



Volume 71 No. 1

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

February 9, 2022



2022's Outstanding Volunteer

Juanita Greene: YWCA Milestones Honoree

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# Taking Time to Make Time

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

The Truth Contributor

*My [prayer ritual] is spending time to ask for what I need and then listening for the answer... [Afterward] I feel grounded, guided, and supported all day. I feel like I'm co-creating my outcome with the universe.*

- Lena West



African American churches and their clergy leaders have always led the attack in the battle for community transformation while also providing the "spiritual food" necessary for their congregants to sustain the fight.

Yet, record numbers of Black and evangelical pastors have walked away from the profession in the last decade, threatening the Black Church's power and influence in the Black community. According to a recent survey from Lifeway Research, issues for leaving the profession include a "change in calling," burnout, family issues, and personal finances.

Timothy L. and Felicia Clark are co-pastors of Harvest Christian Center in Sylvania Township. Clark, a pastor for over 35 years, is also a financial advisor for New York Life. Co-Pastor/First Lady, Felicia Clark is also the director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for MetroParks Toledo, where she has worked since 2007.

I talked with the couple about the painful reality of clergy efforts to balance spiritual obligations with Church leadership and personal life demands.

**Perryman:** Research shows that ministry comes with many stressors that lead to burnout and emotional overload. Please tell me about your issues of stress associated with ministry.

**Clark:** Mine is more workload. I'm consistently working six days a week. It's not a sustainable pace, but my goal is to take off 12-15 Sundays a year. I've accomplished that previously, but we had shifts in our ministry that didn't allow me to do that this year. So hopefully, we can get back to a schedule that allows me time off.

**Perryman:** Lady Clark, do you want to weigh in?

**First Lady:** And I don't know how to balance this, but I don't think I necessarily recognized it as burnout until we hit COVID, and I still am. In our world, we both have jobs, and they're demanding. On top of that, I just finished my MBA program, so it was a lot.

We started this ministry in 2005, and we may take a Sunday off, but we've never actually had a real sabbatical. And so, unlike my husband, I think I'm burned out now. But, of course, you love the people and try to keep everything going. But, still, I know that I need time to get away, retreat, rejuvenate to the point where ministry is exciting again.

**Perryman:** So, you never get a chance to unplug, to turn off the phone?

**First Lady:** We've never done that since 2005. Even when we're on vacation and something happens, the people we serve know that we are accessible. They know that if they need us, we're there, and because of that, yeah, I would love to get away. We've had families that needed everything. They required their rent paid, they needed spiritual encouragement, they needed mental support, they needed all types of support.

The other side of that is that we have so many people depending on us like our children and our parents are elderly now and we play a role there. And,

of course, the ministry and all of the other things that we do.

**Perryman:** How do you handle the stress?

**First Lady:** I can't even underscore this enough. We are radical about our prayer times. We know that we don't have the luxury to not do that. I'm just coming out of my prayer time today. We are radical about prayer, and we don't miss our times with God. We recognize that we couldn't float this boat without it. We know it.

**Perryman:** Pastor, can you elaborate on taking time to spend time with God?

**Clark:** Typically, I'm up praying at 5:30 in the morning. The way I do it is an hour or more, which we do daily. I'm thanking God, going through the confession, going through petitions, supplication, praying in the spirit, we call it. So yeah, it's a full-scale hour prayer because I know everything I've got to do, and the level that I believe God can take me is going to take me communicating with him. So that's our practice.

**Perryman:** Is there anything you want to add, Lady Clark?

**First Lady:** I had a praying grandmother. I remember her sitting in her chair in the corner, just humming hymns and crying out to God, and I have a praying mother who still is responsible for covering us through prayer, and then Tim and I met at a prayer meeting, that's how we met. We believe in God that we want to be the type of leaders, the type of examples, the type of people who bear fruit, and we are relentless about that. That's what's keeping our minds in all of this craziness.

**Perryman:** You also have a child that's bipolar. So, that's a lot. Do you have a specific self-care plan?

**Clark:** I don't think we have a specific self-care plan outside of every 90 days we're getting out of here. I have a membership at Massage Envy, so typically, I will be in the massage place. So, indirectly we have a self-care plan, but I think it's always been part of my lifestyle.

**First Lady:** What I do is I walk, even in the colder weather. I have my long to-do list and what I do is chart out my day, and exercise is a part of it. I work for the Metroparks so that I could go into any of those parks. Still, Olander is literally right in our backyard, and sometimes I just walk around the lake for three miles. I also love yoga. I've started to do some really good breathing exercises, and I absolutely love yoga and all of the stretches, so that's a lot of my self-care. And I enjoy cleaning my house. I have a degree in interior design from years ago, and I still do it. I still love a comfortable home that smells good. My husband will tell you we invest in good-smelling candles, and I believe in setting the atmosphere, so that's all a part of self-care for me.

**Perryman:** Well, you have talked about making time to refresh your mind, nurture your bodies, and encourage your soul or spirit. Do you pay special attention to your marriage life?

**Clark:** I believe we do. There were some demands on our marriage by being a newer church. Still, every Friday night is date night, and obviously, our kids are older now. This year, it may have been a little more challenging with her MBA. We had less time together, so she canceled about 20 dates on me this year. We connect quite a bit when that's not in the picture. What do you think, sweetheart?

**First Lady:** If I'm candid, our marriage was challenged when we entered the ministry in 2005. When I reflect on it, it wasn't just the pressure of church, it was what our bodies were going through physically also, and I don't think we recognized that. I was going through a period of menopause, and he was going through his change too.

He won't admit it, but he was, and we were both going through the change of life during one of the most challenging periods of our life. We didn't know that our son was sick. We didn't know, that's when the economy was the worst, and

... continued on page 9



## The Sojourner's Truth

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# Here We Go Again!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you have been remotely following the GOP hue and outcry about President Biden fulfilling a campaign promise in which he would nominate a Black woman to the United States Supreme Court, you will, no doubt, recognize a reoccurring pattern wherein anything that impinges or impacts upon people of color is challenged by them.

In the present case, brain dead Senator Ted Cruz clearly stated that he is now a self-appointed spokesman for Black women when he said that such an appointment would be an insult to all Black women.

At other times and with issues involving Black women and their plight and place in this society, Ted Cruz did not adorn himself with the mantle of being their spokesman but, when it comes to a Black woman possibly exercising sweeping judicial power, Ted Cruz gets all worked up and wants to rally for all of the other Black women who have been excluded from consideration!

I know, I know...it is a cruel joke at best that Ted Cruz even remotely has one wit of care for Black women, but this moment was his time to shine his credentials in trying to outdo Trump by being a moron parading around as an intelligent elected official.

Of course, other GOP comments were the typical shrill remarks about a person being the beneficiary of affirmative action or such a chosen Black woman would be a "lesser Black person."

Of course, the GOP and the country at large has had no problems with the nigh all-white male history of domination on the highest court in the land. For white males, such a place of power and privilege is seen as their birth right due to white skin privileges, but to allow a Black woman to sit on the highest court in the land, well, that just sets them off with chattering a lot of gibberish.

The GOP continues to demean and diminish the Black woman as being intellectually inferior and is utterly incapable of telling the difference between a law book and a J. Crew catalog...such was the commentary from Louisiana senator, John Kennedy.

When it is time for the confirmation hearings by the Senate of the Black woman nominee, it will be telling to the watching public as to whether she receives the same cordial and laudatory treatment that was accorded Amy Coney Barrett, the most recent white Supreme Court pick.

White America has never embraced the Black woman as being an intellectual equal but their viewpoint of her has been soiled by concocted imagery of her being a welfare queen or a wanton sexpot or the Butterfly McQueen (Gone With The Wind) image of a loyal mammy.

Of course, those GOP haters would not debate a Black woman on such an issue and much less any of the proposed picks that Biden has in mind. Simply to say that any one of those possible contenders would run intellectual circles around their GOP detractors but since those intellectual bullies speak from the protected air of the congressional halls, they are not concerned with backing up their Neanderthal statements.

Why is it that none of those carping GOP haters ever questioned why the court has been packed with white males since its inception to current date and much less the lower federal district and appellate courts?

Did you ever see any of the GOP membership (or Democrats for that matter) champion the cause of a Black woman on the court? Of course not. Seeing a Black woman as a person and as a person of value who could hold their own on the court was never a consideration for white America.

The dynamics of a Black woman on the court would inject viewpoints into the legal arguments that they would probably never would have considered and which they are not accustomed to hearing or debating. Much less giving a response to a Black woman colleague if they are challenged

were they to advance a legal position that is meritless or has no value or relevance to the average working American.

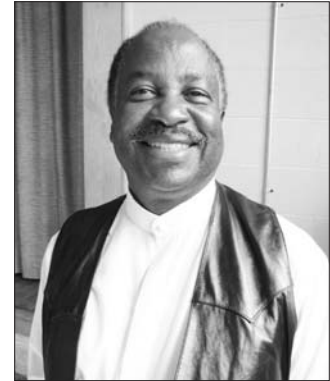
An interesting dynamic on the Supreme Court will be when the Black woman justice engages with Uncle Tom Clarence Thomas. I can imagine the angst of Thomas when he must deal with a Black woman, and he cannot hide from her stares or commentary were he to act as a court jester for the other court members or his wife who is allied with right wing conservative causes.

Ain't nuthin' like a Black woman who knows her stuff and calmly and icily puts an Uncle Thomas in his place. Would pay some serious bitcoin to see those encounters with Clarence rolling his eyes when the Black woman jurist checks his foolishness at the door and tells him, "No, no...we are not going there on that issue and here are the reasons why."

So, a word to Clarence Thomas, get ready to show your stuff or get out of the way!

The avenging spirit of Anita Hill will quicken the air in those supposedly hallowed chambers if and when Clarence tries to "downplay" or brush off the Black woman jurist.

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



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# The Fair Housing Center and Other Fair Housing Groups Reach Historic Settlement with Fannie Mae Focused on Rebuilding Communities of Color

*The settlement will directly and immediately benefit the communities of color throughout the Toledo region and nationwide hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis and its aftermath.*

This week, The Fair Housing Center, along with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and 19 other local fair housing organizations throughout the country, reached a landmark \$53 million agreement with Fannie Mae (formally known as the Federal National Mortgage Association) to resolve a case arising from allegations that Fannie Mae treated foreclosed homes in communities of color unfavorably.

The settlement will help rebuild and strengthen communities of color in 39 metropolitan areas including Toledo. In the case, The Fair Housing Center and the other plaintiffs alleged that Fannie Mae maintained and marketed its foreclosed homes in predominantly White neighborhoods while allowing similar homes in communities of color to fall into disrepair and that this differential treatment exacerbated the damage caused by the 2008 mortgage crisis and impeded recovery from the crisis in neighborhoods of color. The case was the first time a federal court confirmed the nation's fair housing laws cover the maintenance and marketing of Real Estate Owned (REO) properties.

"The vitality of our neighborhoods and the health and well-being of our residents are directly tied to the quality of our housing stock," stated Marie Flannery, President and CEO of The Fair Housing Center. "The neglect of foreclosed properties contributed to blight, decreased property values, restricted access to homeownership, and depleted wealth in Toledo's neighborhoods of color, perpetuating longstanding housing inequities. We're grateful to NFHA and everyone involved in this case for their commitment to reaching a resolution that will provide the necessary resources to restore and rebuild communities disproportionately impacted by housing instability. We

look forward to engaging with local stakeholders to develop a plan for reinvesting these settlement dollars to revitalize Toledo's neighborhoods through housing rehabilitation and development. This effort brings us one step closer to ensuring everyone in our community, regardless of their ZIP Code, can find safe, stable places to call home."

The plaintiffs' 2016 allegations against Fannie Mae arose after a comprehensive, four-year investigation of more than 2,300 Fannie Mae-owned foreclosed properties in 39 metropolitan areas in the country. Of those properties, approximately 127 were located in Toledo. The plaintiffs collected more than 49,000 photographs revealing poorly maintained properties in Black and Latino communities, particularly as compared to properties in predominantly White neighborhoods.

Today's agreement has far-reaching implications. The Fair Housing Center and the other plaintiffs will invest the vast majority of the settlement monies directly back into the communities they allege were harmed by Fannie Mae's conduct. Specifically, plaintiff organizations will use over \$35 million of the settlement to promote home ownership, neighborhood stabilization, access to credit, property rehabilitation, and residential development in the 39 metropolitan areas at issue in the case, including Toledo.

The plaintiffs will manage and disburse the settlement funds, providing much-needed grants, including for down-payment assistance for first-generation homebuyers and renovations for homes that languished in foreclosure. The grants will also include innovative programs and partnerships to promote fair housing.

Fannie Mae implemented practices that will help avoid similar harmful treatment of communities of color in the future, including increasing its oversight of maintenance of properties it owns, prioritizing owner-occupants rather than investors as purchasers of REOs, and ensuring that it complies with fair housing laws, including by providing fair housing training to its employees and vendors.

The Fair Housing Center and the other fair housing groups are represented by noted civil rights law firms Relman Colfax PLLC and Dane Law LLC. The organizations were also represented by Morgan Williams, NFHA's General Counsel, and Julia Howard-Gibbon, Supervising Attorney of Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants supported the investigation into potential disparities in the maintenance and marketing of REO properties. The author and publisher of this press release are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.



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-Brian Tracey

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# Juanita Greene: Banker, Public Servant, Extraordinary Volunteer

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Every spring the YWCA honors women in northwest Ohio who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities and open doors in their communities for other women to achieve their potential, too. The YWCA of Northwest Ohio has announced the latest class for the YMCA Milestones Awards: A Tribute to Women.

The Milestones Awards Luncheon was established in 1996 to recognize women of northwest Ohio for their outstanding contributions in the areas of Arts, Business, Education, Government, Sciences, Social Services and Volunteerism.

This year the YWCA is honoring the central role Juanita Greene plays as a volunteer in shaping the culture and black history in the city of Toledo.

Greene's groundbreaking accomplishments will be celebrated this March in great company. This year's inductees are: Jennifer Jarrett (arts), Marsha Manahan (business), Mary Werner (education), Perlean Griffin (government), Joan Duggan (sciences), Robin Charney (social services) and Juanita Greene (volunteerism).

While attending Scott High School during the civil rights era, Juanita Greene rose above inequality to excellence, becoming both a young leader and honor roll student. "One of my counselors applauded my grades and recommended I apply for an internship program with Society, now KeyBank," recalls Greene.

At 16, Juanita worked part time at KeyBank and upon graduation the bank hired her permanently. "I started in the bookkeeping department, became a teller, mortgage lender, commercial lender, and then eventually regional manager. I went through their entire educational banking curriculum. It has all been very rewarding," says Greene fondly.

Despite long-standing challenges within Toledo's underserved communities, Juanita Greene remains a progressive backbone within Toledo's major social movements and historic firsts.

"When I was the manager of KeyBank Warren Sherman, the federal government came in with an urban renewal proposal and asked us to help map out a plan of action to ensure downtown Toledo and surrounding areas survived," she explains. "We also developed the largest African-American church organization portfolios of any other competing local bank."

Toledo City Council approved urban renewal plans that included the Old West End and the downtown area near the old Edison steam plant. "This was an area where a lot of families needed help. There were very low rates of home and business ownership," shares Greene. "Along with other leaders of the community we built up the area one relationship at a time."

Ultimately, the most emotionally draining aspect of being 'the new black/brown neighbor' in a new community is having to jump through hoops to prove that you are a trustworthy human being, when others can just show up, say who they are and be taken at face value.

Greene conducted mediations when black or brown residents would move into predominantly white neighborhoods. "I believe dialogue sessions between new neighbors is a great tool. Neighbors often learn they want the

same basic things: a well-maintained home and a peaceful environment," shares Greene.

Starting as Toledo Trust, then Society Bank and then KeyBank, Juanita Greene worked diligently as a liaison to predominately black and brown areas of Toledo for 32 years. "I love educating our black community on why they deserve to have a mortgage," says Greene. "We all deserve to have our own home and the same possible quality of life as everyone else."

Following early retirement from

KeyBank, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner contacted Greene for a position with Toledo's Department of Neighborhoods. Greene had a unique understanding of the areas that the banking industry could stand to be more aggressive with lending and she entered public service as Housing Commissioner of The Department of Neighborhoods.

Greene would be promoted to Economic Development Director just three months later before ultimately being named executive director of the Board of Community Relations. The Board of Community Relations assembled its first meeting in 1950, making it now 72 years old. It was originally created to increase and maintain balance and harmony within underserved communities.

Juanita Greene smiles when she hears a description of her as one of Toledo's "most influential civic leaders." Her reaction: "I've met so many people throughout my working years, I just hope that I've helped each person in some way."

Now, as administrator at The First Church of God where Bishop Robert Culp serves as senior pastor, Juanita Greene has been a longtime advocate for eliminating racism while strengthening families through education, sharing, "I serve on the Board of Trustees for both the Black Brown Coalition and the Toledo Community Coalition. This pandemic has taken so many Black and Hispanic lives it's important that we come together to advocate as a community, regardless of our differences."

The mission of the Black/Brown Unity Coalition is to, "Empower our communities with self-determination through community organizing, education, community services, analysis and advocacy." In like manner, The Toledo Community Coalition was formed with the purpose of determining how the needs of the black community might be met while addressing the motiva-

...continued on page 6



Milestones Honoree Juanita Greene

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# Candice Harrison Named President of Toledo Press Cub

Candice Harrison, the external communications manager for Toledo Public Schools, has been named the president of the Press Club of Toledo, the first Black president of the Club. She will be inducted during the Press Club's board of directors virtual meeting on February 9.

The Press Club, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, actively promotes the advancement of ethical journalism while examining issues shaping journalism today. The Club also seeks to enhance fellowship among journalists and increase collaboration with those in various areas such as business, education, politics, among others.

Harrison is also the owner of Synergy Engagement, a communications, public relations and engagement firm which provides communications solutions to aid organization and individuals amplify their brand and messages.

Harrison is the former director of communications for the Toledo Museum of Art and the former senior communications manager for the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium. She was honored with the 20 Under 40 in Leadership Award in 2014 and a Top Community Voices Award from United Way of Greater Toledo

in 2013 in recognition of her extensive community involvement.

She has previously been director of communications for the Toledo Museum of Art and, prior to that, senior communications manager for the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium.

In addition to the Press Club Board, she currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Rotary Club of Toledo and the Arts Commission. She is also a member of the Toledo chapter of Links, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Toledo chapter of Jack and Jill of America, where she serves as vice president.

A native Toledoan and graduate of Central Catholic High School, Harrison received her bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and her master's degree from Spring Arbor University.



Candice Harrison

## Juanita Greene... continued from page 5

tions of funders to invest in underserved areas.

Juanita Greene's tenacity to manage the successful campaign to pass lead paint legislation (as a co-chairman of the Toledo Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition) in homes where lead paint is poisoning the bodies and minds of helpless children, is a true gift to the city. Greene was inducted into Scott High School's Hall of Fame in 2018, honored as having achieved notable milestones such as these through community service.

It is a pleasure to salute Juanita Greene and all the honorees for their contributions to society. The YWCA is to be thanked for increasing the community's awareness and appreciation for the diverse achievements of the more than 150 female leaders in northwest Ohio for the past 27 years.

The 2022 YWCA Milestones: A Tribute To Women will be held virtually on March 24, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Please consider purchasing a congratulatory ad or a zoom party to support all of the vital services the YWCA provides in support of vulnerable women and children of northwest Ohio. Visit [YWCAwyo.org](http://YWCAwyo.org) for more details.

The Truth

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# Blue: A Unique Story for the Opera Stage

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Opera held a livestreamed discussion in anticipation of its upcoming opera *Blue*. *Blue*, which features an all-black cast, will debut at the Valentine Theatre August 26th & 28th. The virtual discussion was moderated by Rhonda Sewell and featured composer Jeanine Tesori and librettist Tazewell Thompson.

*Blue* is a unique story for the opera stage.

Originally derived from the experience NAACP theatre Award winning Tazewell Thompson lived as a Black man in America, the story of *Blue* is a composite of the 21st Century black experience.

A story that is needed and has been untold on the opera stage until now.

The livestreamed event started with a memorial to Black lives lost to police brutality. Members of the *Blue* cast performed "The Talk" and the chilling "Lay My Burden Down" while victims' photographs and names flashed across the screen.

*Blue* is a story birthed from the Black Lives Matter movement. Tony Award-winning composer Jeanine Tesori was commissioned to create a piece to address the crisis in 2015 and called on Thompson.

"We both felt that we needed to say something about what was going on in the country...", said Thompson, "It seemed that every month there was something about a police officer killing an unarmed black boy or man." He reflected on the murders of Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner. "It just seemed never ending."

Thompson spoke at length about the current climate in America. "Those feelings that I have now I had then as well when I started to write the libretto."

The story of *Blue* is not limited to the stage. A clip was shown from 'Blue: Stories of Toledo', a documentary created to tell Toledo stories involving police brutality. The documentary will debut February 23 at Mott Branch Library and will also be available livestreamed.

The film features local artist James Dickerson (Facebook @dirtykics), Shirley Green, PhD, retired lieutenant, and retired Sergeant Anita Madison. In the clip, Dickerson, a Toledo-native, shares a very painful story of being arrested, tazed and suffering a heart attack at the hands of the Toledo Police Department. Thompson reflected on the piece, "when I hear these stories from everywhere... it's painfully familiar," said Thompson, "I could have written for ever and ever and ever..."

Thompson expressed the importance of *Blue* "I felt in my way, as an artist, I was contributing *something* to the stories... in my own way I have contributed to telling a story that hopefully will be part of healing."

"But also more than that-- that someone has recognized that it's a theme, it's an issue, it's a problem, and it's a crisis that has no self-life," she stated, as he reflected on the recent shootings of two police officers in his residence in New York City and gun violence amongst teenagers in his neighborhood.

"*Blue* is the story of an African-American couple in Harlem filled with hope

and fear for their activist teenage son. The mother worries for his future, the father while preparing his son for the realities of 21st Century America wrestles with his own identity: a Black man in blue." [Alyssa Greenburg,



Tazewell Thompson



Jeanine Tesori

director of community engagement at the Toledo Opera, presented the synopsis of the opera as quoted by Thompson.]

The show premiered at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2019 and received the Music Critics Association of North America 2020 Award for Best New Opera. It will run in Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis and internationally. The debut of *Blue* was originally scheduled for February but was postponed due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

The discussion ended with a Q&A session from the livestream audience. Rhonda Sewell, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Arts Commission and the director of Belonging and Community Engagement at The Toledo Museum of Art moderated the discussion with the creators. The full event can be viewed on the Toledo Opera Facebook page and YouTube page.

The Toledo Opera is offering a unique experience to engage with the story before its debut. This event is the first of community programming presented by the Toledo Opera.

## Upcoming community events for *Blue*:

'*Blue: Stories of Toledo*', documentary film screening and panel discussion at Mott Branch Library

Wednesday, February 23

6:00 pm Eastern

Free in-person event

RSVP requested to Luke Serrano at lserrano@toledo.org

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# The First Church Free Community Store

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The First Church of God located on the corner of Collingwood and Central opened their monthly store that provides free items to the community on Saturday January 29, from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. The store doesn't require documentation that determines need eligibility and encouraged all Toledoans to stop in and pick up a variety of available items.

The congregation first began organizing these efforts under the direction of the church's lead pastor, Bishop Robert Culp in August of 2021 and within a few months made several connections which eventually led to a collaboration with three Toledo-area Walmart stores.

"Bishop asked for donations and now we're connected to three Walmarts which provide us with donations," shared Juanita Greene.

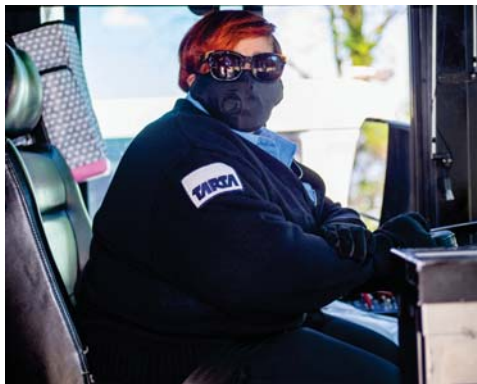
The congregation collects, sorts and distributes the Walmart items between two store locations. The East Bancroft location operates every Thursday from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. while the Collingwood and Central location operates every third Saturday.

"We want to serve individuals who are in need, you shouldn't have to choose between bills and toothpaste. We're blessed that this church has 33 ministries and each of them volunteer in some way, whether it's sorting, distributing or even in the parking lot," explained Greene.

The store locations have several types of items available including: women, men and children undergarments and accessories; women, men children and toddler clothing, children's coats, household and personal care items and more. For additional information about the store locations, to volunteer or donate, contact Juanita Greene at 419-255-0097 ext. 204.



Juanita Greene (far left) and the church volunteers



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*Perryman... continued from page 2*

we had to find better-paying jobs. So, it was just a lot going on, on top of what was going on physically in our bodies.

Once we got a grasp on that, we're in the best place in our marriage because we recognize that we have to intentionally care for one another and treat the other person like they are the most important person in our lives. I can't speak for Tim, but that's how I look at him.

We've been married 32 years, and that's what I've learned from it. Tim's the most important person in my life. When he comes in and talks about his day or his clients or how he feels, I want to stop what I'm doing and give him full attention and let him know that he is the most important person in my life and to react to that. Whatever he needs, I want to be sacrificial and be a perfect team player in this marriage. So, when you talk about care in our relationship, we're probably at the best time. We've been prudes and everything else, but right now, at this stage, we're probably at the best.

**Perryman:** Have you recognized symptoms of mental illness that your congregants might experience?

**Clark:** We know it. We got hooked up with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), went through the 13-week class, and then speakers, so now we've been educated on recognizing those symptoms. We've done seminars and told our story all over. As a result of my son TJ's bipolar sickness, congregants have told us, 'Hey, I've got a cousin dealing with mental illness; or, I'm dealing with mental illness myself.' So, that whole window has opened.

**Perryman:** Finally, what recommendations do you have for other leaders to keep their marriages fresh and address potential mental health issues in their congregations?

**Clark:** I would say pastors should prioritize getting away. If you can get people trained on your ministry team to minister or teach, you want to get away at least 12-15 weeks. Maybe for Black pastors, I would say at least six. Then, of course, on the mental health side, I refer many people to NAMI because they have support groups on Monday night for the parents and the teenagers. If it goes deeper, we know how to tell them to call Rescue or Zepf if it gets to the point of them harming themselves or others. If an issue arises when you need to call the police, always contact a Crisis Intervention Team/Officer (CIT), especially in

our community.

**First Lady:** The other thing is I would recommend seeking out mentors. If you see others coming into the ministry or if you're more senior to them, take the time. Go out for a cup of coffee and hear other people's hearts, and pour back into other people in ministry. My husband and I both needed mentors. You need mothers and fathers in the ministry who genuinely love you and are willing to pour God into you and give you the correct instructions. So many of us don't have that.

The bottom line is that pastors are just broken men and women that God is using. We're all broken. We're not going to always get it right, and we're going to make mistakes. But, nevertheless, accountability is needed, and so many clergy leaders don't have that, and that's why we sometimes go astray.


So, I think just having mentors to keep us accountable is essential.

**Perryman:** Well, that is certainly time well spent. Thank you.

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



Pastor Timothy and Co-Pastor Felicia Clark



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# Lourdes' Lifelong Learning Announces New Lectures

A new series of talks and classes offered by Lifelong Learning at Lourdes University will begin soon! The monthly lectures listed below are completely free and everyone is invited. Lectures are offered in person, with coffee and donuts, as well as online.

In addition to these lectures, Lifelong Learning offers fun and engaging classes. Most classes will be held on the Lourdes University campus, some will be offered online, and a few will be hybrid. There is a fee to join classes. For more information, call (419) 824-3707 or visit [www.Lourdes.edu/Lifelong](http://www.Lourdes.edu/Lifelong)

Unexpected Connections Between Bacteria and Art  
10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, February 18

Most people do not usually think of bacteria when they think of art, but bacteria is involved in the conservation as well as the creation of art. Select bacteria produce pigments which can be extracted to create long-lasting paints. These bacteria may be used to create vibrant "living paintings" in petri dishes.

Bacteria also have a surprising use in the conservation of art. Older paintings can be cleaned by the application of select bacterial strains. The presence of microbes (fungus, mold, and bacteria) on paintings also has the potential to detect forgeries!

Dr. Elizabeth Wise is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physical Sciences at Lourdes University. Studies of the intersection between chemistry and art have included a fellowship for Dr. Wise to study painting conservation in Florence, Italy.

From Death into Life  
10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, March 18

Joe D'Ambrosio was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1989. Always maintaining his innocence, his pleas for assistance fell upon deaf ears. Fr. Neil Kookoote met Joe in 1998 while serving as spiritual advisor to several men on Ohio's Death Row. Fr. Neil holds degrees in law and nursing, as well as Masters degrees in Theology and Divinity. Fr. Neil's experience in theology, nursing and law drew his interest to the case and aided Joe in bringing attention to unresolved issues never addressed in court. Joe's case was ultimately heard by the Supreme Court of the United States and Joe was exonerated in 2012. Joe and Fr. Neil will tell this story from death row to freedom.

Designing a City: Norman Bel Geddes and Toledo  
10:00-11:00 AM  
Friday, April 8

Toledo was abuzz in 1945 when Norman Bel Geddes, one of the most celebrated designers in America at that time, was commissioned to produce a plan for the city. He called it Toledo Tomorrow and it was a bold proposal, intended to position Toledo to become a regional hub. Geddes was well-known for his ideas on the future of cities (flying cars! aerodynamic buses!), but this was his only proposal for a particular place. We look at Geddes' work, and how this plan, though never implemented, has had an impact on our city.

Sujata Shetty, Ph.D. is Director of the Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center and a professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo. Andreas Luescher, Ph.D. is a Swiss architect, who is currently Professor of Teaching Excellence, Professor of Architecture and Chair of Architecture and Environmental Design at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

A Century of Music  
10:00-11:00 AM

Friday, May 20

How many Toledo institutions have lasted 100 years? The Toledo Choral Society stands out in this class for its commitment to bringing the finest in classical and contemporary choral music to our community. Today, the Toledo Choral Society boasts nearly one hundred members from the northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan region. Singers from diverse backgrounds are united by their passion for performing outstanding choral works.

Join Mike Holtgrieve, Historian, and Judy Harris Szor, longtime member and past President, on a trip through a rich century of history. We will showcase the personalities that drove this organization and the impact they had on the Toledo musical community, as well as the music performed for greater Toledo audiences.

Lourdes University

Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan tradition, Lourdes University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, and offers baccalaureate degrees in a variety of academic majors as well as graduate degrees in business, education, nursing, organizational leadership, social work, and theology. Community outreach programs include the Appold Planetarium and Lifelong Learning. A member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Lourdes students can also compete in a variety of men's and women's sports. Named a "Best in the Midwest" college by the Princeton Review, Lourdes University is a nationally accredited, veteran and transfer-friendly institution offering a variety of student scholarships. Explore the possibilities online at [www.lourdes.edu](http://www.lourdes.edu) or by phone at 419-885-3211.

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Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events

# UToledo Celebrating Black History Month With Events Scheduled Through February

The University of Toledo will celebrate the heritage and history of African Americans with a series of virtual events and activities for students, faculty and staff throughout Black History Month.

"This year the Office of Multicultural Student Success, the Black History Month Committee and other campus partners have compiled a great list of programs to celebrate Black History Month," said Kyndra Gaines, African American initiatives coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Student Success.

"A goal of the committee was to ensure that the programs created were events that students would enjoy and events they could relate to and learn from as well. Our campus partners hosting events this month have made some great programs that tie in the Toledo community and The University of Toledo. We have reached out to minority vendors to cater like Jera's Heavenly Sweets for many of the hosted events that will be having food."

The celebration began with the Black History Month Kick-Off Event from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, in the Thompson Student Union Trimble Lounge and Ingman Room.

Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Success and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, the event begins at Trimble Lounge with opportunities to meet and join Black student organizations, followed by card games and activities — tunk, spades and dominoes as well as a DJ and raffles — in the Ingman Room. A local Black-owned restaurant will provide treats. For more information and to RSVP, visit the event's InvoNet page (<https://invoNet.utoledo.edu/event/7640408>).

Additional Black History Month events include:

Thursday, Feb. 3

\* Talented Aspiring Women Leaders Meet and Greet: Vision Board, 6 p.m., via Webex (<https://invoNet.utoledo.edu/event/7764164>). Learn how to connect with a mentor and other powerful women on campus through Talented Aspiring Women Leaders and create your own vision board.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

\* Lunch Vibes: Colin Kaepernick in Black & White, 11 a.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2500. Colin Kaepernick narrates this drama series recounting his formative years navigating race, class and culture while aspiring for greatness. After the screening, there will be a conversation about the various discussion points from the series.

Thursday, Feb. 10

\* "Sons of Toledo" Community Screening, 6:45 p.m., Center for Performing Arts. This short film chronicles a day of obstacles that a barber faces before he goes to the funeral home that night to give his brother a final haircut. After the

film, there will be a mediated discussion, led by Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Valerie Walston, with a panel of community and political leaders including Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, with members of the audience invited to share thoughts on the film and the issue of gun violence.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

\* How to Talk to Your Kids About Race, 5:30 p.m., Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women. Alexii Collins, racial justice director at the YWCA of Northwest Ohio, will discuss talking to children about race. The conversation will be tailored for parents, but all are welcome to attend. All families in attendance will receive a Black Lives Matter coloring packet for their children.

Saturday, Feb. 19

\* OE 5th Floor Living Legacies, 11:30 a.m., Toledo Museum of Art. This exhibition highlights the recent additions to the Toledo Museum of Art's Collection from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving and promoting the artistic production and cultural traditions of Black artists from the rural South.

Monday, Feb. 21

\* Diversity Connections: African American Professionals Panel, 6 p.m., via Webex (<https://invoNet.utoledo.edu/event/7680531>). Hear about the experiences of African American professionals in the surrounding area and learn more about African American professional associations and organizations.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

\* Lunch Vibez: Black International Students Discussion, noon, Thompson Student Union Room 2500 Lounge. Come and hear more about the experiences of international Black students. This event is open to all.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

\* Celebrating bell hooks featuring Kevin Powell, 1 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2500. A discussion celebrating the life and legacy of bell hooks.

Monday, Feb. 28

\* Black Student, Faculty and Staff Mixer, 6 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2500. Join other Black students, faculty and staff members in fellowship and community building. Attend this mixer to build relationships with your peers and network with faculty and staff members. Food will be provided.

Also, Black Student Union Week is Monday, Jan. 31, through Friday, Feb. 4, with an event scheduled for each day. There will be general student body meetings and other Black Student Union activities as well throughout Black History Month.

"Black Student Union is extremely excited for Black History Month," said

...continued on page 16

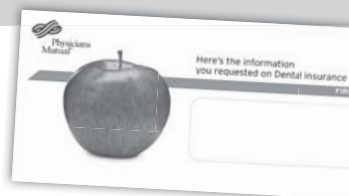
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## Milestones in African American Education

**1837** Institute for Colored Youth founded by Richard Humphreys; later became Cheyney University.

**1854** Ashmun Institute, the first school of higher learning for young black men, founded by John Miller Dickey and his wife, Sarah Emlen Cresson; later (1866) renamed Lincoln University (Pa.) after President Abraham Lincoln.

**1856** Wilberforce University, the first black school of higher learning owned and operated by African Americans, founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Its president, Daniel A. Payne, became the first African American University president in the country.

**1869** Howard University's law school becomes the country's first black law school.

**1876** Meharry Medical College, the first black medical school in the U.S., founded by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1881** Spelman College, the first college for black women in the U.S., founded by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles.

**1881** Booker T. Washington founds the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. The school became one of the leading schools of higher learning for African Americans and stressed the practical application of knowledge.

In **1896**, George Washington Carver began teaching there as director of the department of agricultural research, gaining an international reputation for his agricultural advances.

**1922** William Leo Hansberry teaches the first course in African civilization at an American university, at Howard University.

**1944** Frederick Douglass Patterson establishes the United Negro College Fund to help support black colleges and black students.

**1954** In the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans.*, the Supreme Court rules unanimously that segregation in public schools is



Daniel A. Payne



The Little Rock Nine



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James Meredith in 1962

unconstitutional.

**1957** President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops to ensure integration of the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. The Little Rock Nine were the first black students to attend the school.

**1960** Black and white students form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), dedicated to working against segregation and discrimination.

**1962** James Meredith is the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi; on the day he enters the university, he is escorted by U.S. marshals.

**1963** Despite Governor George Wallace physically blocking their way, Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes at the University of Alabama.

... continued on page 13



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# African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History

## by Tracey Baptiste, illustrated by Hillary D. Wilson

Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The stories you love best are filled with excitement and power.

Sometimes, they make you laugh; other times, they make you think. You like funny stories and silly ones, tales that make your eyes pop and tales that make your hands sweat. You like the old fables, too, the ones that teach you something. So come meet warriors, rulers, writers, and schemers in African Icons by Tracey Baptiste.

When she was just a little girl, Baptiste's father told her a story. Years later, she learned that what he told her was "one of the most popular stories throughout the continent of Africa" and that many of the tales she loved had roots there.

"Not only is Africa the second largest continent on Earth," she says, but its people have always had "rich lives," a fascinatingly complex culture and tales to tell.

For instance, one of the first large communities in Africa was established along the banks of the Nile River in Egypt. There were many "minor kings" there then but King Menes hoped to grow his kingdom, and he did it by conquering the areas he wanted. Then he declared that the falcon god, Horus, had "bestowed the kingship of Egypt" on Menes himself – and who could argue with a god?

Queen Merneith, who was Menes' granddaughter, grew up in luxury and comfort and was "raised to rule." Alas, her brother, Djed, ascended to the throne first but Merneith had the last word. She became one of her brother's wives and when their son, Den, was 10 years old, he became king and Merneith stepped in as regent. This gave Den the chance to learn to rule the kingdom, while Merneith

c.2021  
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held all the power.

Imhotep was a leader, but he was also a doctor, an advisor, and an engineer who built temples and tombs. Aesop was a wise storyteller whose tales you might've heard. Hannibal was a soldier who enjoyed many victories over Rome more than 2200 years ago. Terence of Carthage was an accomplished playwright. And Tin Hinan established a desert society where women and girls made the rules.

All those stories we all grew up hearing, all those wonderfully puzzling tales we read and re-read, they had to come from somewhere. Author Tracey Baptiste says their roots lay in Africa and in African Icons, she explains how fables and legends are often real.

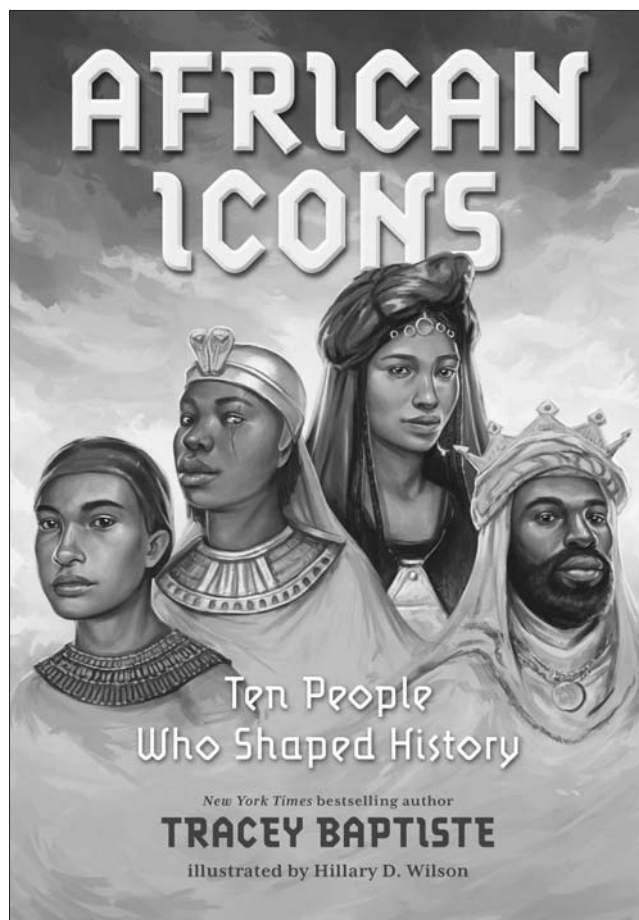
But if that sounds dry, hold up. It's not, if you're a kid.

Got a child who's into action figures? This book will speak to that love, with general (not-too-detailed) tales of kingdoms conquered. Kids who crave stories of princesses, palaces, and magic carpets will be happy with this book's sense of glitter and exoticness. Children who really love mummies will be fascinated by accounts of pharaohs and pyramid-builders in tales that are true, lively, kid-friendly, and fun to read, even if you're an adult.

Still, the best audience for this book is much younger. For kids ages eight-14, African Icons may hold the stories they love best.



African Icons author Tracey Baptiste  
Latifah Abdur Photography



Milestones... continued from page 12

**1968** San Francisco State University becomes the first four-year college to establish a black studies department.

**1969** The Ford Foundation gives \$1 million to Morgan State University, Howard University, and Yale University to help prepare faculty members to teach courses in African American studies.

**2003** In Grutter v. Bollinger, the Supreme Court (5-4) upholds the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action policy, ruling that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."

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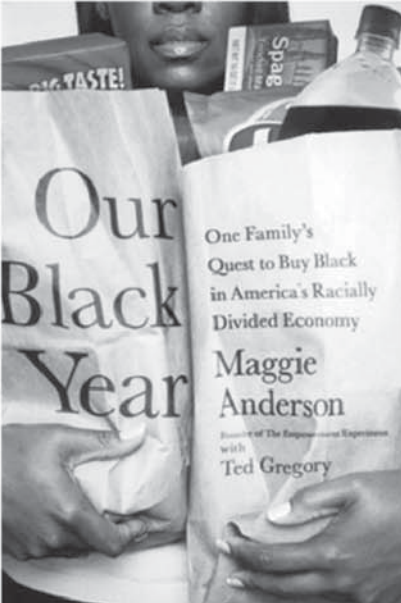
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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 9, 2022

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## CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN LUCAS COUNTY ENGINEER

The Lucas County Engineer's Office is accepting applications for a Construction Technician. The Construction Technician is responsible for engineering and construction work of considerable difficulty requiring the application of engineering and construction techniques, procedures, and criteria.

Qualified applicants must possess a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering (BSCE), or a four-year degree in Construction Technology, or closely related field. Required experience includes engineering plan design, and specification development; local, state and federal standards and regulations; and working with the public in a governmental setting. Two (2) years prior work experience in public utility, sidewalk, waterline, road, storm, and sanitary sewer construction including one year of practical work experience in the field inspection of those facilities is preferred. Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio or the ability to obtain an Ohio Professional Engineer License is preferred. An equivalent combination of relevant education and work experience may be substituted for the above qualifications. Must possess a valid State of Ohio Driver's License.

Full-time with benefits. A full job description is available at [www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on the link for "Jobs", and select "Construction Technician". Interested applicants may apply by completing an online application at the above link, or a current resume may be submitted to [EngineerResumes@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:EngineerResumes@co.lucas.oh.us) through Friday, February 11, 2022.

*The Lucas County Engineer is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BANKING SERVICES RFP#22-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Banking Services in accordance with RFP#22-R004**. Received in accordance with law until **March 03, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM SERVICES RFP#22-R002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Executive Search Firm Services in accordance with RFP#22-R002. Received in accordance with law until March 07, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## RECEPTIONIST WANTED

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio is seeking a fill in receptionist to cover vacation, sick and personal time for regular staff in a 24-hour facility. **Must be able to work all three shifts, weekends and holidays and be available during the summer to cover vacation.** Must have an Associate's degree minimum, background in switchboard, public contact, receipting money, bulk mailing and copying. Must be reliable, dependable, and able to follow directions and work with little supervision. Experience in a social service environment is helpful. \$15.00 per hour.

Submit resume to [admin@ywcawno.org](mailto:admin@ywcawno.org)

## HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Horticultural Technician maintain the gardens and park areas at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. A high School diploma or equivalent and a valid driver's license is required. Associate's degree in related field is preferred. Must have a moderate level of hands-on horticulture experience. \$13.50/hr. Full time with benefits. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to view complete job description and to apply. EOE

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Programs and Events assistant to help with creating engaging customer experiences for all Metroparks visitors at the famed Wildwood Manor House. A high School diploma or equivalent along with some completed college coursework in history, education, communication or related program and a valid driver's license is required. Some experience in customer service, public speaking, and leading public programs is preferred. \$11.50/hr. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to view complete job description and to apply. EOE

## CREW TECHNICIAN

NeighborWorks Toledo Region (NTR) has immediate openings for hardworking Crew Technicians who want to start or continue their careers in home energy conservation and grow with the company. This is a full time, permanent opportunity with plenty of room for growth. Our crews are the backbone of our organization, and we take pride in training and promoting our team members into Crew Leaders and Inspectors. We pay for all necessary training and certifications!

NTR is Toledo's leader in affordable housing and community development. We work to create opportunities for lower-income people to live in affordable and energy-efficient homes in safe, sustainable neighborhoods. Join our growing organization that is passionate about working together to save energy and reduce costs, one home at a time!

### Responsibilities:

- \* Insulating and weatherizing homes
- \* Using cellulose to dense pack walls
- \* Installing fiberglass in attics
- \* Air sealing attics and basements
- \* Installing roof vents
- \* Diagnostic testing and analysis
- \* Assist with other tasks as directed

### Compensation and Benefits:

- \* Crew Technicians start at \$17 per hour
- \* Full medical, dental & vision insurance provided
- \* Paid time off (personal and sick time)
- \* Paid training and career advancement opportunities

### Qualifications:

- \* Valid driver's license preferred
- \* Reliable transportation
- \* Previous insulation or light carpentry experience is preferred
- \* Must be able to lift up to 60 lbs
- \* Comfortable in confined, sometimes cluttered conditions
- \* Comfortable on tall ladders and rooftops
- \* Must be able to pass a background check

Learn more at [www.nwtoledo.org/career-opportunities](http://www.nwtoledo.org/career-opportunities)

# TMA Recognizes Sculptor Percy Echols

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Museum of Art has welcomed glass and contemporary artists through the residency program titled The Guest Artist Pavilion Project (GAPP) since 2006. The 50th recipient is Pittsburgh native, Percy Echols II, a black artist in a discipline featuring few other artists of color.

"A person of color hasn't always been seen in this medium, I'm glad I can provide another face to this medium. I can name five artists of color in my medium, but three of them work with light and neon but don't produce anything," shared Echols.

Echols' art incorporates gas, structure models and electricity into a final sculpture. Four noble gases: Neon, Argon and Krypton, Xenon, also known as Plasma, are held inside glass using a structure mold or structure.

"This art form allows me use molds to create shapes. The gases illuminate and provide colors, it's called Plasma Light Art," shared Echols.

He began experimenting with this art form in 2011, developed the necessary equipment in 2016 and over time has found a community of artists.

"I encourage other artists to find a medium that inspires them. I also found a community of other artists through glass which is worldwide. I have also found opportunity within the community, including this residency," shared Echols.

According to the Museum's website, GAPP invites artists to explore and be inspired without restrictions by the Museum's collection, studio facilities and staff. The program features established and emerging artists' residencies, public artists talk and offers intensive workshops with artists who can share specialized techniques with the community. Echols' residency is from February 2-11, 2022 and will conclude with a virtual presentation on February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

"This residency has been a world-class experience. I've received 100 percent support from the staff and facility to pursue ideas. Sometimes when you



Micsha Nalepa, lead glass studio artist; Echols; Hosok Youn, studio artist Mountaintop



Percy Echols, II

receive a residency, you need to save up your money for expenses but this museum addressed all of those concerns. I'm grateful to the studio and tech staff for this opportunity to exchange and learn idea styles," said Echols.

Echols' work has been featured in galleries and art centers including: Kral Art Center in Michigan, Fondazione Berengo in Italy, and BoxHeart Gallery in Los Angeles to name a few. He has received many grants and awards, including the Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments, for advancing Black Art in Pittsburgh and the Edwin Niemi Metals Scholarship, from Illinois State University.

He is the curator of the 2021 exhibition: "LIT: Light in Transmission, A Neon and Plasma Light Exhibition" at the Hodge Gallery. He also earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Studio Glass from Illinois State University and has created his own podcast, "Taming Lightning."

"Percy Echols II is a pioneering glass artist whose work in Plasma Light Sculpture is both unique and intriguing. We're delighted that he will be sharing his talents with us as our 50th GAPP artist," said Alan Iwamura, Toledo Museum of Art glass studio manager.

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Nyreisha Tevis, a junior studying social work who serves as Black Student Union president. "We are looking forward to attending the events planned by the Black History Month Committee and carrying out events for Black Student Union.

"Black History Month means a lot to me," Tevis added, "just for the simple fact that I can learn about the generations before me and how they paved the way for why I am here today."

## OPEN INTERVIEWS!

**Friday, February 11 | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Farmhouse, Wildwood Preserve  
4830 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43615

For more information, including a full list of events, visit the Office of Multicultural Student Success website (<https://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/heritage/black.html>).

# CELEBRATE!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

— Harriet Tubman

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A COMMITMENT

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