



Volume 74 No. 3 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* August 31, 2022



David Bush, City of Toledo Commissioner for Save Our Community

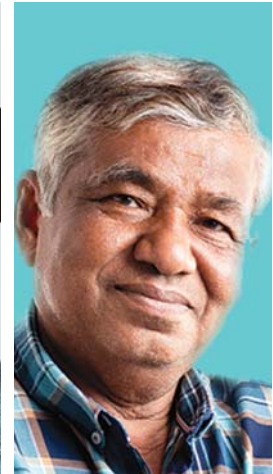
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Strengthening Weak Ties

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

The Truth Contributor

It's not enough to simply work within your [industry or profession] bubble – you have to branch outside of your immediate sphere of influence, and get comfortable forming those weak ties.

– Alp Mimaroglu



Familiarity often breeds contempt.

Local high school students often underappreciate the University of Toledo's (UT) value simply because the institution is located in our backyard. Simultaneously, complacent with the small percentage of Toledo students they have drawn historically, UT has ignored the low-hanging fruit of potential local student enrollment.

Thus, UT, while located "in" the city, has not been "of" the city. The weak ties between the city and the university have left many social and economic issues unaddressed and countless UT students without relevant experience in solving real-world concerns.

Enter Valerie Simmons-Walston.

On July 1, 2022, Walston was tasked with strengthening the weak city-university ties by integrating UT into the community. As special assistant to the president for community engagement and strategic partnerships, the Cleveland, Ohio native seeks to establish collaborative university-community partnerships that are "empowering, systemic, and transforming."

The following is a portion of our recent conversation about the new initiative.

Perryman: Please begin with a synopsis of your background.

Walston: I have a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Kent State and a Master of Arts in Counseling-College Student Personnel from Hampton University. My Doctor of Education, Higher Education Administration is in progress at the University of Alabama (ABD).

Perryman: How did you arrive at UT?

Walston: Before Toledo, I was dean of students at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia, and I held that role for seven or eight years. I was hired as a residence life coordinator. I then went from that position to lead judicial officer to assistant dean of student activities, dean of student success, and finally just dean of students. My HBCU exposure and a small private college experience prepared me to become associate vice president of student services, my first role at The University of Toledo in 2016.

Perryman: What is your current role at The University of Toledo?

Walston: UToledo President Dr. Postel decided to open a new office of community engagement and strategic partnership. So, I'm the lead community engagement officer for the university and Dr. Postel's special advisor as it relates to anything community engagement. I have been gifted with Dr. Monica Holiday-Goodman, of which 30 percent of her time as a faculty and assistant dean, she works alongside me as we're building the foundation for this office.

I also have a colleague on the health science campus. So, I have a small team, but the president has assured me that over time we will build this team out to be what it needs to be for the city of Toledo.

Perryman: Why does community engagement matter in this highly competitive world of higher education?

Walston: Community engagement and collaborative effort are needed to move the needle forward when dealing with issues associated with diversity, equity, inclusivity, prejudice, racism, and all of that. In addition, we're dealing with high-level issues related to mental illness and mental wellness. Therefore, it is so crucial that

we engage our community experts and our community members as we move toward resolution.

Perryman: Colleges everywhere are trying to address declining enrollment. My research indicates that every student you enroll adds \$1 million to the budget. So, what is the plan to address the enrollment decline?

Walston: As you said, it's not just the University of Toledo. Universities throughout the continental United States are experiencing an enrollment decline. There are multiple reasons why that decline is happening, but what we need to do to address the issue is to serve the students who are here well. We also need to employ creative strategies within the admissions office to go after the students whom they possibly didn't go after before.

Let's face it. We're the University of Toledo. We're not Harvard. However, we are firm in our identity here at the University of Toledo. So, we need to go after different types of students and get them to enroll. Although in addition, some extraordinary projects and opportunities are going on at the University of Toledo, and we need to tell our story better.

Recently, I dealt with a sibling who got a heart transplant - a heart and two kidneys. I didn't even realize that the University of Toledo was known for its kidney transplant center. We're also doing some extraordinary things in the Department of Engineering. I know that we bring 600 STEM students on campus, including females, once a year to encourage them to go into the field of engineering because we need more women in that space. We have extraordinary leadership programs here. So, if we do a better job of sharing the narrative, we will be more attractive to more students, and that's part of what this office is supposed to do. Community engagement involves consistently and strategically telling our story to the right populations.

Perryman: Where do you plan to look for potential students as you market these outstanding academic offerings, especially those programs with national rankings?

Walston: Well, I'm just going to be very blunt, I feel like we're all admissions officers in some way, shape or form. I do not directly recruit students, but I expect some community engagement efforts to yield more students.

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Valerie Simmons-Walston

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Quit Playin' CRT? – Which One!

By Vincent L. Hall

Texas Metro News

While Critical Race Theory is undoubtedly the buzzword of these times, let me introduce you to a different and lesser-known counterargument. In a scholarly piece, he wrote in 2017, Duane Loynes Sr., PhD, introduces us to Critical Race Theory. Loynes is an Urban Studies and Africana Studies professor at Rhodes College. He resides in Memphis, Tennessee, with his wife Ericka and their son Duane Jr., and is an active member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Although right-wing cynics and rabid Trump worshippers point to CRT as the greatest evil, there is another CRT you should know. First, listen to how Loynes started his scholarly work. "The relationship between Christianity and people of color in the United States has been characterized by injustice. For example, in his classic *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, Frederick Douglass described the Christianity of his day as a 'corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity.'"

Writing about how Christianity has been deployed in North America, Douglass reflects on some obvious oddities in the slave master's theology.

1. "The man who wields the blood-clotted cowskin during the week fills the pulpit on Sunday, claiming to be a minister of the meek and lowly Jesus.

2. The man who robs me of my earnings at the end of each week meets me as a class-leader on Sunday morning to show me the way of life and the path of salvation.

3. He who sells my sister, for purposes of prostitution stands forth as the pious advocate of purity.

4. He who proclaims it a religious duty to read the Bible denies me the right to learn to read the name of the God who made me.

5. He, the religious advocate of marriage, robs whole millions of its sacred influence and leaves them to the ravages of wholesale pollution.

6. The warm defender of the sacredness of the family relation is the same that scatters whole families — sundering husbands and wives, parents and children, sisters and brothers — leaving the hut vacant and the hearth desolate.

7. We see the thief preaching against theft and the adulterer against adultery.

8. We have men sold to build churches, women sold to support the gospel, and babes sold to purchase Bibles for the poor heathen! All for the glory of God and the good of souls!

9. The slave auctioneer's bell and the church-going bell chime in with each other, and the bitter cries of the heartbroken slave are drowned in the religious shouts of his pious master.

10. Revivals of religion and revivals in the slave-trade go hand in hand together.

11. The slave prison and the church stand near each other. The clanking of fetters, the rattling of chains in the prison, and the pious psalm and solemn prayer in the church, may be heard simultaneously.

Frederick Douglass' misery-filled musings are hard to hear, but they were much harder to live. Critical Race Theory, according to Loynes, contends that any theology that seeks to speak to the marginalization of people and systems of inequity is valid.

"A critical race theology would articulate a methodology in which each discipline was oriented toward fashioning an intelligible understanding of the Christian faith. Christianity must be presented in a manner that generates informed dialogue about true racial equality as the fruit of genuine Christianity. He ends his eloquent missive with a final thought I would leave to you. To construct a critical race theology, a scriptural interpretation of racial equality must be the priority and the goal.

America's history must be told truthfully and with candor. We must mention the name of slaveowners like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and nine other sitting U.S. presidents who owned slaves. Likewise, we have to tell the stories of death-defying abolitionists like John Brown, William Lloyd Garrison, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. There are stories of how local United Methodists at SMU segregated their halls long before most in Texas. Both versions of CRT hinge on the truth. It's time to tell it.

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist, and an award-winning columnist.



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David Bush: Bringing a Village Back to the Toledo Community

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Violence interruption is effective, but it takes intensive and sustained effort. David Bush is honored to lead the city's interrupter program, a position that he has spearheaded since May.

"There is a story behind every fired bullet," explains Commissioner Bush.

Bush, born and reared here in Toledo, knows all too well the personal stories of many of the city's underserved. Bush has been serving as a passionate change agent for the City for the past 23 years. For decades he has worked with the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, engaging the community on the importance of lifelong learning and fostering inclusive environments where our city's youth also have 'a seat at the table.' Bush is now the City of Toledo's commissioner for Save Our Community, a violence deterrent initiative in the city.

Bush is also the founder and executive director of MADD Poets Society Inc., sharing "We teach poetry as a holistic means of healing trauma and the human condition."

Last year Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced plans to heal the city by reducing violence — saying, "There are a lot of steps involved in treating gun violence as a public health crisis, and we have sought to be aggressive and creative. We have seen gun violence spike across the country, and it is clearly a byproduct of the pandemic. As a part of our multi-component strategy, we have engaged with Cure Violence™, a global organization dedicated to creating safer communities."

The City of Toledo initiated its own adaptation of Cure Violence, starting in the Junction-Englewood neighborhood, to tackle the city's rise in gun violence and to build connections to community resources for high-risk individuals. Toledo's own, Save Our Community currently operates under the Mayor's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence.

"It was an honor to be chosen as the new commissioner of SOC," says Bush.

Bush began his new position as commissioner at the end of May, and already he's making headway into progressively canvassing the Lagrange Street corridor. "Residents dealing with violence call us from all around the city," explains Bush. "Most are surprised when we explain Lagrange is only the second neighborhood to be recently added to the program."

Still, Save Our Community is making a big impact and planning to expand to East Toledo soon.

"Our goal is to have a positive effect on any risky behaviors or events for those with a high chance of either being shot or being a shooter in the immediate future," explains Commissioner Bush.

The Save Our Community program prevents violence through a three-pronged approach: detection and interruption; behavior change and changing community norms concerning violence acceptance.

Save Our Community's program is a research-based community-centric approach to violence prevention. As an adaptation of the Cure Violence Model, the program maintains that violence is a learned behavior and that it can be prevented using disease control methods.

High risk individuals in Central Toledo are generally young offenders between the ages of 16 and 25, gang members, or youth with consistent exposure to violence.



David Bush introduces new Violence Interrupters



The Violence Interrupters, photo courtesy Amy Voigt

"An important part of my job is to garner the support and participation of key stakeholders in the community including local politicians, community organizations and police," explains Bush. "Once this takes place, the SOC Outreach Workers & Interrupters can help guide the community in understanding and implementing the program's resources to services."

The fact that so many violence interrupters are former criminals has drawn concern from local law enforcement officials in the past.

"Interrupters are greeted with hugs and handshakes in neighborhoods now instead of getting side-eyed," explains Commissioner Bush. "The community knows we aren't law enforcement and the cops know we aren't against them either. Our job is to help those at highest risk before

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Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo and Vicinity

August 29, 2022

Concerning the Arrest and Recently Released Body Cam Video Featuring Olympic Bronze Medalist Oshae Jones.

The pastors and leadership of the IMA have reached a position regarding our concerns and outrage after the newly released body camera footage from the Toledo police showing an emerging and chaotic scene prior to the arrest of Ms. Jones.

Sadly, all of this is happening as our community is 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 suffering under siege from COVID exhaustion and trauma, health inequities and a lack of affordable housing and economic inflation.

nomie inflation.

We do not see efforts by TPD to de-escalate the crisis near the end of the video nor do we see Ms. Jones exhibiting behavior that would warrant the level of abuse by the unnamed female officer. It seems the vociferous temperament of this interaction was present from the beginning of the video which included profanity of suspects and officers alike.

We are committed to do our part as leaders in the faith community and we challenge government and law enforcement officers and educators to do theirs.

Sincerely

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

David Bush... continued from page 5

things ever escalate to the police."

The core components of daily activities for the Save Our Community team consists of:

1. Outreach workers who work directly with high-risk individuals, gang members and troubled youth to provide direct services and mediate disputes before they become violent events. They mentor and counsel youth, assess their needs, connect them with a broad range of services like educational development programs, anger-management counseling, and drug or alcohol treatment and help them find child-care or employment.

2. Interrupters who mediate gang or neighborhood disputes. They work the streets at night, talk to gang leaders, distraught friends and relatives of recent shooting victims, and others who are in a position to initiate or continue cycles of violence, with the goal of establishing a rapport with the at-risk youth.

3. Community mobilization efforts are promoted through community-level activism and public education. Activities include: media campaigns, rallies, protests, and town hall meetings. Local churches and community groups participate in marches, rallies, and prayer vigils focused on reinforcing the unacceptability of violence in the Toledo community. Educational materials designed to change normal behavior about violence and enhance knowledge of the risks of engaging in violence are also distributed throughout Central Toledo.

Save Our Community's Junction-Englewood region is housed within the Frederick Douglass Center with Outreach Specialist Eduardo Adams supporting his area's Interrupters: Ricky Gaines, Matthew Smith Jr. and Brandon Awls.

The program's Lagrange St. Corridor region is housed within the Zablocki Center with Outreach Specialist Issac Miles supporting his area's Interrupters: Christopher McIntyre, Elizabeth Matthews and Christopher Matthews.

Last year there were a total of 75 homicides in Toledo. "Last year was extreme. Homicides are down this year to 34 in the city and if Toledo continues on the same pace of projections, we hope to be under 45," says Commissioner Bush. "East Toledo was our logical next choice which is the third big puzzle of the central city area."

In response to residents' pleas to expand *Save Our Community*, East Toledo is the next logical choice.

"We are planning on expanding to East Toledo in late September and are excited to welcome Diana Vasquez as East Toledo's region Outreach Specialist," shares Bush.

Historically, the program has had some interruptions. There's been high turnover — the previous director, JoJuan Armour, resigned from his post in March.

"Former Commissioner JoJuan Armour did a great job during his time here. He was very effective," shares Bush. "We are full force now with nine on the team and we are determined to break the cycles of violence and poverty in Toledo's central city."

The Violence Interrupters work Tuesday-Saturday along with the Outreach Specialists. Each area has a team of three Interrupters and one Outreach Specialist.

Interrupters canvas from 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. and Outreach Specialists work from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. due to the front end of their job being reporting, log-

... continued on page 12

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Habitat for Humanity Starts Construction in Junction Neighborhood

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Habitat for Humanity and partners broke ground in the Junction neighborhood last Friday on two houses on Belmont Street – the first of 15 new homes planned for the Junction area.

"The Junction neighborhood knows us," said Michael McIntyre, executive

... continued on page 12



New homeowners, Tressa Boles and William Slaughter



L. to r - Adrienne Bradley of ProMedica, Alicia Smith of the Junction Coalition, Michael McIntyre of Habitat and Tiffanie McNair, City of Toledo



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Local Entrepreneurs' Business Pitch Competition

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Eight sets of local entrepreneurs from Toledo's Uptown and Junction neighborhoods competed in the Glass City Small Business Pitch Competition on Wednesday, August 24 at the ASSETS Toledo office. Participants could earn a chance to win \$200 to grow their business.

"Welcome to everyone. We have ASSETS Toledo, ProMedica and Jumpstart all in the house. I'm excited to see all of you," shared Olivia Holden, executive director of ASSETS Toledo.

The one-hour event was organized by ASSETS Toledo in collaboration with ProMedica and JumpStart. Each of the participants, current ASSET students, delivered a four-minute pitch and addressed questions from the judges before the final decision was announced that same evening.

The participants were: education childcare center owner Trishia Ethridge, nonprofit steel guitar historians DelRay and Kellie Grace, scented candles with customized music business owner Nyree Haney, bed and breakfast owners Sidney and Nyree Haney, law enforcement consultant Anita Madison, veteran homeless provider Daimian Hatch, and photographer Julian Venegas.

"Thank you for coming. We are fortunate to partner with ASSETS.

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(Left to right): Lorne Novick (Jumpstart Chief Services Officer); Kenny Farrar (Jumpstart Senior Deal Flow Associate); Amy Haschak (Jumpstart Director of Toledo Operations); Olivia Holden (ASSETS Toledo Executive Director); Roy Hodge (Jumpstart Entrepreneur-In-Resident and Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) and Adam Salon (Jumpstart Partner Entrepreneurial Services)



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EOE/M/F/D/V



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EOE/M/F/D/V



Local Entrepreneurs... continued from page 8

We're excited to hear the pitches today and just know that this is only the beginning, there are so many resources out there," shared Amy Haschak, director of Toledo Operations for Jumpstart.

Three individuals were recognized as the top three winners of the evening, with the first-place winner earning the cash prize. Trishia Ethridge's educational childcare center earned third place. "We will have a website and support our parents. The website will have support resources for parents like how to deal with stress and other topics in five to 15-minute videos," said Ethridge.

Anita Madison earned second place with her police consultant company. "Six years ago, I retired from TPS and began assisting other law enforcement agencies in the area of community engagement. I've spent most of my career in community service and can see both law enforcement concerns and community concerns which allowed me to develop training that benefit both sides," said Madison.

Nyree Haney earned first place and the cash prize for her customized scented candles business, which provides a customized song playlist for each scented candle. Her business is called Infinite Creations by Nyree, potential clients can visit her Facebook page by searching for the business name. "Every woman wants a piece of jewelry that makes a statement and custom scents paired with a playlist to enhance the fragrance. I wanted to create a unique experience for each person," said Haney.

Event catering provided by J'Maes Home Cooking located on Glendale Ave in Toledo; and pitch judges were Blair Johnson, Ebony Carter and Monte Features. For additional information about ASSETS Toledo or Jumpstart visit: <http://www.assetstoledo.com/> <https://www.jumpstartinc.org/>



Pitch Contest Judges - Monte Features, Ebony Carter and Blair Johnson



Pitch Winner Nyree Haney



Amy Haschak, Jumpstart Director of Toledo Operations speaking with pitch contestant Trishia Ethridge and guest



Pitch contestants



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*For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Electrician apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 8 years as a Journeyman Electrician.

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EOE/M/F/D/V



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Applicants **MUST** provide a valid email address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.



EOE/M/F/D/V



A New Summit Street Diner in the Works – Coming Soon Bertha Mae's Kitchen

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Nolan Hych and Pamela Dewalt certainly have a full schedule planned for this fall.

They just closed on a business loan, courtesy of Economic and Community Development Institute and Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union – the first small business loan the partnership of ECDI and TUFUCU has completed.

ECDI And TUFUCU are partners in the Junction Neighborhood Promise Grant, explains Zahra Collins, program manager at TUFUCU. Starting in April, the Junction Economic Transformation (J.E.T.) developed, through the grant, a Small Business Seminar Series, an eight-week program geared toward the residents and businesses in the Junction neighborhood. The series incorporates business as well as financial curriculum to assist existing and aspiring owner of small businesses.

"The Small Business Seminar Series has been enlightening and empowering," said DeWalt, a TUFUCU member and ECDI client who enrolled in that initial series. "Between the presenters and the resources being provided to us, we have everything we need as entrepreneurs to run a successful business."

DeWalt will experience the feeling of running her own successful business soon enough.

Last week, she and her partner, Hych, signed the paperwork to obtain a loan through ECDI that will help them start that business.

"It's come full circle," says Collins of the fact that the TUFUCU member



Pam DeWalt and Nolan Hych in Bertha Mae's Kitchen



ECDI's April Welch looks on as Pam DeWalt and Nolan sign loan documents

enrolled in the course, reached out to one of the J.E.T. partners for assistance with the loan and signed the paperwork with April Welch of ECDI just months after the process began.

DeWalt and Hych's work has already begun. Bertha Mae's Kitchen is due to open in November at 840 N. Summit Street. The pair have already gutted and remodeled the interior and restocked and resupplied the kitchen and dining area. Bertha Mae's will initially be a breakfast and luncheon operation,

... continued on page 11

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ELGIN ROGERS, JR. STATE REPRESENTATIVE #44 CANDIDATE

Perryman... continued from page 3

Let me tell you where I'm going to start, right here in Toledo. The number of students who attend the University of Toledo from Toledo Public Schools is meager. And when you think about the number of people in Toledo who have a degree, that number is also low. So yes, our admissions department needs to go to the highways and byways, overseas, right here in the United States. They need to go to all 50 states to recruit students, but I am starting right here in Toledo.

I've already reached out to Treva Jeffries [Toledo Public Schools, Assistant Transformational Leader of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion] and we looked at the data that showed which schools had the highest transfer rate from high school to the University of Toledo. We then looked at schools with the lowest rate, and one school had zero. So I said I would start with the school with zero students coming to the university. I plan to meet with the principal, the assistant principal, and the school counselor and bring my team. We just need to have a conversation. 'What is it that your school needs that we have? How can we better share our story about the University of Toledo? We want your students, and quite frankly, your students need us.'

Perryman: How about collaborating with some of the local private schools?

Walston: They're on the list too, but frankly, the private schools have a better transfer rate to the university than TPS. So, trust and believe the private schools are on the list too, but I want to start with TPS.

Perryman: If you were to tell the story of UT to a local community to rebuild trust or foster stronger community relationships, what would that story be?

Walston: I think that the University of Toledo is under tremendous change right now. We have a forward-thinking president, and change is one of the things that the faculty, staff, and students will experience. When I say change, we have a strategic plan that is student-focused. We want to make sure that even though our numbers are low, we want to make sure that our students are served at a higher level.

The community engagement office will build more strategic partnerships to benefit our students. For example, strategic alliances with Dana, Jeep, Owens Illinois, and Owens Corning ensure that our students have a successful academic experience in the classroom.

So, students' post-classroom experience and internship opportunities will also prepare them for their careers. Our career services office brings hundreds of employers in to expose our students to that postsecondary experience and the workforce. Still, even before they are poised to meet with these employers, our career service officers meet with our students to do interview prep and resumes.

We believe in relationships. We believe in meeting those students' needs. So, with these changes that our leadership is imposing, we're moving in the right direction.

Perryman: What would that future look like if you did everything you proposed? How does that story improve so that more people want to be involved and engaged?

Walston: Well, our enrollment is going to increase drastically. We will have paid internship and co-op opportunities for all our students in every major, especially those tech majors. We will actively expose our students to some of those cultural overseas academic experiences. That gives them a better lens for returning to the workforce when they come back stateside.

In the long term, we will have engaged relationships that include students doing research alongside faculty, with faculty identifying problems within the community, but that research will truly solve problems and make Toledo a better place. I am speaking specifically of gun violence and our water treatment problem here. So I'm talking about real-life problems, and U Toledo is the lab where we can research to solve some of these problems.

In my fantasy world, since we're doing all these things right, the University of Toledo will eventually be the model for other institutions. We are the model now for some of the sciences, nursing, and engineering. But, long-term, look toward us being the model in multiple areas of higher education.

Perryman: Do you think the university is prepared to collaborate with activists?

Walston: That is a good question. Whether we're prepared or not, this is the time to partner with those activists in the community because our students have become activists. Their participation is preparing us to connect and partner in the community, especially among underrepresented populations, and have a voice as it relates to things that take place that are unjust.

So, are we 100 percent ready to get out there and collaborate? We probably could do a little bit more to prepare, but guess what? There is no more preparation time because the time is now. Our students are calling us on the carpet. They want to know, 'Why?' They want to know what we can do to ensure justice is served to our students and the community.

Perryman: The university has historically poured millions into venture capital projects and other market-oriented investments while neglecting the social problems. Yet, it can be profitable to address social issues and achieve a social return on investment that lowers the cost of the effects of some of these problems. I hope you can affect policies through your position to change the university's thinking on these issues.

Walston: Yes! And that requires having very hard conversations with the highest level of the administration.

Perryman: Well, you're in the position to do that.

Walston: Yes, and I think they picked the right one. We'll see.

Perryman: Many view the term community engagement as merely a buzzword at UT. Instead, we want to see 'no more business as usual.' The university is perceived as isolating itself from social concerns, and then when students graduate, they are unprepared for the context in which they will live and work.

What could the university's system look like if each discipline was committed to providing more grounding in civic engagement and service learning? What if UT focused substantially more of its intellectual resources and human and economic capital on finding solutions to the problems students face when they arrive at school and face when they graduate?

Walston: I believe that what you just mentioned gives the work in community engagement purpose and meaning because that's what it's all about. Until now, I've talked a bit about preparing students academically and studying abroad. Still, I firmly believe that much learning occurs outside the classroom.

The honors college has a capstone course where no less than ten nonprofits are brought in annually. Those nonprofits identify a problem, and a group of students do the research. Then, with all ten nonprofits in the room, the students present their research and the answer to the problem. I witnessed this class; it was life-changing, but it's all make-believe. So, they've done the research and presented the answer, so my question was, what's next?

What needs to happen so we can implement some of this research? What are the next steps?

I think it starts with their volunteer experiences. Still, I think we need to aggressively spend more time teaching them how to become leaders at work and successful and making a certain salary. But also, as leaders in the community and the importance of them giving back. If we do this locally, I hope to retain more students, teaching them the importance of working and volunteering in

... continued on page 13



Summit Street Diner... continued from page 10

with a heavy emphasis on takeout. But the property can include outside expansion in the summer for dining al fresco.

First things first, however! The grand opening has to wait until after the partner's very special day in late October when they tie the knot and become partners in life in addition to partners in business.

Then, in November, the restaurant will open. A very busy fall season indeed.

The next Small Business Seminar Series is due to begin on September 29. Contact TUFCU for more information.

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David Bush... continued from page 6

ging paperwork, attending community events, and ensuring SOC participants receive resources. Each Interrupter can take up to five participants and enroll them into SOC's programming.

High-risk participants can be involved as long as they have a need such as housing, food insecurity, clothing, mental health assistance, or even a simple employment resource.

"We are a part of bringing a village back to our Toledo community," says Bush. "Folks want to know what's in it for them? Generally, employment is one of the biggest positive gateways to instilling confidence in our participants. We want to interrupt their cycles of poverty, too."

Any inner city that suffers from poverty, suffers from the ills of gun violence. Save Our Community is changing the norms of how people think about violence by providing regular training sessions for staff to enhance their knowledge of the program. This helps workers make appropriate decisions when

they encounter situations with community members.

"Interrupters have their own triggers and trauma so it's important that our programming provides training to not only participants but to our own staff," says Bush. "Our team has received over 70 hours of training, including trauma and force training and stop the bleed training given by Toledo's own nurses here at Mercy Medical that they can use when they are out canvassing."

Program participants emphasize that Toledo's Outreach Workers and Interrupters are doing a credible job, describing their work as a combination of trustworthiness and authenticity.

Save Our Community would like you to be part of a homegrown solution to our Glass City violence. Amid a historic surge in bloodshed during the pandemic, it has made a huge impact in its very concentrated canvased areas of Junction/Englewood and Lagrange Street.

Follow the work of Save Our Community on the City of Toledo's social media pages and participating events to help them interrupt violence. You too, can be a very important part of Toledo's growing village.

Sisters In Law... continued from page 16

of the three judges and urged the drive to get voters to the polls.

State Representative Lisa Sobacki, candidate for County Commissioner, and State Representative Paula Hicks Hudson, candidate for the Ohio Senate, both voiced their support of the three candidates in the election for the Ohio Courts.

"Now is the time to pay attention," said Hicks-Hudson regarding this year's race. "Now is the time to use your voice. Now is the time to tell others how important it is to be registered to vote and plan to vote... The power belongs to you," said Hicks-Hudson. "These 'Sisters in Law' will make sure that what we believe in, as working men and women, will be heard at the Supreme Court. This is the election of our lifetime."

Bob Lynn, with Jobs with Justice, an organization that provides transportation to polling locations, spoke to the group followed by Bernie Quilter, Lucas County Clerk of Courts, and Fleetwood who read the list of dignitaries and candidates present.

The introduction of the 'Sisters in Law' candidates was moderated by Vallie Bowman English, Municipal Clerk of Courts and candidate for Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge. The "Sister in Law" candidates endorsed by Local 500 are:

Judge Terri Jamison – Ohio Supreme Court Candidate

Judge Jamison started adult life working as one of a few women in the underground coal mines and later made Columbus her home. She later opened and ran her own insurance agency for over 16 years. Jamison sold her agency and enrolled in the Capital University School of Law and obtained her Juris Doctorate in 2004.

As an attorney, Terri worked in the Franklin County Public Defender's Office representing indigent clients in the Municipal Court System and served as a Hearing Officer for the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Review Commission. She practiced in the US District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Jamison opened her own law office, practicing criminal, juvenile, domestic relations and probate law at the trial and appellate level and was admitted to practice at the Supreme Court of the United States in 2007. In 2012, she was elected judge of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch. She was overwhelmingly reelected to the Common Pleas bench in 2018 and then elected to the Tenth District Court of Appeals in 2020. (source: votejudgejamison.com)

Justice Jennifer Brunner—Chief Justice of Supreme Court

Justice Jennifer Brunner is the 162nd Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Her current term expires January 1, 2027. She seeks to be Ohio's 11th Chief Justice, a separate seat on the state's highest court.

Jennifer Brunner was elected Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court in 2020. Previously she served as a judge of the Tenth District Court of Appeals for six years and the Franklin County Common Pleas Court for nearly five years. As a trial court judge Brunner founded the county's adult felony drug court, known as the TIES (Treatment is Essential to Success) Program, now in operation for 18 years.



Elected officials and LiUNA members and staff



She was elected Ohio's first woman Secretary of State on November 7, 2006 and held the office for four years. While in that office, she became the first Ohioan to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award from the bipartisan board of the JFK Library and Museum in Boston for her service to Ohio as its first female Secretary of State. She has 17 years of private law practice experience. (source: www.justicebrunner.com)

Judge Marilyn Zayas—Ohio Supreme Court Candidate

Judge Marilyn Zayas was born in Harlem and grew up in tough New York neighborhoods. She earned a college degree in computer science and made Cincinnati her home when Procter & Gamble hired her as an IT Manager. In 1994, she left P & G to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer. She graduated from UC College of Law in 1997.

Prior to joining the Court of Appeals, she served the community as an attorney for nearly 20 years. Judge Zayas has worked in a large law firm (Holland & Hart) and for Hamilton County. She has litigated in both state and federal courts and has run her own law practice. She represented clients in the legal areas of Intellectual Property Litigation, Labor & Employment law, Delinquency, Criminal Law, Custody, and Adoptions. She also helped businesses, investors, and individuals navigate the complex immigration system. (source: www.judgemarilynzayas.com)

To learn more or support the three candidates visit www.votejudgejamison.com, www.judgemarilynzayas.com, www.justicebrunner.com.

Habitat For Humanity... continued from page 7

director of the Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity as he opened the groundbreaking ceremony. "Now they are going to know us for new home construction."

According to McIntyre, Alicia Smith, executive director of the Junction Coalition, invited his organization to extend their work in home renovation and building in the Junction area. Habitat joined with funding partners such as Owens Corning, ProMedica Junction, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, the City of Toledo, the Lucas County Land Bank and the Toledo Design Collective, among others, to put the money together for the new construction.

In addition to the two new side-by-side homes on Belmont – built on what was originally three lots – 13 more homes are planned for streets within a six-block Junction area bordered by Collingwood and City Park.

Adrienne Bradley of ProMedica spoke of what the home building project will do for the residents of the Junction are – "creating financial security for folks," she noted. "We are thrilled to be able to support" this project.

The City of Toledo's Housing Commissioner Tiffanie McNair said: "The City of Toledo has made revitalization ... of neighborhoods on the cusp a top priority." She commended the partnership that had been put together for the purpose of the home building project.

The owners for the two new homes have already been determined. William Slaughter, who has been a member of Habitat for over a year, helping on other projects in the area, and Tressa Boles, who has been with the group for less than two weeks at the time of the groundbreaking, will become the newest residents of Belmont Street. They will both undergo a 16-month program designed to shore up finances, reduce debt, build credit and help them navigate the path of homeownership.

"To be back home and in this area has been surreal," said Boles, a Toledo native who spent a time in Florida recently.

Councilwoman Vanice Williams, in whose District 4 area the homes will be located, closed out the remarks before the groundbreaking itself, by pointing out that homeownership is important in building generational wealth and "generational wealth is very important to the African American community ... homeownership in the African American community is still alive."

The Mamas: What I Learned about Kids, Class, and Race from Moms Not Like Me by Helena Andrews-Dyer

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Sometimes, you just don't feel like you belong.

Everybody knows more than you do, and your inexperience shows. Or you're the wrong gender, the wrong age, the wrong political affiliation to fit in properly. And then there are the times when you wonder if the color of your skin keeps you from belonging. As in the new book *The Mamas* by Helena Andrews-Dyer, join the club.

Back a decade or so ago, Helena Andrews-Dyer and her husband, Rob, were content with the status quo. They lived in a cute Washington D.C. condo. They were able to travel, dine out, stay up late, and do pretty much whatever they wished – until the deluge began.

Within seven months, seven of Andrews-Dyer's friends had announced pregnancies and the year 2013 was going to be nothing but baby bumps and baby showers. And no, no, no, she wasn't ready for that! Nope, she was "the loud and proud only child of a loud and proud lesbian single mother." She didn't need a baby.

And when a baby arrived anyhow, she didn't need a mother's group to get by.

At least that's what she told herself.

But she did need the community, advice, and the camaraderie they offered. At issue was that most of the women in her neighborhood – and in the mother's group – were white. Would she – could she – fit in?

With her firstborn strapped to her chest, Andrews-Dyer went to her first meet-up and it was good. Eager to join everything, she immediately signed

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up for multiple mom-and-baby classes when she noticed that the group was a lot like high school, complete with an activist, a hippie-mom, and a mean girl. But the question remained: did Andrews-Dyer, a Black mother with a Black daughter really, truly fit in with a mostly-white moms group?

A badly-timed vacation and a whole-family diagnosis of Covid-19 told the truth...

If ever there was a time for a book like *The Mamas*, now is it.

Issues of racism seem to be on everyone's mind today, and this whole book is one gigantic look at the subject on all its sides – but there's also an equally-gigantic twist here. Author Helena Andrews-Dyer is "Black with a capital B," she's gonna tell you about it, and she'll make you laugh. She's also going to tell you when she might have been just a little wrong.

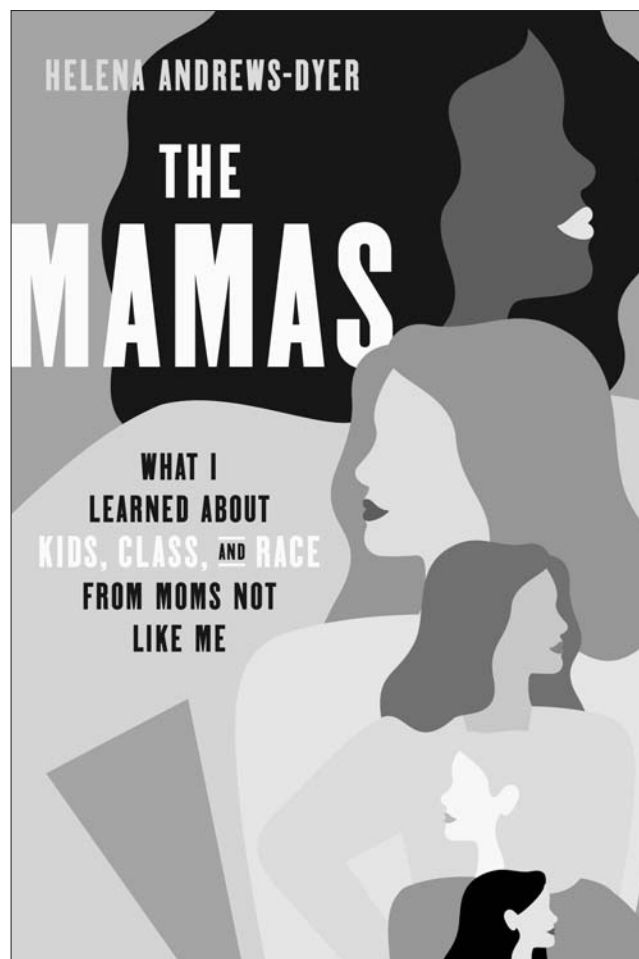
And (at the risk of spoiling), she was wrong about her first impressions.

But mothers and mothering while Black aren't the only things *The Mamas* tackles. Andrews-Dyer writes about "the talk" Black boys get, and how heartbreaking it is to even think about having to have it. She writes about how friendship can bowl you over when you least expect it, and she muses about the difficulty of parenting one's parent.

There's a lot of funny inside *The Mamas*, but a lot is left to think about here, too. If you're a mother (to be) or if you've been studying or living with racism, this book belongs on your shelf.



Mamas author COPYRIGHT Jared Soares



Perryman... continued from page 11

the community. They get this great job, but they're so attached to the community engagement work that we retain the talent right here in Toledo.

That is the epitome of community engagement and strategic partnership work. If we can retain students here because they have had such a transformational experience related to community engagement.

Then, I think we can just say the benediction and go home. That is the end goal.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

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The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

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ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Lucas County seeks to engage a firm for architectural and engineering (A/E) services for a new 16-bed residential behavioral health project in Toledo, Ohio. The project will be a new build, estimated at 20,000 to 30,000 square feet of residential space with single rooms, shared baths, community rooms, therapeutic rooms, a teaching kitchen, dining area, recreational space, offices, and storage. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on September 15, 2022. All questions should be submitted to John Durda with Hplex via email (john@hplex.com) by September 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET. Details regarding the project deliverables and submission criteria are located on the MHRSB website at: <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Ottawa Hills Police Department will be destroying any unclaimed and forfeited property. Please call 419-536-4123 in the next 30 days if you believe any of your property is in the possession of the Police Department.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Toledo Botanical Garden Farmhouse Improvements, 5434 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43615** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, September 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of interior workspace construction renovation of an approximate 2,474 sq. ft., two-story farmhouse. Work includes demolition of but not limited to stripping of rotting wood lath, plaster ceiling removal, and carpet and laminate floor removal. Anticipated construction includes electrical, painting, plumbing, and HVAC. All work shall be as described by the contract drawings and project manual.

Base bid of construction cost is an estimated \$102,297.15 with eight potential alternates; including window A/C unit installation, installation of electrical and data throughout, refinishing of hardwood floor, refinishing of existing wood stairs, new plaster installation, scrubable acoustical ceiling tile installation (two locations), and replacement windows.

Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Brad Hooven @ 419-340-1136, brad.hooven@metropark-toledo.com.

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

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

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

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Big Things Happening at the Wayman Palmer YMCA

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Wednesday, August 24, dozens of neighborhood residents, city officials, area youth and representatives from a number of YMCA partners gathered at the Wayman Palmer YMCA to hear about new program offerings, to see the new Peloton equipment and to learn about what is in store for the facility in the future.

"The key point was two years ago when a relationship with LISC [Local Support Initiatives Corporation] introduced us to Peloton," said Brad Toft, president and CEO of the Greater Toledo YMCA, during his remarks. "And that relationship with Peloton is pretty special."

As a result of that relationship, Peloton has supplied the Wayman Palmer Y with several rooms full of equipment that will accommodate dozens of old and new Y members seeking to become and remain fit and healthier.

For the residents in the Wayman Palmer area, the Peloton equipment is but a small step in the direction they will see the facility go over the next few years. As Toft pointed out in his address, the Y has partnered with the City of Toledo to build a new facility that will be closer to Bancroft Street. The plans were announced some months ago and it is expected that the groundbreaking will be held in the spring.




Wayman Palmer Executive Director Eric Williams



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Y CEO Brad Toft



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Sisters in Law Join Local 500 Members for Breakfast

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

A breakfast rally supporting "Sisters in Law" candidates Judge Terri Jamison, Judge Marilyn Zayas and Justice Jennifer Brunner was hosted Saturday morning, August 20, at LiUNA Local 500 on Nebraska Ave. The trio outlined their platform for the upcoming election to a room full of supporters.

Michael Ashford, chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party and incumbent candidate for Lucas County Recorder, opened the event and shared its significance. "This year is one of the most important elections we have." He expressed the purpose of the event hosted by Local 500 and Business Manager David Fleetwood. "The idea is to energize and engage volunteers to turn Ohio back blue," shared Ashford.

Fleetwood moderated the speeches of the Democratic candidates present. Each candidate shared their platform and rallied the officials, community members, supporters and union members to action. Those present expressed their support

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Judge Marilyn Zayas, Justice Jennifer Brunner, Judge Terri Jamison



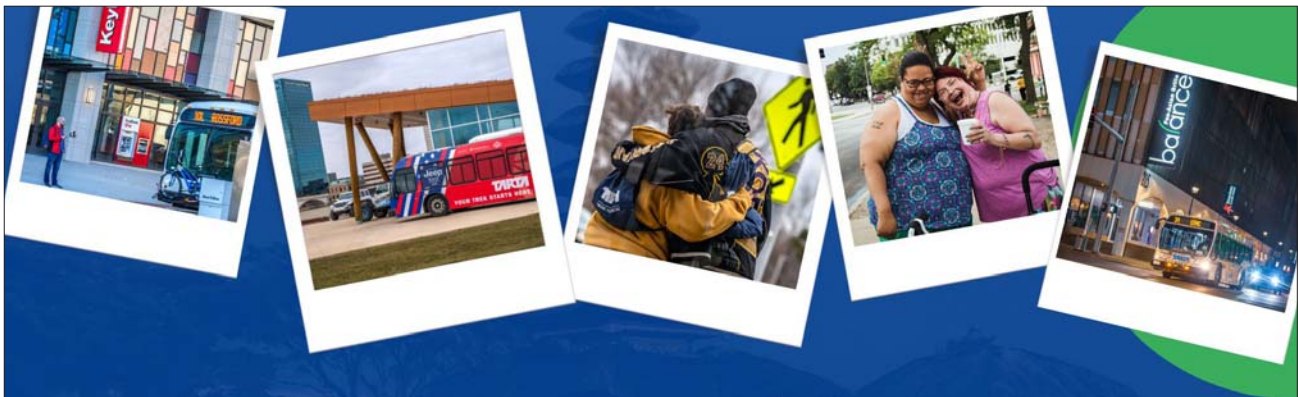
David Fleetwood addresses breakfast attendees



Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English



State Rep. Paula Hicks Hudson



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