for all of us. Equity for all children is her aim" - Courtney Fillion supporter/voter

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