



Volume 70 No. 4

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

December 29, 2021



Cynthia Savage, Pathway Inc's Director of Community Resources

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# A Blueberry in a Strawberry Patch

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

The Truth Contributor

*We're at a moment of reckoning in America. I think our democracy is on the line*

**- Eric H. Holder Jr.**



For the Lucas County Democratic Party, 2021 was a good year. The election results validated the Party's brand of standing for working, middle-class, and people of poverty and support for criminal justice and the rising tide of diversity and multiculturalism.

Yet, Lucas County is politically-situated like a blueberry in a strawberry patch when it comes to state-level gubernatorial, legislative, and judicial races. In other words, as a blue island of progressiveness surrounded by a sea of red conservatism.

The late Speaker and U.S. House of Representatives and Tip O'Neill's classic quote is undoubtedly true. "All politics is local." Consequently, we minimize and neglect local politics at our own peril.

Yet, the national right-wing Party has implemented a backward integration strategy to gain control of state and local-level races to tighten their stranglehold on absolute power. Therefore, many politicians feel that our greatest struggle is for the survival of American democracy.

Are Lucas County Democrats serious about state and national elections, or is the Party entirely focused on political campaigns within its local boundaries?

I spoke with Chairman Michael Ashford to reflect upon the Party's 2021 achievements and discuss how his work addresses state and national challenges to democracy.

**Perryman:** What legacy does the Lucas County Democrats leave for 2021?

**Ashford:** It is that we have grown so much in the year and a half since I became chair. We raised a significant amount of money and won three seats that we were not supposed to win at all or be close.

**Perryman:** Which were they?

**Ashford:** Everybody thought Tony Dia would upset Katie Moline. Everyone thought Judge Myron Duhart's race would be close. In Lori Olender, we beat Alfonso Gonzales, a sitting judge for Lucas County Court of Common Pleas.

So, that set the stage for the expectations that we had going into 2021. We brought a team philosophy to city council. We asked candidates to campaign and knock on doors as teams. The effort towards their campaigns was incredible. We won 17 of 20 races and passed two levies. We had almost 80 volunteers every Saturday knocking on doors. We must've knocked on nearly 12,000-14,000 doors. The candidates did a great job. The officers and funders all did a great job of supporting them. It builds momentum going into 2022.

**Perryman:** 2022 will be a challenging year for state-wide contests like the governor and legislative and judicial races.

**Ashford:** Absolutely, but our goal is to make sure that we increase the

Democratic footprint in Lucas County. I think it's growing, especially when we picked up a seat on Maumee City Council. We're powerful in the Washington Local area. We remain steady in Oregon and are beginning to see some great strides in Sylvania, Sylvania Township, and Maumee, where we want to make sure that we continue to grow and identify potential Democrats to vote the ticket.

**Perryman:** Well, that's critically important as you get into the governor's race. Ohio's four-year congressional map gives the Republicans an unfair advantage and a gerrymandered 9th Congressional District creates uncertainty for long-serving Marcy Kap-tur's tenure. What are your plans there?

**Ashford:** There will be a legal fight about Congressional District 9, so we'll have to wait and see. Regardless, the Party's going to put in 110 percent. This entire county, our elected officials, stakeholders and our voters will get behind Marcy to make sure that we get out and push her to victory.

**Perryman:** Are Democrats sober, sincere and serious about these state and national-level issues and races? Can we generate the excitement actually to show up? Will anything anger this Party or motivate them to hit the streets?

**Ashford:** First of all, we have outstanding new leadership, a new chair for the Ohio Democratic Party, who is doing a fantastic job of getting the information out, rallying the troops and developing the grassroots to get people excited about 2022.

In addition, we'll have some very strong Democratic candidates for governor across the board. We have Nan Whaley of Dayton and John Cranley out of Cincinnati. They each bring strengths, but more importantly, they bring all their grassroots and voting base to energize and get them ready.

Yes, you will also see the ugliness of the Republican Party, which has already started with the governor's race. But hopefully, we can capitalize on making sure that we talk about Biden's \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better plan. The legislation, if passed, will create millions of jobs between the next five-to-eight years and invest in human capital. So, there are many things that the base will be excited about moving forward in 2022.

**Perryman:** In addition to gerrymandered redistricting issues, there are state issues such as HB 322 and 327, which prohibit teaching factual history regarding race or what the state terms as "divisive concepts."

**Ashford:** You know what? I'm not surprised about the state bills that come out of Columbus. They've gone so far to the right it's unbelievable. Not only are we talking about HB 322, but we're also talking about the one bill that you don't even have to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon. That scares me more than anything. We just have to make sure that our base clearly understands the legislative significance of quality of life for how we move forward living in Ohio.

**Perryman:** Speaking of the open carry legislation, what about the street violence and these initiatives to reduce gun violence?

**Ashford:** Let me put it like this, Mr. [JoJuan] Armour is doing an excellent job. I don't know his overall plan of action, but I've been impressed by what I've seen. I do know that across the nation, crime is up everywhere. I don't know how you can precisely control that.

**Perryman:** What are the Party's goals going into 2022?

**Ashford:** The goal is to maintain the momentum in the Party and continue to provide the best services for our customers from the Lucas County Recorder's office, my day job.

**Perryman:** Please describe the current state of the Party.

**Ashford:** If I had to give us a grade, given that we've only been in charge for a year and a half, comparing us to everybody else, I think we're on the same par. We still have a little more growth to do and put in



Michael Ashford

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... continued on page 4

# Congressional Black Caucus Calls on the Senate to Reconvene and Pass Voting Rights Legislation

Last week, Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and members of the Congressional Black Caucus are standing for the American people and will continue to demand justice for voting rights.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty said "in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 'the fierce urgency of now' calls for the Senate to immediately bring voting rights legislation to a vote. As the Conscience of the Congress, voting rights remains a primary focus of the Congressional Black Caucus. Black communities across the nation stand to lose the most if the Senate does not do their job and pass voting rights legislation. Every citizen is entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in our democracy. This must not be filibustered. Voting rights has been a bipartisan issue reauthorized by four republican administrations, and it is time to send it to President Biden's desk for reauthorization."

"The Congressional Black Caucus stands with Martin Luther King, III, in saying 'we must restore the very voting rights protections Dr. King and countless other civil rights leaders bled to secure. How can we com-

memorate the legacy of a man who dedicated his life to voting rights, and then allow inaction when the looming threat of Jim-Crow era suppression threatens to dismantle every stride Dr. King worked to achieve?"

"The recent wave of voter suppression is a stain on our democracy. The Senate owes it to the American people to return from their holiday break and protect the sacred freedom to vote," said Congressman Steven Horsford. "Over our fifty years as the Conscience of the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus has used Our Power and Our Message to lead the fight for voting rights. Today, we call on the Senate to do their job and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act into law."

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee reminds us "the right to vote is a powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice and must be protected against attack from all enemies, foreign and domestic, using all the legal tools at our disposal. We must all do our part to preserve this most important heritage because it was earned with the sacrifices and the lives of our ancestors. It is time for the Senate to act by protecting and expanding the right to vote."

## Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo and Vicinity

December 21, 2021

### Re: Gun Violence and Youth Violence and Aggression

The pastors and ministers of the IMA have reached the precipice of our concerns and outrage as our community of Toledo and vicinity have been immersed in the pain and suffering of continued gun violence.

We know there are no easy or uncomplicated answers to this concern. However, we can't be silent in the midst of this community that is under siege and suffering.

This violence places every citizen at risk – the young and not so young. We must put aside petty division and misunderstanding and form a solid collaboration of community resources that are equitable and not marginalized as in the past.

We are committed to do our part as leaders in the faith community and we challenge government and law enforcement and educators to do theirs. Intergenerational blending and mentoring are methods to resolving many of the misconceptions that lead to youth aggression and gun

violence but even that is not enough.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lee Williams, First Vice President Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo & Vicinity Senior Pastor Search-lite Community Church, Maumee

Rev. Dr. Cedric Brock, President Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo & Vicinity Senior Pastor Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Toledo

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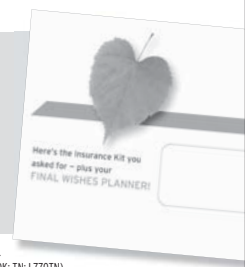
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# TARTA Extends Fare-Free Policy through July, Announces Plans to Go Cashless

*Special to The Truth*

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) has announced that a policy designed to keep passengers and employees safe while helping them economically recover from the pandemic will continue through most of 2022.

TARTA's Board of Trustees has approved the extension of its fare-free policy through July 31, 2022, and also plotted a course for the agency's future by announcing its intention to go to a cashless fare system by 2024.

TARTA was one of the first public transit agencies in the nation to suspend fares in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not charged customers for rides since March of 2020. Since the pandemic began, TARTA has prioritized strategies for the safety of customers and employees such as suspending fare collection and providing free facial coverings.

"For many of our customers, TARTA remains the only option for them to reach work and medical appointments," said TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski. "We have seen how the fare-free policy has benefited the public in general as well, by allowing more people to compete for the jobs available in the area and helping businesses, which are also struggling to hire and maintain a workforce."

"While suspending fares is not a practice we can continue indefinitely, we are pleased to be able to offer a safe transportation option and help more people take advantage of the opportunities that exist in northwest Ohio."

TARTA is still determining how fares will be structured when collection does resume on August 1, 2022. A cashless card system would be implemented 12-to-24 months later, with plans in motion to help customers make the transition. Customers who wished to pay for rides without cash on TARTA and TARPS vehicles before the pandemic could already do so using the EZfare app.

TARTA plans to continue accepting payments through EZfare, and replace fare collection boxes on fixed-route vehicles by August of next year with those capable accepting both cash and virtual payments.

"Every change we have planned for our fare system is geared toward

making TARTA faster and more efficient," Koprowski said. "Eliminating cash fares will make every trip easier for customers and TARTA personnel alike, and we look forward to preparing all of our riders to make this change."

"Years of underfunding have left us behind the rest of the industry in terms of technological advancements, to the detriment of our customers. Going to a cashless fare system is something that public transit passengers around the state and the nation have already seen the benefits of. We are happy to put plans in motion to give our riders those benefits, as well."

The plan approved by TARTA's board calls for the transit system to develop fare cards, which could be refilled with cash before boarding at TARTA facilities and other area stores and locations. A transition to a cashless fare system is the next step in a continued organizational transformation for TARTA, which will expand service to cover all of Lucas County and implement its first system-wide redesign in decades before the end of 2022.

TARTA provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background. TARTA is underway with exploring and introducing new initiatives and service options that will enhance convenience and customer experience while moving our region into the future of public transit.

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

additional infrastructure to address a couple of minor issues. But we still have to put some things in place.

**Perryman:** Can you elaborate?

**Ashford:** Number one, we need to do a better job of raising money from our donor base and getting our donors to understand the importance of why they donate. And it's not always to fund a campaign. Funding is also needed for overall operations and hiring quality staff or to pay our bills. People think that the Party takes money and just puts it toward campaigns. That's not necessarily true. That money has to go to pay for overall operations. So, we must do a better job of relaying that message to people.

**Perryman:** Indeed, you do. Lucas County is a blue island surrounded politically by a red state and nation. Given the right-wing focus on state-level and national issues and campaigns, the Republican Party could rise again from near virtual extinction in Lucas County.

**Ashford:** If the Republicans revive, that's okay. We're prepared and will be fine. We know that it will happen, but we don't worry about what they do. Instead, we concentrate on what the Lucas County Democratic Party can do and how we can get better.

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



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# Cynthia Savage: Offering Relief Through Pathway's Home Relief Department

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The unemployment rate skyrocketed to record highs in Ohio during the pandemic, forcing many Toledo residents to fall behind on their mortgage and rent payments. Fortunately, over 1900 Toledo families are enjoying the Holiday season in their own homes thanks to Pathway Inc. and their Home Relief Department.

Since the federal eviction moratorium expired, housing displacement is a great concern for the most vulnerable in our community and help is needed more than ever.

"Without mortgage/rental assistance, many Lucas County residents would risk home instability this new year," shares Cynthia Savage.

Savage is currently serving as Pathway Inc.'s Director of Community Resources. She is leading a hand selected team responsible for overseeing and distributing approximately \$23 million in mortgage, rental and utility assistance throughout Lucas County.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us but we've made great strides so far as stewards over these funds. It's an exciting challenge to help our community in such an important way," says Savage.

Savage is a forward-thinker and proven problem-solver with decades of professional experience in higher education and the public sector. She is making a big impact as the newest member to the Pathway agency.

Cynthia E. Savage is an Organizational Development practitioner, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity advocate and Transformational Leader. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Toledo and a Master of Organization Development degree from Bowling Green State University's College of Business. A native of Toledo, Ohio, Savage is also a member of the Organization Development Network and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

With COVID-19 causing unprecedented job loss and income reduction in the City of Toledo, Savage and her team have been working harder than ever to build a network of local partners willing and ready to help residents in need.

"Unfortunately, we are all still being impacted by Covid in some way. For some it has been harder than others, yet our goal is to keep as many Lucas County residents housed as we can," shares Cynthia.

These past two years have negatively impacted more than just the underserved, the middle class have been struggling to stay afloat as well.

"From last November until today we have helped just over 4,000 individuals; approximately 1,900 families," she explains.

Pathway's Home Relief Department has key partnerships with the City of Toledo through Neighborly, Lucas County's Emergency Rental Assistance Portal, for Toledoans to apply for help.

Pastor Jerry L. Boose of Second Baptist Church has also partnered with Pathway hosting walk-in application open houses at the Agape Center located at 225 S. Irwin Rd. Holland Ohio, 43528.

"We also have staff located within the East Toledo Family Center assist-



ing those in need of permanent housing," shares Savage. "The community relationships that we have established and the new opportunities we continue to build help us reach those who were unaware we even existed, yet often need help the most."

The Home Relief Department is also looking to establish partnerships with Goodwill and several local colleges and universities in the near future.

"We have a large number of college students that rent in our community. Our team has helped a few students who qualified for rental assistance, but we hope to get connected to more students in need," says Savage.

"We are building relationships with local landlords too. Helping their tenants catch up on late payments helps them as owners in most scenarios as well."

Approved funds will disperse to landlords and utility companies directly. "These funds help everyone. Many landlords in Toledo extended so much grace to their tenants experiencing hardship from Covid. They deserve just as much help as other small business owners in our community," says Savage.

Congress provided \$5 billion in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties and insular areas to prevent, prepare for and respond to Coronavirus.

There are currently three mortgage/rental/utilities assistance programs Pathway offers:

...continued on page 9

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# Toledo Museum of Art Reopens the Cloister Gallery and Broadens Narrative of Middle Ages Art

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Toledo Museum of Art unveiled its renovated Cloister Gallery on Saturday, December 18 after a year-long project designed to enhance the visual experience for visitors and also to display a wider range of the various cultural influences on the Middle Ages.

The project included a complete reinstallation of the art works, a comprehensive cleaning of the Gallery's three medieval arcades and Venetian wellhead to remove centuries of accumulated dirt and the addition of works of art that had not been on view for decades.

A number of the newly added pieces said Adam Levine, TMA's Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director and CEO, reflect "a more accurate and inclusive world history ... connecting the Afro-Euro-Asian world."

Sophie Ong, TMA's Hirsch curatorial fellow, who led the reinstallation and renovation project, also emphasized the reasons for the cleaning and visual upgrade. She pointed to four reasons for the project:

First, said Ong, the TMA staff felt it was important to include the entire breadth of the Middle Ages time frame – from approximately 500 C.E. to 1500 C.E. Those first five centuries or so have erroneously been referred to as the Dark Ages and, from the standpoint, of the art of the period, they were definitely not dark.

Secondly, the cultural inclusion of the Islamic world is important given the expansion of Islam into Europe and the various European excursions into the primarily Islamic world, including, for example, the Crusades.

Third, as Levine also point out, the geographic interconnection between

Europe, Asia and Africa in both overland and sea explorations brought art together.

Fourth, from a material standpoint, the exchange of goods and media in which to create art introduced a various items crafted from glass, ceramic, paper – among others – to the Middle Ages world at large.

The new Cloisters Gallery, said Ong, takes "an expansive view of the Middle Ages." The new pieces are a result of foraging through TMA's storage spaces and brining out "some pieces in storage for decades," noted Ong.

As a result of the reinstallation, the Cloister Gallery is now exploring themes such as religious plurality and devotion, the legacies of Rome, the role of women in the arts and cultural interaction and exchange.

The new diverse collection on display includes a gilded bronze standing Buddha from around 530 C.E.; Late Antique blown glass vessels with Jewish symbols from Jerusalem; a mosque lamp from Mamluk Egypt; a 13th century German reliquary embedded with a carved Carolingian rock crystal; frescoes of saints from 12th and 13th century Catalonia; ivory caskets with scenes from medieval romances and a 14th century Sultanate Mihrab from India.

Admission to the Museum is always free but visitors are asked to register at the Information Desk when they arrive. The Museum is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays and all major holidays.

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# Lola and Nola Celebrate Their 90th Birthday

By Dawn Scotland

*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

Twins Lola Glover and Nola Hunt celebrated their 90th Birthday along with family and friends Saturday, December 18th at the Glass City Metropark Glass Pavilion. The pair turned 90 on December 15. Guests enjoyed food and entertainment by the Intuition Band.

The two honorees were seated in the front of the glass hall in large, padded chairs fit for two queens. The theme was 'Casino Royale' with red, black, and white motif. Attendees lined up and flooded the honorees with hugs, wells wishes and gifts which the two received graciously.

"I'm thankful to be living and do what I do..." Lola Glover remarked. "I'm thankful to be 90 and not have anything to complain about. I have nothing to complain about: the good, the bad and the ugly [I'm thankful for]."

The children of the two sisters gave remarks around the room sharing kind sentiments about their mother and aunt.

"I would like to thank my mother because she has been an inspiration, an encourager, one who would correct you when you're wrong. That makes you strong," said Diane Gordon, daughter of Lola Glover. "I thank my other mother, Nola; she's my aunt, but she's also been like a mother to all of us."

"God has blessed us to have them these many years and I am so thankful for the love, the encouragement and always supplying us with ways that we can be better people and to give our community a better look at what we can do when we come together." Gordon thanked her nieces and the pair's grandchildren for planning the event.

Preceding the event Glover and Hunt received individual proclamations from the Ohio House of Representatives presented by Ohio State Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson acknowledging their accomplishments and resilience.

Lola Glover and Nola Hunt were born in Sunflower, Mississippi in 1931. The pair relocated to Toledo when they were 12 years old. They have spent a lifetime in Toledo serving the community and their family. The events of the evening were a tribute to their strong legacy.

Nola Hunt shared enthusiastically about the milestone: "God is so good. We are so thankful to be here. Ninety years in our right minds and able to chat and talk and have great fun [with] a great crowd out to celebrate. We're thankful and hope we can have 91!" she laughed.



*The Intuition Band*



*'Casino Royale' decorations*



*Nola Hunt and Lola Glover receive guests*



*Lola Glover*



*Nola Hunt*

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# The Best Books of 2021

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

There's still a lot of winter left.

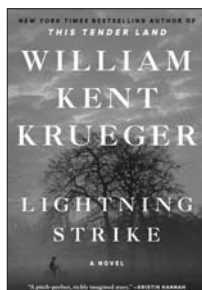
That's the fact staring you in the face. Once the holiday decorations are down, the toys are all put away, and you've rediscovered your gift certificates... what do you do with them?

You buy books, of course. And to get you started, here are a few sure-fire picks for the Best of 2021:

## FICTION

What would you do if life throws you a curve-ball? In *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley (Putnam, \$27.00), gay man, former TV star, Palm Springs fixture, no-responsibilities Patrick is asked to take care of his niece and nephew for the long-term. He never wanted kids at all. He never wanted to fall in love with them, either. Cute, sweet, funny, heart-felt – what more could you want?

You don't have to have read any of the other

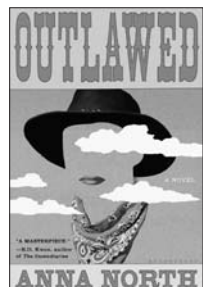


Cork O'Conner novels to want *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Krueger (Atria, \$27.00), which takes readers back to 1963, and a murder in small-town Minnesota. Cork O'Conner is a young teen then, the son of the local sheriff, and he knows that Big John Manydeeds

couldn't have possibly hung himself. But how does a boy go about proving something like that? For fans, that's a can't-miss question. For new fans, it'll send you racing toward the rest of the Cork O'Conner series.

Watchers of "The Handmaid's Tale" will absolutely devour

*Outlawed* by Anna North (Bloomsbury, \$26.00). In a small corner of Texas, at an unstated time, 17-year-old Ada is



struggling to give her husband children, which embarrasses him, and that's something only witches do. And so Ada is cast out of the community and heads north, to safety, where barren women are outlaws. This dystopian, feminist Western is dangerous and delicious.

*Raft of Stars* by Andrew J. Graff (Ecco, \$26.99) is a coming-of-age story of two boys who are best friends, and one of them is abused by his father. Tired of seeing his friend hurt, the other boy shoots the man and both boys run away to escape what surely will be legal trouble and maybe even jail time. They're running toward a lie, though, and they're heading for a waterfall they don't know is there. This is one of those books with heartbreakingly beautiful prose in a story that'll leave you with sweaty palms.

And finally, have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you'd taken a different path? In

*The Nine Lives of Rose Napolitano* by Donna Freitas (Pamela Dorman Books, \$26.00), one woman has many options in her life, each one ending in a way she never thought possible. It's like Groundhog Day

with a twist that'll roll around in your mind for days...

## NON-FICTION

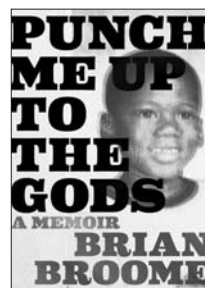
For every kid who grew up with a pile of comic books next to the bed, in a drawer, or in the closet, *American Comics: A History* by Jeremy Dauber (W.W. Norton, \$35.00) is a must-have. Here, Dauber follows comics from their political roots to today's activist cartoons, and how we went from Katzenjammer Kids to MAD Magazine to comix as we know them. The bonus is that Dauber puts comics into fascinating histori-



cal perspective.

Did you buy your lottery ticket this week? If you did, it'll make a fine bookmark for *Jackpot: How the Super-Rich Really Live – and How Their Wealth Harms Us All* by Michael Mechanic (Simon & Schuster, \$28.00).

You might think twice about the burdens of wealth after reading this book – and you might re-examine your thoughts on what one person's wealth does to everyone else...



always graceful, one that will sometimes make you gasp, and that you'll be glad you read.

You know that feeling you get when you come across a stack of old magazines in the attic? That gentle, hometown, old-time feeling is extra-rich inside *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts (Ballantine, \$28.00). This is the story of Annie Wilkins, aging, ailing, and alone, and the audacious cross-country ride she decides to take on a horse she'd just purchased. This feel-good story is set in the 1950s, and its neighborliness might make it be the perfect antidote for today's world.

Lastly, *The Redemption of Bobby Love* by Bobby and Cheryl Love with Lori L. Tharps (Mariner Books / HMH Books, \$28.00) might be the most unusual memoir you read this winter. As a young man, Walter Miller ran away from a prison bus and to



Readers who love memoirs will enjoy *Punch Me Up to the Gods* by Brian Broome (HMH, \$26.00), who writes about growing up, being in love with the boy who abused him, and the father who did, too. It's a coming-out tale that's

sometimes funny and sometimes sad, one that will sometimes make you gasp, and that you'll be glad you read.



...continued on page 9

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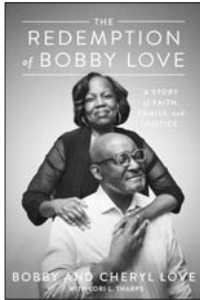
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Best Books... continued from page 8



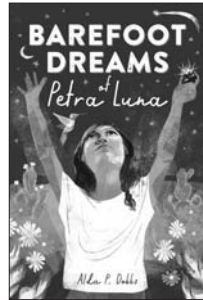
New York, where he renamed himself Bobby Love and went into hiding in plain sight. Love kept to the straight-and-narrow, fell in love, got married, and raised a family but 40-some years later, the law caught up with him. This astounding, impossible story, told alternately between both Loves, is one you'll.....um, love.

#### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Based on a real event (the Mexican Revolution), *The Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* by Alda P. Dobbs (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) is

the story of a young girl who becomes responsible for her Abuelita and her little sister when the Federales destroy their village and their home. This causes the trio to run north, one step ahead of those who wish to kill them, on a race to reach the border and make it to America. It's an exciting read for eight-to-14-year-olds.

Kids who love silly stories will enjoy *Egg Marks the Spot: A Skunk and Badger Story* by Amy Timberlake, the second in what appears to be a series. A whirlwind named Skunk and his very staid, very reticent friend,

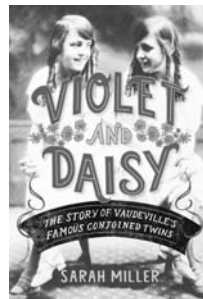


Badger are at odds again – this time, over a missing rock from Badger's collection. There are chickens involved, a bit of a mystery, dinosaurs, and a lot of fun for your seven-to-10-year-old. Hint: find the first Skunk and Badger book; your child will want that one, too.

For teens who enjoy unique memoirs, *Violet and Daisy: The Story of Vaudeville's Famous Conjoined Twins* by Sarah Miller (Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99) is the story of the Hilton sisters and their careers and lives. Born conjoined at the bottom of the spine,

Violet & Daisy were "adopted" by a woman who ruled their lives. When she died, the girls were passed on to that woman's heirs, who mishandled their careers and left them nearly penniless. This is a thrilling tale of legalities, Vaudeville, and two women determined to make their own ways, despite that they were conjoined forever. It's the perfect read for any 14-and-older reader, including adults who love memoirs.

So now, get to the bookstore. Hunt at the library. Don't miss these excellent books for adults and kids – and Season's Readings!



Cynthia Savage... continued from page 5

The CARES Program, The CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant) and The CAAHRG (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 Home Relief Grant).

Eligible applicants must be at or below the Area Median Income, experiencing hardship directly or indirectly due to Covid-19 Pandemic, qualified for unemployment during 2020-2021, experienced a reduction of income and/or risk of homelessness.

Pathway is teaming up with local Community Action Agencies, helping eligible Ohioans who are behind on mortgage/rent, and water and/or sewer utility bills catch up on past payments back to March 13, 2020 and provide additional assistance through September 30, 2022. Staff members will assist applicants with the best program for their individual needs.

"We have a large number of residents we've been able to help with current eviction notices. We also provide assistance to those experiencing homelessness and seeking housing. We can't pay your rent if you don't have a lease, but we can help pay a new rental deposit and help with first and last month's rent," explains Director Savage.

There are a number of ways to apply for assistance. You can come directly into The Pathway agency office located in the Hamilton building or apply online at [PathwayToledo.org](http://PathwayToledo.org).

"Pathway is one of the very few programs in Toledo still offering clients the opportunity to walk into the office and receive assistance with your application. Our staff will walk you through the process and tell you what you need to bring as far as supporting documentation is concerned. Often Toledo residents begin the application process at many of our local outreach events or with our community partners," says Savage.

Pathways Home Relief Department is hitting the ground running in the 2022 new year. They will be extremely active within the community so expect to see them in local libraries and events near you. Follow their activities on their website and social media channels to take part.

"This month alone we are on track to spend 1 million dollars in mortgage/rental assistance," shares Director Savage.

While asked if the money is not all spent, would it be a use-it-or-lose-it scenario, Cynthia replies, "My job is to get these funds to Ohioans in need. So 'use-it' to help local residents is our team's only option! We will continue until our funding sources end in September 2022."

In addition, Pathway Inc. houses the HEAP, PIPP and the Winter Crisis Programs. They also assist Lucas County residents with Employment and Career Services, Home Energy Assistance, Family Support Services, and community connection programs for Senior Citizens & Disabled Toledoans.

**TOMMY KAYE'S**

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*Alpha Kappa Alpha... continued from page 12*

Trivia Night fundraising events. A night with HBCU Queens was hosted for students to learn more about attending an HBCU and what it's like to be a college queen. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter also gave \$7500 scholarships to high school students.

**Target 2: Women's Healthcare and Wellness**

Each year workshops and social media campaigns were conducted on Women and Heart Health, Breast Cancer Awareness and prevention, Nutrition and Wellness, and Care for the Caregivers. Activities were Pink Goes Red Day for Heart Health activity (Aerobic Workout Party), Stroke Awareness, Virtual Smoothie Happy Hour demonstrating how to make plant-based smoothies, demonstration of a warm spinach salad, and making a healthy meal. Co-hosted a Breast Cancer awareness of Triple Net Breast Cancer, distributed CDC's Breast Cancer Risk factors fact sheet and "one size does not fit all" bra poster. Promoted Mammogram Awareness Day to encourage women to get their mammograms. A virtual "No More" Domestic Violence Awareness and Sickle Cell Awareness programs were provided. A virtual "Care for the Caregivers" workshop was conducted with the Area Office of Aging of Northwestern Ohio. Two hundred and eighty-five attendees participated.

**Target 3: Building Your Economic Legacy**

Hosted workshops on Financial Planning and Asset Accumulation, and Credit Repair and Monitoring. Held seminar titled "Everything Credit" in collaboration with ProMedica Financial Opportunity Center and promoted tips on social media. Hosted a webinar titled: "Estate Planning Made Easy...and We Mean Easy!" Hosted with Fifth-Third "EMPOWER U" virtual workshops focusing on slashing debt and boosting your credit score, budgeting, saving money, and protecting yourself against identity theft. Over 500 attendees participated.

Supported black-owned businesses, made over 270 purchases, and spent over \$50,000.

Under Operation AKA Assist, two virtual workshops were held with Grow with Google on "Negotiating Like a Pro" and "Digital Training for Everyday Skills with 75 attendees participating. The chapter donated 60 black dolls and black action figures to Lucas County Children Services for boys and girls. The American Red Cross provided a Home Preparedness Fire Prevention virtual workshop. The chapter promoted 30 Days of Giv-

ing to the local Feeding America Food Bank via Facebook and the chapter website. Individuals were asked to donate \$19.08, and \$1,267 was raised for Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank. Promoted "Wear A Mask" on social media, donated \$1,040 to Feed Children Everyway, and \$100 to Connecting Kids to Meals. The Imagine Madison Avenue School of the Arts was given boxes of uniforms, toiletries, socks, gloves, and hats for Kares Klostet.

**Target 4: The Arts**

Workshops were held promoting a Salute to the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement. Supported the Maumee Valley Country Day School Wolfe Gallery and hosted the MADD Poets Society. Promoted attending "A Raisin in the Sun" play at the Toledo Repertoire Theater. Black History Month disseminated information about the impact of the Harlem Renaissance and

The community was encouraged to take a virtual tour of The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Ohio through the museums' partnership with Google Arts and Culture. Held virtual "Harlem Renaissance House Watch Party" streamed live via Facebook and Black Art movement featuring Sonia Sanchez and Nikki Giovanni. Over 55 attendees participated. The chapter supported Governor DeWine's proclamation in establishing Toni Morrison Day on February 18, 2021.

**Target 5: Global Impact**

The chapter held community service that had a global impact in collaborating with world organizations. The chapter donated 96 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls, 28 eyeglasses, 25 pillowcase little girls' dresses, and 24 boys' shirts for children in Haiti. Donated feminine hygiene products to The American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES.) Inspirational Pen Pal postcards were mailed to children through Any Refugee Organization. Held virtual World Refugee Day in 2020 via Zoom and collected toiletries and cleaning supplies for US Together of Toledo (RAAP). Conducted a Global Impact Day workshop entitled "Stop Trafficking: Human Trafficking Awareness." Presented World Refugee Day on Facebook in 2021 in conjunction with the US Together, where Black Refugees were discussed. Over 178 people were served.

AKA Founders' Day event in 2020 incorporated Black Girls Rock and Exemplify Excellence Awards. Honorees were Maumee Bay Club of NANBPWC- Legacy of Excellence Award, Celeste Smith, Social Humanitarian Award, Ambrea Mikolajczyk -Shot Caller Award, Natalie Grey,

Young, Gifted and Black Award, Sonia Flunder-McNair- Community Change Agent Award, Paula Hicks-Hudson-Icon Award and Julia Holt, Pearl Award.

AKA Virtual Founders' Day event held in 2021 honored Black Girls Rock and Exemplify Excellence community leaders: Stephanie Teamer-Legacy of Excellence Award, Amaya Strong -Black Girl Magic Award, Wendi Huntley-Shot

Caller Award, J'Vann Winfield-Young, Gifted, and Black Award, Tracee Ellis-Social Humanitarian Award, Leila Harris-Community Change Agent Award, Doni Miller-Icon Award and Margaret Huntley- Pearl Award.

**The Truth**

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Zeta Alpha Omega



Zeta Alpha Omega MLK Day of Service Jan 2020



School supplies donations with Sigmas



**GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR/OFFICE MANAGER**

The Fair Housing Center is seeking an energetic, critical thinker who can manage multiple projects. This position is a key administrative role and is responsible for coordinating the development, administrative management, reporting, and closeout of grants. This person will ensure that the Center's grant management activities are executed professionally, efficiently, and on schedule. This position also performs office management duties and regularly interacts with the Board of Directors. The Fair Housing Center offers competitive salary and benefits package.

**SKILLS REQUIRED**

Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Excellent written and oral communication skills; exceptional interpersonal skills, a focused listener.
- Advanced MS Office skills, including Excel.
- Strong organizational and project management skills that reflect ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks seamlessly with excellent attention to detail.
- Ability to take initiative and manage projects assigned through completion with minimal supervision.
- Ability to work effectively independently and as a highly resourceful team player under pressure and within deadlines.
- Creative and innovative thinker, who actively presents new opportunities, proposes solutions and recommends best practices.
- Ability to anticipate challenges and effectively resolve potential issues through creative problem solving.
- Ability to work creatively and with flexibility in a fast paced environment while maintaining high work standards.
- Ability to develop rapport and engender trust.
- Exhibits a positive attitude and professional demeanor.

**Education and Experience Requirements:**

2+ years of applicable grant administration experience, required. Experience in foundations, nonprofits, human resources and finance highly desirable. Bachelor's Degree preferred.

The Fair Housing Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Please send resume and cover letter detailing qualifications to [HR@toledofhc.org](mailto:HR@toledofhc.org).

**CLASSROOM AIDE**

**Status:** Part-Time

**Start Date:** As Soon As Possible

**Hourly Rate:** Starting \$15/hour

**Hours:** Monday through Friday, 2:30-7pm

**ABOUT US:**

Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1997. Our mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings.

ELEVATE is an after-school program for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. This center is a part of Center of Hope's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center, which is funded by the Ohio Department of Education. In 2011, Center of Hope was rated as a High Quality Center and model for tutoring programs, statewide. Center of Hope received the 2018 Ohio Department of Education Statewide Summit for Enrichment Education, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Award in Student Reading/Literacy Improvement. Dr. Perryman and Center of Hope was also awarded 2018 Excellence and Innovation Award for innovative programs. In 2017, Center of Hope was 1 of only 3 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers funded, and in 2019, Center of Hope was the only Toledo 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center funded by the Ohio Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:**

Provides daily supervision of children, taking steps to ensure that all children remain physically and emotionally safe.

1. Facilitates academic and recreational activities that contribute to the care, growth and development of children needs.
2. Facilitates a safe, calm, nurturing, and non-disruptive environment.
3. Assists with record keeping duties
4. Assists in preparing and maintaining program materials.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:****Education:**

Required High school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED). Associate degree or equivalent in Education, Social Work, or related field (Preferred).

**Experience:**

One to three years experience working with children and adults (Preferred).

**Background Check:**

Must be able to pass state and national background checks.

To apply, please email your resume to [emaas@cohfs.org](mailto:emaas@cohfs.org).

**CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR  
LUCAS COUNTY ENGINEER**

Lucas County Engineer, is accepting applications to fill the Construction Inspector position. This work requires highly responsible sub-professional engineering work of considerable difficulty, inspecting all facets of the Lucas County Engineer's road and bridge projects, and other related duties. Salary range \$49,961.60 to \$65,187.20 annually plus a full range of benefits. Application deadline is January 21, 2022. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Construction Inspector" from the list to read more or apply. Resumes are also accepted by email to [jamiler@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:jamiler@co.lucas.oh.us)

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**LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES POSITIONS**

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) currently has openings for the following positions:

- Coordinator Information Technology
- PC Support Specialist
- Family Visits Monitor (Part-Time)

LCCS offers an excellent salary and benefit package. EOE Valuing Diversity.

To view full descriptions of each position, minimum requirements and pay view and apply at <https://lucaskids.net/lccs-job-openings/>

**WELLNESS DIRECTOR  
WAYMAN PALMER YMCA****Full Time Position**

**Salary - \$38,000 - \$48,000 Annually**

Responsible for member recruitment, retention, and community engagement. The Wellness Director will also be responsible for ensuring a quality experience for all members and participants. Bachelor of Science in exercise science/exercise physiology or related field preferred. Ability to work varying hours such as early mornings, evenings and weekends on occasion. If interested send resume by January 5, 2022 to [dfrison@ymcatoledo.org](mailto:dfrison@ymcatoledo.org).

**Call to place your ad:**

**419-243-0007**

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

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority - Thankful to Serve the Community

*Special to The Truth*

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Incorporated®, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Toledo is thankful to serve the community. Under the leadership of Andrea Price, MHA, FACHE, president, and Treva Jeffries Ed.D, vice-president, community activities were offered in-person until March 2020. Later, community programs were provided virtually via Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube. Events were provided in the five Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service Program Targets, Scholarship, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Founders' Day.

Thanks to our collaborating partners, AKAs never stopped performing community service. They are NANBPWC, Inc- Toledo Club and Maumee Bay Club, YWCA of Northwest Ohio, ABC Health Care, Top Ladies of Distinction, The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Beta Gamma Chapter, Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Monroe Neighborhood Center Sewing Club, Ohio, Fifth Third Bank EMPOWER U, ProMedica Financial Opportunity Center, Lions Club International, Sole4Souls, MADD Poet Society, Feeding Children Everywhere, Grow with Google, AKA undergraduate chapters at University of Toledo (Alpha Lambda) and Bowling Green State University (Iota Iota), US Together of Toledo, City of Toledo, and the University of Toledo.

**Target 1: HBCU for Life/ Signature Program #CAPsm (College Admission Program)**

The focus was to promote and raise money for HBCUs and educate high school students on the College Admissions Process. One hundred and eighteen students participated, and graduating seniors participated in National College Signing Day. Over \$4300 was raised for HBCUs. Three Virtual College Fairs were held, focusing only on HBCUs and two HBCU

*... continued on page 10*



Black dolls



Little Girls Dresses



National Voter Registration Day - Sorors Andrea and Alexi

## Further Your Education in



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but not required