

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 58, No. 9

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

November 27, 2019

## Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Annual Banquet



Honorees William Ellis Jr, Alexis Means and Monica Armstrong

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# Toledo Needs Clean and Affordable Water

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD.

The Truth Contributor

*Rapidly rising rates, in combination with slower income growth and rising income inequality, are making water and sewer costs increasingly expensive—as a share of household income—for many low-, moderate-, and fixed-income [people].*

- Larry Levine



To: Toledo City Councilpersons

Re: Support for Resolution Affirming the city of Toledo's commitment to equitable access to clean, safe, and affordable water

From: United Pastors for Social Empowerment

Date: November 22, 2019

Dear City Councilpersons,

As the City of Toledo moves to increase its retail rates for water services in Toledo and Lucas County, the United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE) draws your attention to the impact of this development on our community's most vulnerable residents. Access to water is a human right, but sadly many Toledoans face the difficult choice of paying for medicine and groceries or a bill for essential water services. As a monopolistic provider of water, Toledo bears an exigent responsibility to these families.

UPSE writes now to ask that the City of Toledo please pass the Resolution proposed by Councilperson Komives to take certain steps to address water affordability. UPSE respects that the City has recently developed an initial proposal for affordability programs and lead-line replacement, but a great deal remains to be determined in how these programs will function, and what additional steps the City will take to address this issue.

Undoubtedly, the committee the Resolution creates will play an important role in determining these programs and ensuring appropriate consumer protections. Looking ahead, UPSE hopes that programs ensuring affordability and improvements to consumer protections can be codified in Toledo's Municipal Code.

UPSE also wishes to emphasize its appreciation for the City's efforts to meet with various community groups, including UPSE and respond to these issues.

To illustrate the importance of equitable access to water services, UPSE provides the following information based on recently obtained data on accounts scheduled for shut-off of water services.

- Over the past six months alone, Toledo scheduled nearly 3,000 accounts for shut-off, though not all of these accounts were ultimately shut off.

- Most of the accounts scheduled for shut-off are clustered in central-city neighborhoods.

- Accounts scheduled for shut-off are often clustered in low-income areas with renter-occupied housing, showing the impact on tenants in central-city neighborhoods.

- Scheduled water shut-offs are also concentrated in minority neighborhoods—census tracts with less than 50 percent white alone and not Hispanic.

- Accounts scheduled for shut-off concentrate in areas that have been historically disinvested. Scheduled shut-offs correspond closely with the 1938 Home Owners Loan Corporation Residential Security "Redlining" Map.

## Conclusion

Specifically, UPSE strongly supports SECTION 2 of the resolution:

That the City of Toledo hereby creates a Water Affordability and Consumer Protection Committee, and commits that, through this Committee, it will take the following actions to address water affordability and consumer protections:

1. Complete a study to provide recommendations targeted to address long-term equitable affordability of water in Toledo retail water system;
2. Where appropriate, the committee shall make recommendations to the Department of Public Utilities on retail rate setting and consumer programs related to water and wastewater delivery based on research and data collected through an affordability study;
3. Share data and information about retail water services including shut-offs;
4. Review current policies to improve access to water services for ten-

... continued on page 5

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen - Business Manager

Tricia Hall - Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Megan Davis - Columnist

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Jessica Crans - Layout

### A Certified MBE

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Phone 419-243-0007  
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[www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)

## Community Calendar

### November 28

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Thomas Temple C.O.G.I.C. Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm; All are carry out: 419-320-4984

### November 29

Workshop for high school students at the Mott Branch Library: A focus on what college offers, options other than college, goal-setting and life outside Toledo. This session will be co-facilitated by two born and raised Toledoans who currently live in NYC and have experience attending Ivy League schools - Mario Harris-Rosser and Ashley Taylor. There will be panels, small group discussions and 1:1 work with mentors throughout the day. Please RSVP via the Eventbrite link below: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/high-school-student-empowerment...>

### November 30

2019 Christmas Bazaar: 10 am to 4 pm; Indiana Avenue MBC; Holiday gift vendors

### December 14

Christmas at The Truth Art Gallery: Vendors for last minute shopping; entertainment, refreshments

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# NeighborWorks Toledo Region Contributes \$43 Million to Local Economy

*Study shows significant economic benefit for public and private investment in affordable housing programs*

*Special to The Truth*

NeighborWorks Toledo Region (NTR) has contributed more than \$43 million to the local economy over a five-year period, a recent study indicated. The independent study was conducted by Greater Ohio Policy Center and released this week by the NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio (NCO) and NTR.

The study determined that from 2014 – 2018, NTR generated \$15 million of income to local employees, \$4.7 million in tax revenue and created or sustained over 300 jobs annually. As a member of the NCO, NTR and nine other organizations around the state helped to contribute over \$655 million to Ohio's economy.

"In Toledo, home is the foundation of our lives and our communities. Through the support of private donors, our local business community and our government institutions, NTR has been able to positively impact our local economy, while providing stable, quality, affordable housing and essential home ownership programs," said Bill Farnsel executive director of NTR. "This study reinforces that our work creating successful homeowners and developing high-quality affordable housing opportunities is good for the business community and strengthens our economy."

The study analyzed several different kinds of economic impacts including direct and indirect effects that NTR activities had on the various business sectors. Tax revenue, sustained employment and contribution to local labor income were also considered. Economic activities fac-

tored into the study included physical construction of affordable housing, community development, and counseling and educational programs such as Home Buyer Education and Foreclosure Prevention.

Established in 1977, NTR has assisted over 1,100 families to purchase or improve their homes by investing in mortgage loans and educating families about the process of becoming successful homeowners. Services to the community include housing counseling, credit counseling, financial stability through employment search and tax return preparation.

NTR is a charter member of the NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio (NCO) a statewide, nonprofit collaborative of ten Ohio organizations focused on creating sustainable and affordable housing for Ohioans. NCO member organizations provide services and programs such as homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention, financial literacy and affordable rental housing and homes for sale. Over 150,000 individuals and families have benefited from services provided by Ohio's NeighborWorks organizations since 2006. For more information, please visit [www.ohionwc.org](http://www.ohionwc.org)

## 2019 Free Gift Wrapping with a Purpose Event

The 2019 FREE gift wrapping with a purpose with a purpose event will be the following Saturday, December 14th & December 21st -2019 10a.m.-2 p.m., at the FrogTown Financial 4225 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606.

Receive FREE gift wrapping for five (5) boxed items when you donate non-perishable food items. There is parking in the rear and on the side of the building; additional parking is available in the convenience store on the corner of

Monroe and Wendover. This is free and open to the public.

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# Olivia I. Phifer: June 25, 1993 - November 3, 2019

**Olivia I. Phifer** departed this life on Sunday, November 3, 2019 in Lawrenceville, Georgia at the age of 26.

She was born Olivia India Phifer to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Phifer III on June 25, 1993 in Toledo, Ohio. Olivia was the youngest of two children. She is survived by her parents; older sisters, Victoria I. Phifer, Jessica Y. Jones; Godmother, Rose Alford; aunts; uncles; numerous cousins and many friends in the Toledo, DC, Atlanta and global community.

Olivia joined St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio, at an early age. She played the piano for the church Sunday School. She was a youth usher and a member of the youth choir. She was a consummate orator, a violinist and involved in community service. Notably, Olivia is an Alumnae member and Past Mid-Western Regional Teen Legislative Officer of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.; and was selected as the 2011 Ms. Debutante for the Toledo Club of NANBPWC, Inc. Cotillion. She also participated in the Toledo NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competitions, a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among high school students of African descent who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence; and the Toledo EXCEL program (Group XIX), a scholarship incentive program at The University of Toledo, which strives to prepare students for success in college.

Olivia was educated at Maumee Valley Country Day School in Toledo, Ohio. She later went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Howard University, graduating Magna cum laude from the Cathy Hughes School of Communications.

While at Howard University, Olivia was actively involved in the School of Communications, along with, other organizations on campus. During her freshman year, Olivia served as a Corps member for JumpStart, a community based organization.

Olivia was a member of the Howard University Association of Black Journalists and served as the vice president for the 2013-2014 academic year. Olivia was a dynamic and ambitious student determined to find her path in the communications field. She became the public relations director for the Spotlight Network and worked for the Hilltop Newspaper as an assistant multimedia director. In 2013, she was selected for the prestigious White House Internship Program.

Towards the end of her Howard University tenure, Olivia interned at CNN under the supervision of Candy Crowley. In 2014, she earned an opportunity as a Digital Marketing Intern for Voice of America, a globally-recognized radio network. Olivia also had a passion for photography and digital media. She founded Phiferphotography in 2014 and served as the creative director.

Olivia's love for travel and education led her abroad where she earned a Master's Degree in Digital Marketing from SKEMA Business School in Valbonne, France. Olivia served as a teacher's assistant for the Digital Marketing program. She managed the inaugural Master's blog, and was part

of the internal communications team for the 2016-2017 academic year. In addition, she co-organized a networking community for the local and expat students in the French Riviera.

Upon returning to the United States, she moved to Atlanta, GA where she was a freelance writer for beBATONROUGE, served as an intern for Hexagon and later became a marketing content specialist for 22 Miles.

Services for Olivia will be held Friday, December

6, 2019 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 1502 N. Detroit Avenue, Toledo, OH; Family Visitation 11a.m., Memorial Service 12p.m., Repast to promptly follow in Church Fellowship Hall -lower level.



Olivia I. Phifer

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

ants and homeowners and protect consumers;

5. Develop measurable affordability benchmarks based on data to inform the decision making process for future rate setting and changes to consumer programs;

6. Create a community engagement and feedback process to inform and develop affordable water rates and water programs; and

7. Effectively communicate, to the best of its ability, all information regarding rates and programs to the community.

UPSE again thanks the Administration for its recent efforts to address affordability and looks forward to continued work and collaboration through the committee formed through Councilperson Nick Komives's Resolution. We ask that all Councilpersons please vote in favor of the Resolution.

Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, United Pastors for Social Empowerment

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

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# To: DBE/MBE/WBE/SBE/SBRA Subcontractors and Suppliers

## Re: Collins Park Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Filter & Pipe Gallery Improvements

Shook Construction Company is bidding on the above-referenced project as a prime contractor and is soliciting proposals from qualified disadvantaged, minority, female and small businesses, including small businesses in rural areas.

Bids are due at 1:30 PM on December 10, 2019. However, in order to analyze quotes and prepare the bid documents for submittal by the published bid time, we ask that you submit your bid(s) to us no later than 10:00 AM.

The work generally consists of water treatment facilities upgrades to rehabilitate the main piping galleries and filters of the existing East and West Plants. Project is tax exempt, and Davis Bacon prevailing wage rates apply.

Scope Items: General Conditions, Sitework & Utilities, Hauling, Demolition, Seeding, Concrete Repair, Sand & Gravel Supply, Ready Mix Supply, Concrete Formwork, Reinforcing Steel, Cast-In-Place Concrete, Precast Hollowcore Planks, Masonry, Structural Steel Framing, Metal Fabrications, Handrails/Railings/Grating, Carpentry, FFP Weir Plates, Waterproofing, Thermal Insulation, Single Ply Roofing, Joint Sealants, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Paint & Protective Coatings, Signage, Fire Extinguishers, Treatment Plant Equipment, Process Piping/Valves, Pipe Supports, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical and Instrumentation & Controls.

DOCUMENTS MUST BE HANDLED DURING BIDDING IN AC-

CORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF TOLEDO'S SECURE DOCUMENT CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.

Copies of bid documents may be examined in person at the City of Toledo Division of Purchases & Supplies, 640 Jackson Street, Suite 1970, Toledo, OH 43604. Electronic copies of the bidding documents may be obtained on a USB flash drive from the Division of Purchasing & Supplies at the above address between the hours of 8AM and 4PM (\$500 refundable deposit required). Subcontractors and suppliers may also contact us via email to request a secure link to download bid documents free of charge.

NOTE: The City of Toledo requires Prime Bidders to submit the Primary/Subcontractor Agreement Certificate forms from ALL subcontractors and suppliers used in our bid with our bid submittal. In addition, due to the project funding requirements, MBE/WBE/DBE subcontractors must also submit a completed EPA Form 6100-3. Submitting forms without pricing prior to bid day is preferred. We will fill in the pricing according to the quote submitted at bid time. Should you have any questions, please call or email us at [estimating@shookconstruction.com](mailto:estimating@shookconstruction.com). Shook Construction Co. can provide assistance with bonding and insurance requirements, including alternatives to bonding and/or insurance requirements for subcontractors if needed.

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# Lott Industries Offers Thanksgiving Feast to Clients

## Annual Meeting

### Black/Brown Unity Coalition

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Toledo Community Coalition, The Farm Labor Organizing Committee,  
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The NAACP Toledo Branch.

Featured Speaker: Clayola Brown

When: Tuesday December 3, 2019

Where: Warren AME Church

915 Collingwood, Toledo

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

For More Information Call:

Warren AME (419) 243-2237 or

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (419) 243-3456

November 26, 2019 - Lott Industries is offering a Thanksgiving dinner to Lott clients on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The turkey feast is possible through collaborations with community organizations and members and an anonymous donation from a special friend residing in California (in memory of her loved ones). Lott staff and volunteers will prepare and serve the meal.

The menu will include a full meal: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, pies and orange punch. A cash donation is assisting in covering part of the cost of the meal (mainly the pies, stuffing and cranberry sauce) other items have been donated by local or-

... continued on page 7



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## In Memoriam

# Langston C. Bannister – December 8, 1933 – November 22, 2019

The Reverend Doctor Langston Clinton Bannister, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, teacher, pastor, colleague, neighbor and friend passed from this earthly life on Friday, November 22, 2019.

Langston was born on December 8, 1933 in Wake Forest, Virginia to Frank Bannister, Sr. and Revella Harrison Bannister. Langston began his lifelong education in a one-room schoolhouse.

He pursued intellectual excellence as he completed degree programs at Tuskegee University, and next serving his country in the US Air Force. A master's degree from San Francisco State University and a doctorate from the University of



Massachusetts followed.

Langston served students of the University of Toledo as a professor for 30 years and was instrumental in the expansion of the Education Sociology Department. It was during this time that Langston spent a year with his family on sabbatical in Oslo, Norway working in an International Management Program for Educational Change. He also conducted workshops in Indonesia.

While at UT he served as Senior Pastor of Third Baptist Church for 18 years. In retirement, Langston completed a three-year Spiritual Formation program which enhanced his work as a mentor, lecturer and community leader.

Langston was particularly sought out by pastors as a mentor. He was passionate about helping others, and was observant in knowing who was in need of assistance. He shared his gifts and his love generously, welcoming many young people into his own sphere to help them reach their goals and use their talents. He inspired his own family to seek higher levels of achievement through education.

Langston was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Frank, and sister Dorothy Bannister Brown. Left to cherish his memory are his devoted and loving wife of 59 years, Elizabeth; daughters, Angela Bannister, Carla (Nate) Bond, Michelle (Sean) Williams; son, Alan (Patekka) Bannister; and grandchildren Kai and Nate Bond, Sean, Jr., Ian, and Seth Williams, and Cranston Bannister. Sisters in law Saidah Hatchett and Verna Hartman, Brother in law Earl Gibson, cousins Myra (Ivan) King, Yvonne Paige, and Jessie (Thomas) Eaves and a host of nieces and nephews.

## 2019 City of Toledo Holiday Tree Lighting Event

The 2019 City of Toledo Holiday Tree Lighting Event will be 3-7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Ottawa Park Ice Rink. The event is free and open to the public. The activities include:

- \* Free Open Skate, 3-7 p.m.
- \* Ice Carving Demonstration, 3-5 p.m.
- \* Food Trucks, 3-7 p.m.
- \* Horse Carriage Rides, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- \* Tree Lighting, 6:05 p.m.

More information can be found at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/501554320444371/>

The city of Toledo supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Joan Easler, ADA coordinator, at 419-245-1059.

### Lott Industries... continued from page 6

ganizations and individuals.

Tim Menke, CEO of Lott expressed: "We are pleased to partner with our community in offering a Thanksgiving meal for our adults with developmental disabilities. We are privileged and honored to work together for those who may otherwise may not be able to celebrate this important day. For our clients, a special treat like this dinner goes a long way in making them feel special and appreciated. We are glad to offer an opportunity for our clients to spend time with their teammates and friends in a celebratory environment, kicking off the Holiday Season."

For more information, please contact Lott at 419-381-5200 or [mwagner@lottserves.org](mailto:mwagner@lottserves.org).

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**Hampton Inn, 5865 Hagman Road,  
December 4 between 11 am to 2 pm.**

**The Park Inn, 101 N. Summit Street,  
December 6 between 1 and 4 pm.**



## The Soulcial Scene

# All That Jazz: The Monthly Loop with a Different Spin

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Toledoans who visited the downtown, UpTown and Warehouse districts on Thursday, November 21, were in for a special treat if they joined the monthly Art Loop. This month the Arts Commission transformed the traditional Art Loop into a Jazz Loop which featured over a dozen groups in live performances in eight different sites.

Inspired by Toledo's legacy as a jazz community, The Arts Commission celebrated Toledo native and jazz musician Art Tatum's 110th birthday. The November 21 Art Loop Jazz Loop paid homage to Tatum, who is widely regarded as the greatest piano player of all time.

The Glass City was once home to "Poet Laureate of Jazz" Jon Hendricks and heralded venues such as Murphy's Place and Rusty's Jazz Cafe, the third oldest jazz club in America in its heyday.

The Trinity Episcopal church featured two dynamic local performers. From 5:45 - 7:15 pm the Ben Maloney Trio performed. Maloney is one of Toledo's signature jazz pianists merging a classic style with innovative voicing that, for this night, was an appropriate nod to the great Art Tatum. From 7:30 - 9:00 pm Quick & Friends performs. One of the most unique voices in jazz guitar in the region, Quick and his ensembles continue to earn fans in greater Detroit and attract new and innovative voices to our city.

Handmade Toledo had a magical night planned including a Mini-Mart Art-st Market with amazing makers, delicious food trucks and their Maker Shop

... continued on page 9



Denise Black-Poon, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc -Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Art chairman; Rhonda Sewell, Arts Commission; Ramona Collins, jazz vocalist; Jean Holden, jazz vocalist; Pat Hague, Art Committee member; Kim Buehler, jazz vocalist

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## The Soulcial Scene

# Chocolate Treats for the Holiday Season

Special to The Truth

Whether you're hosting a party, taking along treats to someone else's gathering, or you just want to bring some joy and sweetness into your own home, experts say that on-trend flavors evocative of the season will be sure to please friends and family alike.

To get inspired, check out special seasonal editions of your favorite ingredients. For example, HERSHEY's Hot Cocoa Kisses, which were launched last year, were so popular that most stores ran out of them by Thanksgiving.

"We know that people love curling up with a cup of hot cocoa during the holidays," says Heather Seamans, associate brand manager of Holiday at HERSHEY's. "Now they have more than one way to do that!"

Enjoyed on their own, or as an accompaniment to a cup of hot cocoa, you can also incorporate them into this easy recipe for Hot Cocoa Cookie Cups:

Ingredients:

- Brownie bites
- Marshmallow fluff
- White, ready to spread frosting
- Miniature marshmallows
- Mini Pretzels
- Hershey's Kisses Hot Cocoa with Marshmallow Chocolates

Directions:

- Buy brownie bites at your favorite bakery
- Add marshmallow spread equal parts marshmallow fluff and fluffy white ready-to-spread frosting and top with miniature marshmallows.
- Use 1/2 small pretzels for mug handle
- Top off with a couple of Hot Cocoa Kisses

More holiday recipes and tips can be found at hersheys.com

The good news is that impressive holiday desserts don't need to be tricky or time consuming to prepare. With easy recipes and on-trend ingredients, you can make fun creations to savor and share.

Courtesy StatePoint

All The Jazz... continued from page 8

featuring original and unique gifts by more than 100 makers from around the region with performances by Gene Parker, 5:45-7:15pm and The Smoking Dandies, 7:30-9:00pm!

Graphite Design + Build studio featured a night of jazz with Bob Rex Quartet in one of Toledo's most unique creative spaces, 6-9 p.m.

The Truth Art Gallery presented Brad Billmaier

... continued on page 13



Guest at The Truth Gallery Denise Black-Poon, Pat Hogue, EdD; Rhonda Sewell



Brad Billmaier band

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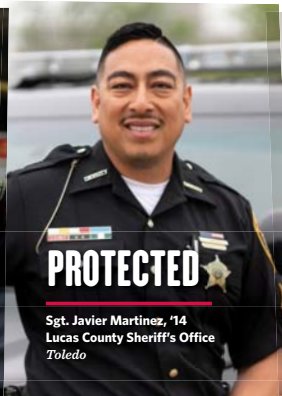
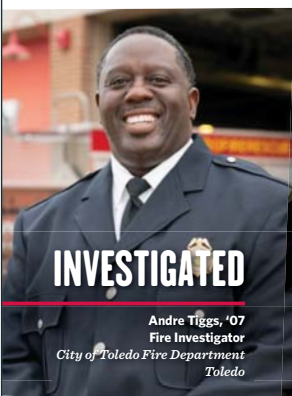
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## The Soulcial Scene

### Appreciation Dinner... continued from page 16

Means, Lucas County Treasurer Lindsay Webb and Jeffrey White.

Monica Armstrong is a distribution operations manager at Toledo Processing Distribution Center. Armstrong was credited by Suzette Cowell as having been instrumental in the creation of the credit union at Friendship Baptist Church. "I just allowed the Lord to use me, and I know if in doubt, I can reach out to my pastor," explained Armstrong.

William Ellis Jr. attended Scott High School, Wright State University and the University of Toledo; and is currently launching his first solo endeavor called Full Bloom Media Group. Ellis has transitioned from Toledo resident to seeking roles in the entertainment industry, but never ignores an opportunity to share his appreciation of his hometown. "I always find a way to give back to this community. The credit union actually serves as my muse because you can get love and advice under one roof, it's just like visiting a relative's home," said Ellis.

Theresa Gabriel has served Toledo as Deputy Director of Lucas County Board of Elections, Toledo City Council member at large member and various City of Toledo department leadership roles. Gabriel has also served as a supporter of the credit union in her various roles and serves as Cowell's mentor. "I want to give praise to those who support me," shared Gabriel.

Jerel Harris-Tisdale, a native Toledoan and son of Bishop and Thelma Tisdale, graduated from Rogers High School and Penta Automotive Technology Class. He was able to assist the credit union during the rescheduling of the parade this past summer even though he was dealing a personal tragedy. "I first want to thank each of you who are also members of the credit union. I am thankful to the staff and of course Suzette," explained Harris-Tisdale.

Douglas Keetion is an Army veteran, and co-owner of Studio 32 Nine Salon Suites and Spa. Keetion actively volunteers his time and talents to the parade and festival each year. "I want to thank my studio family for allowing me to be me, my parents and family who support me, my kids who give me purpose and of course my beautiful wife who stretches and completes me," said Keetion.

Andrew Kinsey is from Atlanta, a graduate of Clark Atlanta University and Central Michigan University, and an Emmy-Award winning journalist at WTOL 11. Kinsey was recognized for his focus on neighborhood issues that impact the community. "I want to thank God for this opportunity, and I thank God for the work that the credit union does too. You can either be a part of the problem or the solution," said Kinsey.

Alexis Means is from Pittsburgh, graduated from Hampton University and has received career-related awards including the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Associated Press and several Emmy nominations. Means was recognized for her focus on neighborhood issues that impact the community. "My journey started with my grandmother and on this journey, I have accomplished many things. She was my mentor and every child need a mentor. I encourage each of you to reach back and pull someone else forward," explained Means.

Lindsay Webb was elected to the Lucas County Treasurer's office in 2018 after serving as Toledo City Council representative for District 6 from 2008-2018. Webb earned a law degree from University of Toledo. Webb was acknowledged by Cowell for supporting the credit union in her role on council and as treasurer. "I wanted to thank Suzette for helping me with my credit report, when there was concerns about my score while I was running for office," said Webb.

Jeffrey White, an Army veteran and president of Local 2092 American Federation of Government Employees. White has dedicated his time to assist and uplift the community even after he had dealt with a personal tragedy. "I moved to Toledo and lost my daughter. When I walked into the credit union, Suzette knew I was broken financially and mentally. She made sure that I was okay before I left. I'm fixed now and Suzette has always treated me like a son," shared White.

TUFCU opened for business on July 21, 1996, currently operates locations at 1415 Jefferson Avenue and 1441 Dorr Street. The TUFCU African American Festival celebrated the 15th year in 2019. Board of Directors: Pastor Jerry Boose, Suzette Cowell, Lawrence Friedman, Adele Jasion, Edwin Mabrey, Pastor Timothy Pettaway Sr., Frances Smith, Virginia Welsh, Raymond Woods and Fletcher Word. TUFCU Founders: Bishop Duane Tisdale, Bishop Terry Cook, Pastor Robert Culp, Minister Rick Hunter, Suzette Cowell, Alto King Jr., Edwin Mabrey, Ken Anderson, James Cobham, and Roosevelt Gant. Toledo Urban Foundation Inc. Board of Directors: Richard LaValley, Jr., Pamela Buganski, Frances Smith, Deborah Beyer, Michael Killian, James Weber, and Laurie Cantrell.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



First Lady Felicia and Pastor Tim Pettaway of Walk the Word Church



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# A Little Something Extra for the Holidays

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

So, it's a wrap.

Everything's under paper and under the tree. You're done with all your shopping, except for one person. Or two. Maybe four.

So what do you get for that hard-to-buy-for person who never likes anything? Well, as they say, a book is a present they'll open again and again, so why not head to your local bookstore for these great gifts:

## FICTION

For the reader who loves a little bit of romance with their ghost story, *The Ghost Clause* by Howard Norman is a good choice to wrap up. It's the story of a ghost and his reflections on his marriage, as he observes the union of the new owners of his former home. Wrap it up with *The Plus One* by Sarah Archer, a novel about a robotics engineer who needs a date for a wedding. So why not just make one?

The traveler on your list will love reading *Layover* by David Bell. It's the story of a man who meets an intriguing stranger in an airport and falls in love with her. What happens next isn't a love story... Wrap it up with *The Dollmaker* by Nina Allan – because it is a sort of love story.

On your list, there's undoubtedly someone's mom, or maybe someone who has decided not to be. In *Motherhood* by Sheila Heti, a woman wrestles with a "to be or not to be" question and all that comes with it. Will she have children, or won't she?

For the giftee who loves being organized, wrap up *Careful What You Wish For* by Hallie Ephron, a novel about a professional organizer whose husband is a hoarder. Good for her, though, she has a couple of new clients who will give her something else to think about – except one thing leads to another and she finds herself in a much, much bigger mess. Wrap it up with another makes-you-think novel: *The Lightest Object in the Universe* by Kimi Eisele, a story of the end of the world, and a chance to rebuild society anew.

For the reader who loves historical fiction, *Quintland Sisters* by Shelley Wood will be a great gift to give. It's a fictionalized tale of the Dionne Quintuplets, as told by their nurse in novelized form.

Readers who enjoy crime fiction will love *The Shameless* by Ace Atkins. When a 20-year-old suicide suddenly becomes of interest to a couple of big-city reporters, Sheriff Quinn Colson wonders why – but before he can find out, he's embroiled in another, more recent crime and an election that could send Tibbehah County into a crime-ridden tailspin.

The lover of magical novels, wrap up *The Daughters of Temperance Hobbs* by Katherine Howe. It's a novel about a young woman who's keeping a secret from her colleagues and the world: she's a descendant of a possible witch, and she possesses powers that have come down the bloodline, but can it save a loved one's life?

## NON-FICTION

For road trippers, *The Vagabonds* by Jeff Guinn makes a great gift idea. It's the story of 10 years' worth of road-trips taken by friends Henry Ford and Thomas Edison: the things they saw, the places they visited, and why they had to stop their (very much beloved) vacations together. Wrap it up with *Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man: The New Old West* by Frank Bergon, a lively book that takes readers on a trip to meet people who hold the image of the West that used to be, and how it fits in with what the West is today.

Newlyweds will love reading *The Long Accomplishment: A Memoir of Hope and Struggle in Matrimony* by Rick Moody. It's a no-holds-barred story of Moody's second marriage, the good and the bad, and the

love inside it. Wrap it up with *The Deer Camp* by Dean Kuipers, another warts-and-all book about spending time with the people you love.

For the lover of scary stories, *Virginia's Haunted Historic Triangle, 2nd Edition* by Pamela K. Kinney will be a big treat to unwrap. Here, full-color pictures accompany hair-raising tales of weirdness and ghosts. Also for lovers of the *Unknown: Lost Civilizations* by Jim Willis, a book about the ancients and what they knew that we need to know now.

Still need more creepiness beneath your tree? Then find *Celebrity Ghosts and Notorious Hauntings* by Marie D. Jones, a book about Hollywood's weirdness, and others; and *Unexplained* by Richard Maclean Smith, a book of hair-raising stories that will show you that there are things to learn from a good scare. Wrap them both up with *I Know What I Saw* by Linda S. Godfrey, a book about monsters, urban legends, and things that go BUMP in the night.

Imagine how your science-minded giftee will love *The Royal Society & The Invention of Modern Science* by Adrian Tinniswood. It's a book about the early days of the Royal Society of London, the work it did (and does) and the very bumpy road it took to become one of science's best institutions.

The person who likes to surprise others will be surprised to get *Magic is Dead* by Ian Frisch. It's the story of magic and prestidigitation, how Frisch became immersed in a secret organization of magicians, and how it changed his life. Speaking of secrets, if your giftee is so inclined, *Cover-Ups & Secrets* by Nick Redfern may be a really good addition to your gift. It's all about conspiracies, deceptions, UFOs, Hollywood rumors, and other great topics for thought.

The lover of justice will both enjoy unwrapping *Life and Death in Rikers Island* by Homer Venters. It's the story of one man's incarceration.

... continued on page 12



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*A Little Something Extra... continued from page 11*

tion in prison for a small theft he didn't commit. It's the tale of his suicide, once released. And it's the story of what prison will do to a person, both physically and mentally. Wrap it up with **Free Cyntoia** by Cyntoia Brown-Long; it's the story of Brown-Long's days as a sex worker, her wrongful conviction and incarceration, and her life after prison; or **The Master Plan: My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose** by Chris Wilson with Bret Witter.

If there's a musician on your gift list, or someone who plays in a band, then **Guitar** by David Schiller is exactly what you should put under the tree. This lavishly-illustrated book is all about the instrument, both electric and acoustic; the artists who owned the guitar, and sometimes, who made the instrument that made the music.

The person who's fascinated by the way the world works might like to unwrap **Radical Suburbs** by Amanda Kolson Hurley. It's a book about how our cities have changed and how our perception of them needs to change, too. For a doubly-great gift, wrap it up with **Archaeology from Space** by Sarah Parcak, so your giftee can see what things are like on earth from beyond...

Christmas has a reason for the season, and if your giftee is exploring his or her beliefs, then **The Handy Christianity Answer Book** by Stephen A. Werner, PhD, will be a great present to open. In a Q&A format, this book looks at Christianity and all aspects surrounding it. Wrap it up with **Signs from the Other Side** by Bill Philipps, a book that will comfort anyone who's lost a loved one.

The person who has a hard time tearing himself away from a certain show on television will love to read **Generation Friends: An Inside Look at the Show That Defined a Television Era** by Saul Austerlitz. It's a nice look back at TV that mirrored real life, even for just a minute of our lives. And speaking of generations, look for **Connecting Generations** by Hayim Herring. It's a good look at the disparities between Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials, and how we can all learn to come together for the betterment of all involved...

Not just for a farmer, **Farming for the Long Haul** by Michael Foley will also inspire back-to-the-land folks and anyone who wants to take the next step toward it. This book espouses small farms and other new ways of farming that don't hurt the groundwater or the land itself. Beware

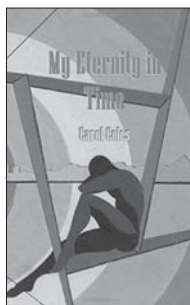
that this may be controversial. Beware that it may launch a few farmers on your list. Wrap it up with **Farm + Land's Back to the Land** by Frederick Pikovsky and Nicole Caldwell. It's a guide to living and working outdoors and perhaps going back to the land; or **The Farmer's Son** by John Connell, a story of life on an Irish family farm.

Your favorite armchair astronomer will love unwrapping **When the Earth had Two Moons** by Erik Asphaug because there are so many things to learn about what's "out there."

For readers who love history, **Born to the Badge** by Mark Warren might be the gift to get. Part novelization, part history, it's the story of Wyatt Earp and his years in Wichita before moving to Texas to escape his past.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

For the thinker on your gift list, **We Can't Breathe** by Jabari Asim might be the perfect thing to give. In essays that provoke thought and invite discussion, Asim tackles black culture, black families, the necessity of black writers, and how Black America has its own

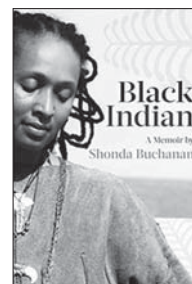


narrative to claim from history. Wrap it up with this book for the poetry lover, **My Eternity in Time** by Carol Coles. It's filled with verse on love, life, and death, and it offers plenty of food for thought.

The reader who works to understand racial issues will want to see

**When I Was White** by Sarah Valentine beneath the tree this year. It's the true story of a little white girl who grows up to be a woman who learns that her father was a black man. Complicated, yes. Fascinating? That, too. Also look for **Self-Portrait in Black and White** by Thomas Chatterton Williams, the story of an entire family's reckoning with race. Also take a look at **Black Indian: A Memoir** by Shonda

Buchanan, a story of a bi-racial woman who embraces both her Native American and her African American roots.



The teenager on your list who loves history will love **Emancipated: My Family's Fight for Freedom** by Cheryl Wills. It's the personal story of Wills' father, and her great-great-great grandfather, who was a Tennessee slave who fought in the Civil War. Included is information so your young giftee can start his or her own family tree. Wrap it up with **I Missed the Bus, But I Arrived on Time** by Willis S. Drake, a memoir by a Renaissance man and his dreams of doing it all.

## BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR

For the fiercest of fierce women on your gift list, look for **Passionate Spirit: The Life of Alma Mahler** by Cate Haste. It's the story of Mahler, wife of the artist, who was also the first woman to write an opera at a time when women were supposed to be shadows of their husbands. It's one of those little-know stories you should know.

The giftee who needs a boost of confidence will love unwrapping **More Than Enough** by Elaine Welteroth. It's the story of the author's realization that she really WAS everything she needed to be and if that's a great lesson to take into the new year...

They say that America's Royalty sprang from the New England area and if your giftee is a fan or follower, then wrap up **The Kennedy Heirs** by J. Randy Taraborrelli. This big book is all about the JFK kids and their generation, as well as their cousins.

For the person who's spent time this year as caregiver to a parent, How to **Forget** by Kate Mulgrew is the book to wrap. It's the story of caring and loss, and coming to terms with a past that one may or may not know until secrets are no longer kept...

The Anglophile on your gift list will love having **Our Rainbow Queen** by Sali Hughes under the tree. It's a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's colorful style and the splashy fashions she favors.

For the lover of music, feminism, and fierce women, **No Walls and the Recurring Dream** by Ani Di Franco will make a perfect gift. It's the

... continued on page 13

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*A Little Something Extra... continued from page 12*

story of Di Franco's first thirty years on earth, her activism, her life, and her music.

If there's a Hollywood watcher on your gift list this year, then wrap up ***Seduction: Sex, Lies and Stardom in Howard Hughes's Hollywood* by Karina Longworth**. It's the story of a very rich man, the women who wanted him (or his money, or both) and the women who got what they wanted – much to their regret.

Historians and connoisseurs alike will love reading ***The Bourbon King* by Bob Batchelor**. It's the story of George Remus, his crimes, and his totally illegal prohibition-era empire.

## BUSINESS

If there's a business-minded future college student on your gift list this year, you're both in luck: you, because finding their gift is easy for once; them, because of the ***Masters at Work*** series. These quick-to-read books take a look at various professions, from the kind of education needed, to the salaries that can be expected, the best parts of the job, the most hated, and what it's like to go into business for yourself. Look for ***Masters at Work*** books on being an architect, museum curator, fashion designer, sommelier, baker, life coach, neurosurgeon, and others.

## HEALTH / MEDICINE

Here's a book for the teacher, parent, or pediatrician on your gift list: ***Let the Children Play: Why More Play Will Save Our Schools and Help Children Thrive* by Pasi Sahlberg and William Doyle**. Yes, this is a book on horsing around, play, goofing off, and all the other fun things we should encourage children to do more. This book will explain why.

Parents of all ages will love reading ***I'm Staying at Richard's* by Bernadette Agius**, a book about motherhood, and Agius' journey with her son, who has Down syndrome. Wrap it up with ***Normal Sucks* by Jonathan Mooney**, a book about living with differences and knowing that "normal" is whatever you say it is.

For the giftee who strives to stay as healthy as possible, ***Living with a Green Heart* by Gay Browne** may be the right gift to give. It's about getting rid of toxins in your house and in your body, not just inside and outside but also outside the door. And if that giftee is ***Of A Certain Age, add Eightysomethings* by Katharine Esty, PhD** to that gift package. Neither of you will be sorry you did.

## ANIMALS AND PETS

There are actually three kinds of people who will love seeing ***No Beast So Fierce* by Dane Huckelbridge** under the tree: animal lovers, for sure, will want to read this book about deadly tigers. Conservationists will be eager to see what the author says. And adventure lovers will thrill at the danger inside this book. Lucky are those three people with this book. Lucky you, if they're one in the same giftee.

No dog lover is going to want to miss ***Unleashing Your Dog* by Marc Bekoff and Jessica Pierce**. It's about how your giftee can learn more about their dog by learning about the dog's senses and how to make Doggo as happy as possible through those senses. Wrap it up with ***Smoky the Brave* by Damien Lewis**, the true story of a tiny Yorkie dog and his role in World War II.

That cat lover on your list will yowl with joy when ***Tiny but Mighty* by Hannah Shaw** is unwrapped. Filled with the cutest of kitten pictures, this book is a delight right there. Add plenty of information and tips on saving orphans, and you've got a book absolutely meant to give this holiday.

The lover of wildlife and the feeder of birds will squawk when they open ***Saving Jemima* by Julie Zuckefoose**. It's the story of a blue jay and the woman who helped raise her, who kept the bird alive, and who loved a feathered friend. For more wild book lovers, try *The Hidden World of*

the Fox by Adele Brand, and let your giftee see what the fox says. (Hint, this makes a great stocking-stuffer).

*All The Jazz... continued from page 9*

er, 5:45p.m. - 7:15p.m. and Project 206, an avant-garde jazz ensemble existing in the world of electronics. It is a world brought forth by the detailed creation of synth sounds, outside-the-box arranging, and sensitivity for creating music that brings both originality and depth to Jazz, 7:30pm - 9:00pm.

Located in the historic downtown Warehouse District, 20 North Gallery is the oldest independent art gallery in the city of Toledo. Performances were by Dickey & Kevin Eikum, 6:00-6:30 p.m.; Jean Holden & Lisa Holden, 6:30-7:15 p.m.; Kim Buehler, 7:15-8 p.m.; Ramona Collins, 8:15-9 p.m.

At The Toledo Club, a Members' Jam Session started at 6 p.m. and the Main Branch Library was the site for a performance by the University of Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

Many of the performers ended their evenings by moving over to Wesley's Bar & Grill at 9 p.m. for an after hours jam session.



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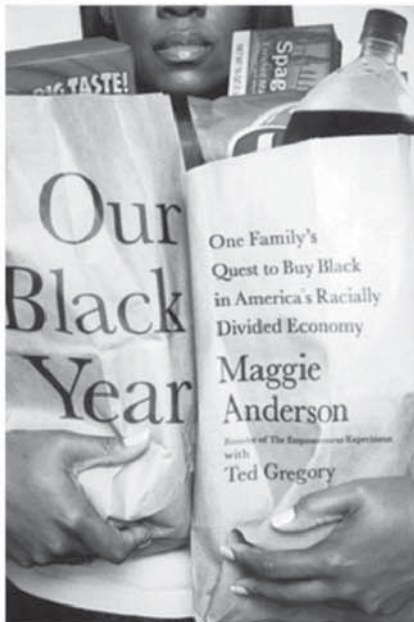
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# CLASSIFIEDS

November 27, 2019

Page 15

## CHURCH CUSTODIAN

First Church of God has an immediate opening for a Church Custodian who has the basic knowledge and skills to perform daily duties consistent with the maintenance and general upkeep of the church facility. This includes routine tasks anywhere from daily in-house cleaning to minor repairs. Those interested please contact the church office at 419-255-0097

## AUDITIONS

AUDITIONS for the Toledo Repertoire Theatre's production of "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry. Directed by Irina Zaurov.

Looking for strong African American actors!

December 19 and 21 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Rep.

Show will take place from February 28-March 8, 2020.

8 Male roles from ages 20 ish-50 years old, and one boy 10-12 years (not tall)

4 Female roles from 20 ish-65 years old

## BP-HUSKY REFINING PROCESS OPERATORS NEEDED

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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (POOL) RFQ19-Q004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Qualifications for A&E Services (pool)**. Received in accordance with law until **December 18, 2019 at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## 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](http://www.ivinstitute.org) <<http://www.ivinstitute.org>> to register.

## LEND YOUR VOICE TO ENSURE EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY CAN LIVE IN DIVERSE, VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

The Fair Housing Center will be conducting two focus group sessions to seek community input on the factors that prevent members of our community from accessing safe, affordable, decent housing in neighborhoods of opportunity. This information will be included in the City of Toledo's 2020 Analysis of Impediments that identifies barriers to fair housing choice.

Community leaders, service providers, and advocates are invited to join one of the following sessions:

### Session #1

Wednesday, December 4  
1:30 – 3 p.m.  
Kent Branch Library

### Session #2

Wednesday, December 4  
5:30 – 7 p.m.  
ABLE/LAWO

## BP-HUSKY REFINING HEAVY CRAFT MECHANIC (PIPEFITTER, BOILERMAKER, WELDER)

The Heavy Craft Mechanic role includes typical refinery pipefitter and boilermaker activities on fixed equipment. The role will perform all duties necessary for safe and efficient operation under the supervision of a Maintenance Supervisor.

### Essential Job Requirements:

- Minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Must be able to provide training/certification documenting one or more of the following qualifications:
  - Journeyman's Pipefitter or Boilermaker certificate;
  - Or a minimum of 8 years documented relevant work experience in a similar process industry as a Pipefitter or Boilermaker;
  - Equivalent military experience as a Pipefitter or Boilermaker.
- A minimum of 4 years industrial maintenance experience.
- The ability to successfully pass the code welding certification.
- Willingness to work eight to sixteen hour shifts and temporary off shifts that may include weekends, holidays and overtime, and perform physically active job tasks, many of which involve year-round outdoor work in all types of weather.
- Required equipment will accommodate a maximum of 275 lbs. weight requirement.

Must Upload a Resume.

Apply Now at:  
[www.bp.com/careers](http://www.bp.com/careers)



## Appreciation Dinner Recognizes Nine Honorees

By Tricia Hall

*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's (TUFCU) annual appreciation banquet was held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at The Seagate Center.

Demetria Simpson, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority president, served as the mistress of ceremonies. The program began with a prayer delivered by Bishop Duane Tisdale of Friendship Baptist Church, a welcome presented by Timothy Pettaway, pastor of Walk the Word Ministries, a testimony reported by credit union member Norman Corggens and, after acknowledgements, entertainment by musical guest Howard Hewett.

"We have doubled our size. Our current business hours make us a six-day operation. I want to thank our board of directors and staff for working to help complete this dream. I could not have done this without your support and commitment," explained Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union.

There were more than 250 attendees present to witness nine honorees receive recognition for services provided to the credit union and community. The 2019 honorees were: Monica Armstrong, William Ellis Jr., Theresa Gabriel, Jerel Harris-Tisdale, Douglas Keetion, Andrew Kinsey, Alexis



Alexis Means, William Ellis, Jr; Monica Armstrong; Treasurer Lindsay Webb; Douglas Keetion; Theresa M. Gabriel; Jeffrey White; Andrew Kinsey; Jerel Harris-Tisdale

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### Fair Housing Community Focus Groups

Two sessions (choose one):

Wed. Dec. 4 | 1:30 - 3 pm  
Kent Branch Library, Room A  
3101 Collingwood Blvd  
Toledo, OH 43610

Wed. Dec. 4 | 5:30 - 7 pm  
ABLE/LAWO  
525 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604

**LEND YOUR VOICE TO  
HELP ENSURE  
EVERYONE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY CAN  
LIVE IN DIVERSE,  
VIBRANT  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

The Fair Housing Center is conducting an Analysis of Impediments to identify barriers to fair housing choice in the City of Toledo. We are seeking input from community leaders, service providers, and advocates to share their perspectives about what prevents people in our community from accessing safe, affordable, decent housing in neighborhoods of opportunity.



432 N. Superior St.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
419-243-6163  
toledofhc.org



Suzette Cowell and Demetria Simpson



Toledo Urban staff members



Rev. James H. Willis Sr and First Lady Linnie Willis



Kimela and Victor Taylor



Angel Ware, Tiffany Butts and Yolanda Butts



Beatrice Daniels and Cynthia Savage