



Volume 74 No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 28, 2022



Reggie and Wenona Williams with son Zaniel

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Moxie

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

The Truth Contributor

Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you beset with gloom? 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells Pumping in my living room. Just like moons and like suns, With the certainty of tides, Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise...

– Maya Angelou



It is a conspicuous trait, a contagious spirit of fortitude, determination and perseverance. For leaders of change, it is the requisite character that enables them not merely to survive but thrive in the pressure cooker atmosphere of overwhelming resistance.

Moxie is the defining mark of Komako Goolsby's diligent ascent up the career ladder to a senior position that white men have always dominated.

A member of the Toledo Fire Department since 2006, Goolsby overcame racial and sexist hurdles to become the first Black female Fire Captain in the Department's history.

We spoke with Goolsby, a wife, and mother of two adult daughters, about her experiences on this historic barrier-breaking journey.

Perryman: Please provide our readers with a little bit of your background.

Goolsby: I grew up in Toledo, Ohio, near Station 4 on Richards Rd. I graduated from Macomber High School, where I was in the electrical shop. But, since I could walk and talk, I've always wanted to be a firefighter. The older I got and listened to my dad and saw his schedule, the more I knew that I could do both electrical and firefighting.

Perryman: Talk about your electrical experience.

Goolsby: I worked for IBEW Local 8. I worked with Whitehouse Electric and a little bit with Romanoff. Still, I spent a year and a half as an electrical apprentice. I loved it. It's cool. It's physical, and you're talking about another male-dominated career. So, whenever I walked onto a construction site, I turned heads. Those guys wanted to know where that young lady came from. And I was only 18. Firefighting is my first and only love, so I never needed to pursue electrical any further.

Perryman: How long have you been with the Toledo Fire Department?

Goolsby: I've been with TFD since 2006, so 16 years.



Perryman: You talked about your dad. How did he influence you to become a firefighter?

Goolsby: I'm the only girl of five children. So, automatically being raised with four brothers, I had to have a certain kind of toughness, whether I liked it or not. My brothers are my heartbeats now. We are very close; however, I was the only one that wanted to be a firefighter.

But when my dad talked about the fire department and even lifting weights, he'd be like, 'yeah, it's a gym in every station,' and he was getting strong. I liked that. I felt like I needed to get strong, too. So, I would watch him lift weights. I would drive to the station after school if my dad worked that day, spend the whole day with him, and go on runs with him.

My dad was also a chef, so the guys loved for him to cook, and I have that same talent. The whole fire department wants me to have my own restaurant, to be on all these cooking shows. But anyway, my dad made being a firefighter fun. He made it glorious. He always said people love firefighters. On your worst day, firefighters can make it better, can make it good, can make it your best day.

He also said, 'This is a brotherhood. No matter where you go, you are family. All you have to do is introduce yourself, tell them you're a firefighter and where you're from.' He was right and hasn't been wrong yet.

Perryman: So, you came in at entry level in 2006, and you rise up the ranks.

Goolsby: It has not been easy. There's no 'rising up the ranks in the Toledo Fire Department or any fire department if you are a) a female and double if you are b) a Black female. But, through hard work and not without much heartache and headache. That's how I have gotten to where I am.

Perryman: Let's talk about the struggle at the intersection of race and gender on your career path as a firefighter.

Goolsby: I came in behind a lady named Lolita Cooper, who used to baby-

...continued on page 6



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Community Calendar

October 2

St. Mark's Baptist Church Women's Day: 10:30 am; Theme: "Having Joy Through It All" Psalm 30-5; Speaker: Sister Charlon Dewberry, St. Mark Mission President; Please to join us in person or parking lot service

October 6 & 7

J. Frank Troy Center Rummage Sale: 10 am to 5 pm each day: 419 255 6206 ext 7032

James Clyburn Transcends Generations in Speech at Howard University's Convocation

By Joshua Heron, Howard University News Service

Guest Column

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn disclosed that he lost three races before being elected to his first position in Congress as representative of South Carolina's 6th District, during his speech at Howard University's 155th opening convocation on Friday.

"Nobody should live life by the baseball rule of three strikes, you're out," said Clyburn, recalling inquiries about how he would bounce back from the losses.

Clyburn didn't quit after three times, and now he is the third-ranking Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives 29 years later.

The number three seems prevalent in the Sumter, South Carolina, native's life. Three days before the South Carolina primary, with Biden's presidential hopes endangered, Clyburn's private support for Joe Biden became public. Some believe that democracy was salvaged as Biden won the Democratic primary and the presidency. This was no surprise to U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., who calls Clyburn one of the "lions on the Hill."

Two years later, this lion was roaring on the Hilltop of Howard University. The roar, however, was gentle for the incoming class of 2026 and other audience members filling Cramton Auditorium, which included medical students in white coats, faculty members in academic regalia, dignitaries in suits and curious Howard middle school children in blue polo shirts.

James Clyburn robustly motivates the attendees at Howard's opening convocation. (Photo: Hunter Holliday/HUNewsService.com)

Clyburn reminded the diverse crowd to prioritize unity. Efficiency, Clyburn believes, requires one person while effectiveness demands many. It's as if Clyburn, dressed in a black robe, was reminded of the proverb stating, "plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers bring success." Along with this, advising requires humility.

He reminisced substantially about his late wife, Emily Clyburn. She sat him down after he gave a speech that ignited his pride. "Let me X-plain something to you," she told him. The crowd laughed as he mocked her Moncks Corner accent. His wife would remind him of the 2.5-mile walk she took compared to his six-block stride to school. Clyburn connected the story back to the Howard University family.

"Respect each other's experiences," he said. "That is what it takes to mold families, create community and build a perfect union."

Amid his steadfast charges, tense muscles relaxed as Clyburn found common ground with the audience. One student labeled the speech "soulful and passionate." Part of that is due to the congressman minimizing his status as the majority whip in the House of Representatives. "None of us know everything about everything," he said. Acknowledging a lack of knowledge allows you to sit and listen. The result is the previous generation sharing wisdom with the current one, which leaves an example for the next generation.

Clyburn's brother, John, hopes individuals would receive from his sibling's message that "the generational gap is not large."

The congressman decided to go noteless for the speech and instead read the note that God placed on his heart.

As the South Carolina State College alumnus closed, he told the story of Thomas Edison going from the flatlands of New Jersey to a tea factory in Boston to meet with Lewis Latimer. Latimer was the Black inventor



House Majority Speaker James Clyburn speaks at Howard University's 155th Convocation. (Photo: Hunter Holliday/HUNewsService.com)

who brought light to the bulb that Edison manufactured. In a time of racial tension, Edison's humility and Latimer's willingness lit up the world.

Clyburn offered the crowd a final challenge. "Sit down with someone you may be uncomfortable with, so those coming after you can say, 'Thank you for letting my journey be just a little bit better.'"

Joshua Heron is a reporter for HUNewsService.com.

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The Padua Center Announces the "Peaces" of Art Celebration

To be held on October 9, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 at the Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside Blvd. Toledo Ohio.

Baldemar Velasquez has been chosen to be the keynote speaker for the Padua Center's "Peaces" of Art celebration. Baldemar Velasquez is internationally known for his work with FLOC (Farm Laborer's Organizing committee), an organization that he founded and presently serves as president.

Baldemar leads FLOC on a national and international level. He also has organized the FLOC Homies and is a founder of the Black/Brown Unity Coalition.

Mr. Velasquez will also be the recipient of The Padua Promoter's Award, given to someone who exemplifies the values of The Padua Center – empowering people at all stages of development.

Fletcher Word, owner and publisher of Sojourner's Truth newspaper will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Fletcher Word is a native of New York City and grew up in the Washington, DC area. He received a degree in Political Science and Government from Harvard University.

Mr. Word is active in the Toledo community and is president of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Board. He is guiding the TUFCU in an expansion of its services and buildings.

Mr. Word supports the work of The Padua Center and promotes its activities through print media.

A highlight of the event will be the silent auctioning of a framed counted cross stitch picture done by Kay Shrewsbury. This piece of work made of thousands of small stitches reflects the cultural and ethnic riches of the African American community. The picture, as well as some other auction items are listed on the Betterworld auction site now and bids can be made immediately. Bidding on the Betterworld site will continue through the "Peaces" of

Art Event.

Art work created by the children of The Padua Center will be auctioned in the live auction.

Music will be provided by "Straight Up" and a variety of food selections will be provided at numerous serving stations. Tickets (\$40) and more information are available by calling The Padua Center, 419-241-6465, or visiting the webpage: www.paduacenter.org.



Baldemar Velasquez

If you go: Peaces of Art, a silent and live auction to benefit the work of The Padua Center, Sunday, October 9, 2022, 5:00-7:00 at The Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, Ohio.

Bidding for selected items is open now and will continue through the event at: <https://paduacenter.betterworld.org/auctions/peaces-art-2021>

The "Peaces" of Art Celebration includes a silent auction, dining stations, and art work done by the children of The Padua Center. Blademar Velasquez will be the keynote speaker and honoree of the Padua Promoter's award. Fletcher Word will be Master of Ceremonies.

The Toledo Plant Exchange on October 1

For many gardeners, free plants are like pollen to bees: irresistible.

The Toledo Plant Exchange will be the morning of October 1, rain or shine, inside a building at the Lucas County Fairgrounds in Maumee.

The timing is ideal: Autumn, when daylight decreases and plant-growth slows, is a great time to divide and move perennials, and to install trees and bushes.

People are invited to bring healthy plants, which should be weed-free and labeled with the plant's name, between 8:30 and 10 a.m. on the first day of October. Also accepted will be gardening tools and paraphernalia related to one of America's favorite hobbies. A crew of volunteers will immediately organize donations into categories such as hostas, daylilies, sun, shade, edibles, ornamental grasses, house plants, and more.

Also during that time, attendees can peruse the many tables hosted by

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Frederick Douglass Community Association Celebrates 103 Years

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Frederick Douglass Community Association celebrated 103 years of service to the Toledo area on Saturday, September 17, at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion. The elegant affair was shared with community members, partners and community leaders.

African drummers donned in kente cloths lined the entrance to the glass pavilion Saturday afternoon. Guests poured into the venue to celebrate at the board members' private welcome preceding the celebration and the cocktail hour following open to the public. The dinner event was attended by over 200 people.

Adam Levine, Toledo Museum of Art Director, provided the welcome. A special video presentation on the Frederick Douglass Community Association featuring FDCA Executive Director Reggie Williams, followed his remarks.

The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Patrice McClellan, PhD, the president and lead strategist of The Ronald Group. She served on the United Way of Greater Toledo's African American Leadership Council, fundraising for the Children Defense Fund's Freedom School housed at the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center.

McClellan interrupted the set schedule to present Reggie Williams, who has served as the executive director for the FDCA for eight years, the FDCA President's Award.

"We wanted to set you apart and give you your award now," said McClellan, as Williams, overcome with emotion, received a standing ovation from the crowd.

"My heart is so glad and so full," said Williams, giving honor to God. "This walk ain't easy, you've got to be about that life... you have to sacrifice a lot of things." He talked about the long journey at the FDCA, the success of where the organization is now and thanked his wife and family for their love and support. Following his speech, FDCA Board President Albert Earl provided the history of the organization and acknowledgements.

A video tribute was given by Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. co-founder and president of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives.

"Morris descends from two of the most influential names in American history: he is the great great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great great-grandson of Booker T. Washington," said McClellan in her introduction. "Ken continues his family's legacy of anti slavery and educational work as co-founder and president of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, a nonprofit organization based in Rochester, New York. His career and life path have been driven by a clear focus on Frederick Douglass Family Initiative's mission, 'To Build Strong Children and to end systems of exploitation and oppression.'"

Morris expressed the importance of those legacies and the work his organization is doing today in his remarks.

Derek L. Anderson, high school champion, Gold Medal Olympian, NCAA champion, NBA world champion and author, served as the key-



Derek Anderson



Reggie Williams, President

note speaker. Anderson's early life gave him an inner strength to succeed, he said. He spoke of his tumultuous upbringing that molded him for his future success: from being a teenage father to professional athlete and author.

He attributes his success "by knowing how to lead when necessary and to also learn how to be a team player for everyone to win." He now shares his journey in his Amazon best selling book, *Stamina*. The autobiography shows how he made the decision to self-educate himself and stay the course. His belief is that committing to "working harder than anyone else will ultimately determine your future and whatever you put in your mind is EXACTLY what you will receive in life."

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Perryman... continued from page 2

sit my brothers and me. Lolita was hired in '99 as the sole Black female in her recruit class, and they didn't hire another Black female again until 2006, when they hired me. They didn't hire another Black female after that for 13 more years.

They finally, in 2019, hired the largest number of Black females at one time that they've ever done. They fired one, of course. So that was tough, being the only Black female out here fighting fires, going to these stations every day that you work and just interacting with the guys. I was an anomaly, and so was Lolita. It was only the two of us out of 560 employees for a long time.

Perryman: Are you required to give up your identity as a female and prove that you're one of the guys?

Goolsby: No. I don't know if it's the confidence my dad instilled in me or just the experiences I've gained along the way that made me confident. But I do not have anything to prove.

However, psychologically, if you could get into their brains, they probably think I do, and "they" means men, "they" representing the firefighters

in this profession. So, they might look at me and feel like, 'Well, she has to prove that she can lift a ladder or swing an axe.' But in my mind, I already know I can do it, and I've already shown I can do it because we're getting the same paychecks, so I have nothing to prove.

Perryman: What about the aesthetics and amenities? How do the facilities differ from what the "fellas" might prefer? I'm sure the men's tastes dominate the overall environment.

Goolsby: Absolutely. Nearly all of the fire stations were built before the consent decree in 1984, without females in mind. So most female facilities are like closets. They are nowhere near the enormous locker rooms the guys have, with six showers and ten toilets.

I am so blessed at my station to have two of the young ladies hired in 2019. So, it's three Black females of us there, all on one shift for 24 hours at a time. We have one toilet, one sink, and five lockers. So, figure it out in this tiny compact space, and this is 2022!

Perryman: Have you had any hazing or harassment experiences?

Goolsby: Regarding hazing, I'll answer that many people wonder if it's just a thing for jobs or professions like these.

No, I didn't, but I think they didn't haze because of who my father was, and this entire fire department highly respects my father. Not only that, he was a professional bodybuilder, so if you were to 'f' with me, you would have to 'f' with him. That ain't what they wanted, so no hazing. However, upon his retirement, I experienced blatant unprotected, unprovoked and unwarranted harassment, for which I've also sought legal counsel.

Perryman: Can you please elaborate?

Goolsby: I've had to obtain legal counsel to stop the many horrible harassment experiences since 2012, even down to today. I will tell you that none of them want to see the first Black female captain in this department, and you know who "them" is. None of them. They have stopped at nothing to make my experience in the past two and a half months nothing but hell, so when you talk about a rise, I will say still, I rise.

Perryman: Any physical challenges on the job?

Goolsby: There are physical challenges inherently as a full-time, hard-

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Toledo Plant Exchange... continued from page 4

organizations that promote native plants, rain gardens, learning opportunities, and volunteering.

At 10 through 11:30, people will be allowed to select donated items in the "shopping" area. Everyone will receive at least a few items and those who bring donations will be allowed to take more plants.

Entrance to the fairgrounds at 1406 Key Street will be the Main Gate.

Begun in 2005, the Toledo Plant Exchange is a project of Lucas County Master Gardener Volunteers and private gardeners.

Additional information is on Facebook and at 419-578-6783.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR! IT'S TIME TO VOTE!!

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, the Lucas County Chapter of the OLBC, along with other organizations will have a voting awareness and empowerment rally on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at the Early Voting Center (3737 W. Sylvania Avenue) at 10 AM



Church Ministry Sponsors Anthony Pattin's Musical Presentation

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Third Baptist Church's sanctuary was filled to capacity, as attendees enjoyed various musical arrangements from foxtrot tempo, classical, to contemporary worship tempo. Attendees gathered to support the program featuring Anthony Pattin, PhD, and various musical artists. The program was held on Sunday, September 25 and was organized by the church's mission ministry.

"Today, as we gathered at the historical Third Baptist Church, the Mission Ministry of this church, we would like to take this time to thank each of you for giving of your time to share in a first ever Fine Arts Presentation by Toledo's own Anthony Pattin, PhD and friends," said Iris Page-Jones, Mission Ministry president.

Pattin, a Toledo native who left Toledo in 1987 and spent 32 years in Birmingham, Alabama where he was a university professor, solo pianist, chamber musician, adjudicator and scholar. He has played with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and the Alabama Symphony, played a concert series in Los Angeles and even Carnegie Hall, to mention a few. He returned to Toledo in November 2019, where he is currently the organist and pianist at First St. John's Lutheran Church in Oregon, Ohio.

"We started initially working on this program about five years ago, and the big problem back then was logistics. The mission ministry approached me again in 2019 when I returned. I wanted to present not just a piano recital but fine art performances," shared Pattin.

The special event opened with a welcome and invocation by Pamela Knox along with a variety of arrangements from Seregi Rchmaninoff and Mozart. Pattin played several pieces solo, but also invited "friends" to accompany him throughout the afternoon including: violinist Susan Stephenson and cellist Anthony Pattin, soprano Patricia McCauley sang Mozart's "Alleluia," fine arts performer AnJolie Barry musically illustrated Beethoven's piece, DCSC Forever Ensemble vocally accompanied Pattin, and Robert Duris shared piano support with Pattin.

"I want to thank the Lord for bringing this program together. I thank the ministry department, Dr. Pattin, his friends and all of the supports for carrying out this wonderful program," shared Rev. Odell Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church.

The program included a recognition of former musicians, remarks, benediction and reception in the lower auditorium.



Patricia McCauley soprano with Pattin on piano

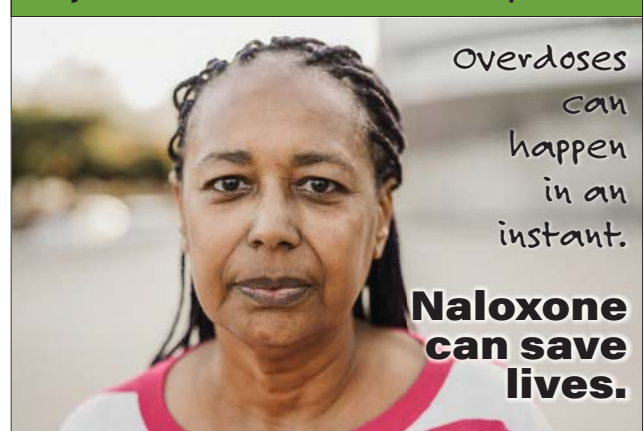


Pattin on piano, Susan Stephenson violinist, Anthony Pattin cellist



Rev. Odell Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church and guests enjoying the program

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Toledoans Head to Chicago to Experience the Art of Arvie Smith

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Frederick Douglass Community Association's Executive Director Reggie Williams and Board President Albert Earl, along with the Toledo Museum of Art's Director of Belonging and Community Engagement Rhonda Sewell, were invited to Chicago last week to view the works of painter Arvie Smith, a viewing that left the three Toledoans awestruck, said Earl.

The exclusive gathering honoring Smith and his art occurred at the Monique Meloche Gallery in River North, as part of the Afrofuturist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined, curated by Galerie Myrtis for the European Cultural Centre in Venice, Italy.

The invitation for the trip was extended by Pigment International founder and owner, Patricia Andrews-Keenan. Pigment International® is a multimedia collective promoting Black art, curation and innovation with three focuses: art journalism, art programming and artists' development.

The three Toledoans were treated to a luncheon with Arvie Smith, an artist who "tackles the American experience of race," said Sewell.

Smith, born in Houston, lives and works in Portland, Oregon. He has an MFA from the Hoffberger School of Painting, Maryland Institute College of Art and a BFA from Pacific Northwest College of Art. He has studied in Florence, Italy and has had recent solo exhibitions at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem, OR; the Jordan Schnitzer Museum in Portland and the Disjecta Contemporary Art Center in Portland.

His work has been included in group exhibitions at UTA Art Space in Beverly Hills, CA; the Portland Art Museum and the Upfor Gallery in Portland. His various paintings are also included in the permanent collections of museums around the country.

Smith's paintings are typically of psychological images revealing sym-



Arvie Smith and Rhonda Sewell

pathy for "the dispossessed and marginalized members of society in an unrelenting search for beauty, meaning and equality," according to his biography.

He has also taught at the Maryland Institute College of Art, the University of Oregon and the Oregon College of Art and Crafts.

The invitation to Chicago from Pigment is perhaps the start of a collaboration between the magazine, the Toledo Museum of Art and the Frederick Douglass Community Association, said Earl.

... continued on page 9



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Arvie Smith... continued from page 8

As Earl noted, the FDCA has an art program and a partnership with TMA through which the kids who participate are able to receive instruction in the arts on an ongoing basis. "We are big supporters of the arts and what it means for our kids," said Earl. "To be able to link with an international art magazine is huge."



Rhonda Sewell, Albert Earl and Reggie Williams (first, second and fourth from left) with hosts in Chicago



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Backyard Parties: A Fun Way to End the Summer

By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

There's no better way to end the summer and transition into fall than to host a fun backyard party with delicious food and live music for friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy.

That's exactly what Shawana Davis and Steve James decided to do on September 17. The couple opened their backyard to over 50 guests. They provided the food and festive setting while Ramona Collins and Friends provided the entertainment.

Davis shares that her desire to have a backyard party was an offshoot from her girlfriends' gatherings during COVID-19 when Ramona Collins, one of the "girlfriends," decided to live stream her performances as a way of staying connected to her audience during the height of the pandemic lock down when restaurants and venues remained closed.

Davis says Collins would live stream from each of her girlfriends' homes and called it Wine Down Wednesdays. As the world began to re-open, and gatherings became the norm again, the ladies decided they wanted to continue getting together, thus evolving the gathering into a backyard party.

Although the original intention was to host just a few friends, as good times, good food and good music would have it, "word spread, and one party led to another and another and it looks like we'll be making this a yearly event," says Davis.

Steve Perry, Sheila Flemming, and Tarique McKinney EL joined Ramona Collins in providing good musical vibes that kept everyone singing, dancing and enjoying the night away.



Ramona Collins



Ramona Collins, Tariq McKinney EL, Steve Perry and Sheila Flemming



Sheila Flemming



Patrice and Lesa James



Steve Perry



Tariq McKinney EL



Hosts Steve and Shawana Davis dancing with guests



Backyard party hosts Shawana Davis and Steve James



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How American Farmers are Helping Solve Critical Global Issues

Special to The Truth

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain problems stemming from the global pandemic, and the world struggling under escalating inflation and a rapidly changing climate, the global hunger crisis has reached new levels.

Every night, more than 800 million people go to bed hungry, with the number of severely food-insecure people more than doubling from 135 million before COVID-19 to 345 million today, according to the World Food Program. At the same time, American agricultural exports of farm and food products shattered records in 2021 to total \$177 billion, according to the USDA, demonstrating the instrumental role American farmers play in the U.S. economy, and in feeding the world.

"It's more important than ever that the United States continues to lead globally to protect food systems abroad and our citizens at home from supply chain disruptions and rising prices," said Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Senior Advisor at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. "As we face growing threats and crises on the global stage from wars, drought, climate change and food insecurity, farmers are part of the solution and will play a key role helping to save lives."

This is the driving idea behind a newly-launched initiative: Farmers for Prosperity. This network of agribusiness leaders is committed to U.S. global engagement by harnessing American resources to feed the world. Convened by the USGLC, Farmers for Prosperity will also shine a spotlight on both the role farmers play in solving critical global issues, and on why U.S. global leadership is essential to protect the security, health and economic interests of American families.

The launch of Farmers for Prosperity recently took place at USGLC's

Heartland Summit, hosted in Minnetonka, Minnesota, West Lafayette, Indiana, and Wichita, Kansas. The Summit, an annual event, convenes leaders this year from across the heartland with the aim of unpacking how strategic investments in agriculture, digital technology and global development help create jobs, feed the hungry, reduce poverty and keep America safe. Advocates are highlighting this year's biggest takeaways:

- When communities are food insecure, it can lead to instability, slowing economic growth, perpetuating conflict, impacting child development and worsening malnutrition. Working with partners around the world, American farmers can help feed the world and save lives.

- U.S. leadership on the global stage is vital to advancing national economic and security interests, and agriculture is a part of that equation. Farmers have unique and important views on what it takes for the United States and the world to prosper, making it important for them to help shape foreign policy by educating policymakers on the challenges on the ground.

- Ensuring that American farmers have access to developing and emerging markets around the world is critical for the domestic economy. U.S. agricultural exports support over 1.3 million jobs on the farm and in related industries such as food processing and transportation.

To watch the 2022 Heartland Summit or learn more about Farmers for Prosperity, visit heartland.usglc.org

"Farmers around the world are not all that different. Together, they grow the food that sustains communities. At a time of global crisis, American farmers can lead the effort to tackle hunger and food insecurity," says Glickman.

Courtesy StatePoint

Perryman... continued from page 6

working career firefighter. The older you get, the more they take a toll. Those are the risks we take and experience every time we walk into work. But I don't think that's a female thing. The guys get old too and can't do the same things we used to do. You can't climb the ladder like you used to do, you can't swing the axe like you used to do, you can't even get dressed as fast as you used to.

Perryman: Please describe the struggle to obtain equal recognition or to change hiring practices.

Goolsby: Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz has done a better job than any other mayor concerning diversifying public safety. So, I give him credit. He said he was going to do it, and he has done it, but there's still more work to do.

Perryman: What are your duties as Captain?

Goolsby: Going from lieutenant to captain, you're already an officer. You're already the supervisor. But, you now have added administrative responsibilities. There is one captain at each of our 18 stations. So, that person is in charge of the whole station.

They're in charge of inventory, ensuring the rigs are in good working order, and getting those repaired if they're not. They're in charge of personnel issues that the lieutenant level couldn't handle. So now it kicks up one more level to captain, and you try to settle the problems amongst the three shifts.

My degree in business administration has prepared me for my role as a captain with those kinds of duties. We still fight fire the same. I'm still going to show up at a fire and take command just like I would if I was a lieutenant, but I want others to promote. Then, once we get more people at the lieutenant and captain level representing our community, I want to move to the next step. Since there's never been a Black female chief, that's my goal, so that's the natural progression. I always want to move up and

be even more of an asset to the department.

Perryman: There are unique challenges associated with Black female leadership, particularly in addressing personnel issues. How will you deal with those challenges, particularly from those who may resist taking orders from a Black female?

Goolsby: I see the writing on the wall, and I'm prepared. I plan to stick closely to the policies and procedures. The more I do that, the less there is room for rebellion or harassment. But, you can't get away from the mission or the policies and procedures outlined by the fire department. So, I will always have that as my number one thing.

Then, those who don't want to listen to a woman or especially don't want to listen to a Black woman can sort that out with themselves, a counselor, or whomever else. But for me, it will end with the policies and procedures. So that's just how I'm going to lead and proceed.

Perryman: What suggestions would you have for the next Black female officer who wants to advance on her career path?

Goolsby: I would suggest that any Black female pursuing the rank of an officer on the Toledo Fire Department or any fire department across the country be able to exhibit a certain level of confidence. While confidence can sometimes be mistaken for arrogance, in this profession, you need a certain level of confidence to be respected. If you don't seem like you know what you're doing, where that ladder goes, where that fire is, and how to put it out, you're not going to get respect.

So, you must follow all the policies and procedures to get you to that point. But maintain your confidence, let no one shake you, let no one knock you off your block. You know what you know, and that's important.

No matter what's thrown at you, what someone says to you, or how someone treats you, be confident that you're in the position you're in for a reason and move forward from there.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD at drdlperryman@centerofhope-

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WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

Felissa Parker Announced As Grand Marshal of Jesup W. Scott High School 2022 Homecoming Parade

By Bernadette Graham

The Truth Contributor

Felissa Parker business owner/entrepreneur, has been announced as the Grand Marshal of Scott High School's Annual Homecoming Parade. The Parade will step off on Friday October 7, 2022 at Scott High School 2400 Collingwood Blvd. at 4:00 p.m. in Toledo, Ohio.

Felissa has worked unselfishly in the greater Toledo Community. She is the proud owner and CEO of The Trunk - Arts and Sports for Social Development - Event Center. The Trunk has hosted many social events for Scott alumni and the community alike.

During her senior year, she was president of the Student Body Government, varsity cheerleader and captain of the Scottettes. She was voted 1979 Homecoming Queen by the entire student body, and "All Scott" by the Class of 79.

After high school, she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from The University of Toledo. She was inducted into the National Sorority of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. wherein her community service was born.

Felissa has worked for a number of private law firms and later at Dana Corporation in Toledo, Ohio. She left corporate America to start her own business. As an entrepreneur, she collaborated with Pathway, Inc. and Jobs & Family Services to provide work experiences for area youth.

Additionally, she works with various organizations as a grant writer and administrator of programs. Felissa is the mother of Amber and Cinnamon whom she lovingly refer to as her designated survivors, five bonus children: James, John, Anastasia, Katherine and Jose, all of whom form her defensive line, and grandsons Carter, Marcus, Michai, Jamar

& Yandel her five strong forwards. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor.

Parade Route:

Begin at Scott High School 2400 Collingwood Blvd. travel east down Machen St. turn left on Fulton St. then left on Islington, left on Robinwood, left on Delaware to Collingwood Blvd. right and back to Scott High School. Please join us along the parade route.

Sincerely,

Kim Boyd

President Scott High School

Class of 1979.



Frederick Douglass... continued from page 5

The board members awarded five esteemed individuals special presentations for their support and dedication to the FDCA.

The Frederick Douglass Community Association Awards 2022:

- Richard Quinney, board member and long-time volunteer at FDCA
- Dianna Jacobs, Infant Mortality Coordinator at FDCA
- Doug Jones, FDCA athletic coordinator
- Reggie Williams, executive director of the FDCA
- Pastor Timothy Pettaway Sr., lead pastor of Walk the Word Church (supporter of FDCA)

Following the award presentations, acknowledgements and closing remarks, guests were invited to a book signing with Anderson and open dance with music performed by The Wall Band and by DJ Mpress. Food was catered by Decadent Catering by Audrey Ransey.

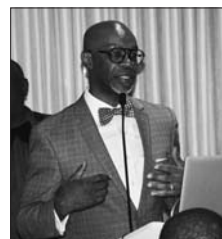
The Frederick Douglass Community Association was founded in Toledo in 1919 by Albertus Brown, the same year during the infamous "Red Summer" when nation-wide anti-black riots were rampant in major cities in the US. The FDCA has been serving the inner city as the epicenter in the heart of the black community for decades.



Patrice McClellan, PhD



Douglas Jones



Pastor Timothy Pettaway



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Courageous Discomfort: How to Have Important, Brave, Life-Changing Conversations about Race and Racism by Shanterra McBride and Rosalind Wiseman

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

About a size seven.

That's how big your mouth must be, because you just stuck your size-seven foot into it – which is great, because now things are awkward and you never meant harm. You want to have the right conversation about race, you strive to be respectful, and *Courageous Discomfort* by Shanterra McBride and Rosalind Wiseman can help.

So your foot is back on the ground now and that didn't feel good, did it? Probably not, but McBride and Wiseman say that discomfort is necessary for (eventually) doing good in order to make change. Recognizing that everyone has a right to dignity and acknowledging their worth is the first step. The next is reading the series of "questions" or might-happen scenarios that the authors present and getting some ideas on how to be a good ally.

Should you speak up, for instance, if a teacher says something racist in class, even if it might mean trouble for you? What if it's a friend, or a family member who says something offensive? Should you apologize for what others have done, even it was a long time ago – and if so, how? You say you don't "see color," but when do you actually need to see it?

Everyone has biases, the authors say, but curiosity is natural for learning, so take care that microaggressions don't get in the way. They acknowledge that being curious is tricky, but that you should never be afraid of it.

Don't be offended if someone doesn't trust you; there's a reason for it, and it goes way back. Likewise, don't be mad if they don't always include you

c.2022
Chronicle Books
\$24.95
208 pages

in every event. Be willing to listen if someone has a gripe with you, a post, a statement, or something you did that hurt them. Be patient. Figure out what being an ally means to you. Leave a Black person's hair alone. And finally, remember that taking ownership isn't about shame, but about growth. A step in the right direction is a step in the right direction.

In its first few pages, *Courageous Discomfort* is a perky explanation of the friendship of McBride (who is Black) and Wiseman (who is white and Jewish). It doesn't linger; the book then takes a scolding tone before it settles in to the help it promises.

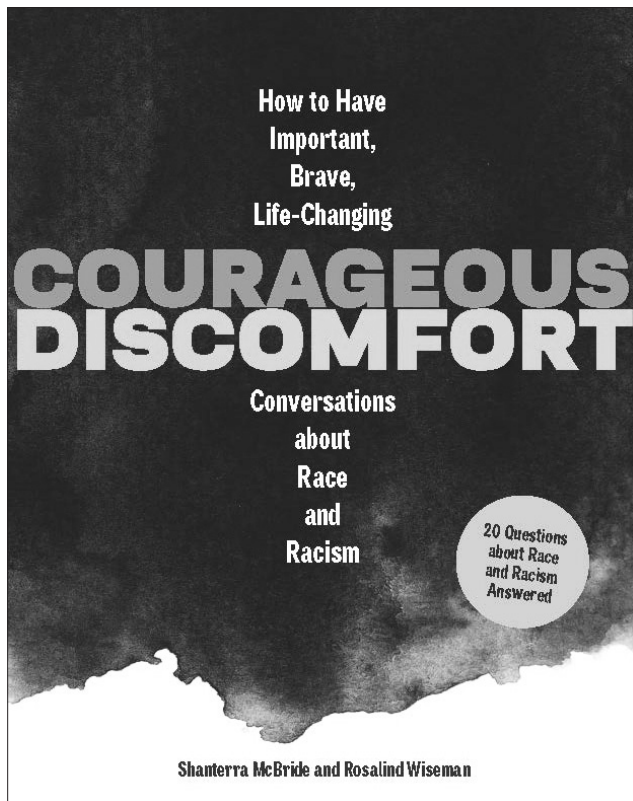


Courageous Discomfort authors

When the authors advise readers to use caution, they mean it, though.

There's a little bit of talking-in-a-circle inside this book, and enough repetition that you'd notice. There's some confusion in how readers should act when meeting new people – do you ask them about themselves, or don't you dare? – and prompts to speak up when one sees injustices, but no good help on that for the quietest of readers.

Conversely, and to be sure, the advice the authors give lays a great foundation for equality work, but nuances in the narrative mean that this is probably a book for older teens and young adults. If day-to-day activism is the goal, *Courageous Discomfort* helps you put your money where your mouth is.



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CLASSIFIEDS

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September 28, 2022

LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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• Accounting Specialist

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• Senior Manager of Programs & Services

Salary Range: \$58,400 to \$67,525 Yr.

• Technology Systems Analyst

Salary Range: \$51,200 to \$59,200 Yr.

• Manager of Training and Development

Salary Range: \$45,600 to \$52,725 Yr.

• Manager of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Salary Range: \$45,600 to \$52,725 Yr.

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The City of Toledo Division of Road & Bridge Maintenance is interested in contracting with owners/operators of snow plow vehicles for plowing on residential streets during heavy snow conditions. All bids must be received by 1:30 PM October 11, 2022. For a copy of the bid proposals and specifications visit <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/22576/portal-home> or contact:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, Ohio is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Human Resources Assistant. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 10/09/22. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BIRMINGHAM BRANCH LIBRARY WINDOW REPLACEMENT

Sealed proposals will be received at the main Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio, 43604 (Dispatch Office addressed to the Fiscal Officer) until October 18, 2022, 12:00 P.M. to be opened immediately thereafter for furnishing the necessary labor, equipment, tools and materials for renovations involving the window replacement for Birmingham Branch Library.

Copies of the bid and contract documents including instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained, upon deposit of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) in cash or check for each set, from the office of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc.; 314 Conant Street, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Electronic documents are available at no cost. **NOTE: CASH DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. If within ten (10) days after the opening of bids,** documents are returned undamaged, deposits **paid by check** will be fully refunded. The bid and contract documents shall be on file, for inspection, at the office of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc. 314 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee and Contract Bond in the amount of 100% of the bid; or a certified check; cashier's check or letter of credit in the amount of 10% of the bid which will require a 100% Performance Bond upon award of the contract. All bids shall be submitted on forms of proposal supplied by the Architect. All bidders, by bidding, agree to pay wages not less than the minimum as determined by the State of Ohio, Department of Industrial Relations, and agree to comply with Executive Order No. 11246 of the President of the United States.

The Board of Trustees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding. No Bidder may withdraw his or her bid for a period of sixty (60) days after bid opening.

A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 am local time, on October 10, 2022, at Birmingham Branch Library, 203 Paine Ave, Toledo, OH 43605

By order of the Board of Trustees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

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Fashion Show... continued from page 16

Only about 20 designers were selected to display their work at Rise from hundreds of applicants, noted Ward-Redmond.

When Gineen found out she had been selected, she only had about two



months to prepare her 10 designs. On September 9, the date she unveiled her creations on the runway, she was amongst a diverse group of designers from all over North America, Africa and Asia.

Gineen will continue to pursue such opportunities in the future – more designs, more runway shows, more retail displays.

Ward-Redmond's goal is to continue participating in such ventures and "to expand the horizons for models and designers of color."



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Toledoans Cart Designs to This Year's Rise New York Fashion Show

Sojourner's Truth Staff

In early September talent agent founder and CEO Monique Ward-Redmond and designer Autumn Gineen loaded up models and new designs and headed off to the Big Apple to join an influx of people who gather twice a year for the New York Fashion Week.

The events cover the city from Times Square to the World Trade Center to Brooklyn. Gineen, who created 10 new designs for this fall's show, and Ward-Redmond, who has brought along her models to the events for the last half-dozen years, had set their sights on the Rise New York Fashion Week, the show at Studio Arte in midtown Manhattan, operated by a Black-owned company.

The Rise New York Fashion Week brings in independent fashion designers who showcase their collections to a global audience of press, stylists, retailers and industry influencers.

Gineen is the sole creative and founder of House of Ginnie where she designs fashions integrating used clothing while repurposing them with fresh new fabrics. Her creations range from formal wear, to street wear and has been featured on many fashion runways around the country.

This was her first foray into the apex of American fashion.

Although Ward-Redmond has attended the Rise event for several years with models from her agency – Quality Management * International Talent Agency, Ltd. - this was the first time she had recruited a designer to attend. She has long appreciated Rise because its “very upscale with designers who are high-end,” she said.

... continued on page 15



QMIT Agency models wearing House of Ginnie by Autumn Gineen



Autumn Gineen



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