



Volume 76 No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 11, 2023

The 2023 YWCA Milestones Honorees Announced!



Erin Baker



Kendra Smith



Cecelia Adams, PhD



Ambrea Mikolajczyk



Tina Butts

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Subduing an Oppressive Burden

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

The Truth Contributor

The burden of poverty isn't that you don't always have the things you need, it's the feeling of being embarrassed every day of your life, and you'd do anything to lift that burden.

— Jay-Z



Collection agencies hold \$140 billion in unpaid medical bills, according to recent research by the Journal of the American Medical Association. The massive debt is punishing the bottom line of medical providers, who are stepping up efforts to collect the indebtedness through draconian legal action or wage garnishments.

Medical debt is an oppressive burden for those who incur it not because of frivolous spending decisions but because of necessary health-related emergencies such as heart attacks, illness or surgery.

Medical obligations are also larger and more tyrannical in Black and Hispanic households. Once medical providers report the debt to a credit reporting agency, it is factored into an individual's credit score. Without relief, medical debt can hurl those without the means to pay or living paycheck to paycheck into financial ruin. Bankruptcy can often be their only option to address outstanding medical debt.

State Representative Michele Grim proposed a medical debt relief model shortly before leaving her first term on Toledo City Council early to run for the Ohio Legislature. In November, Toledo City Council and the Lucas County commissioners approved \$1.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to help relieve the crippling burden of paying the medical debt for people living in Lucas County.

I spoke with Grim about her initiative and transition from Toledo City Council to the Ohio House of Representatives.

Perryman: Congratulations on your election to the Ohio Legislature to represent House District 43. Let's first talk about the medical debt relief initiative you successfully sponsored while on Toledo City Council.

Grim: Yes, absolutely. So back in November, Toledo City Council passed \$800,000 with a match with the Lucas County Commissioners for a total of \$1.6 million. That will eliminate between \$190-\$240 million in medical debt.

We're partnering with the nonprofit charity RIP Medical Debt, which purchases medical debt from hospital systems, physician groups and other healthcare providers. They also go to the secondary market and buy debt for pennies on the dollar. Our medical relief plan will cancel debt for people up to 400 percent of the poverty level or with medical debt greater than five percent of their income.

Also, the program is based on which hospitals participate. RIP Medical Debt is currently in conversations with a couple of the hospitals in the area. So, that's how it works.

Perryman: How many people in Lucas County should that help?

Grim: We estimate about 41,000 people.

Perryman: Can you provide the demographics of those being helped?

Grim: We estimate that most people with medical debt in the area are

people of color or low income. It is something like 50 percent.

Perryman: Where did the medical debt relief program originate?

Grim: Cook County, Illinois, was the first municipality to use American Rescue Plan dollars to partner with RIP Medical Debt to provide medical debt relief. So, that's how I got the idea.

I reached out to Cook County, which put me in contact with RIP Medical Debt. We started working on a plan to introduce it in Toledo. I connected them with a couple of the hospitals here, and we devised a plan. Cook County passed its initiative in July 2022, and we passed ours in November.

Perryman: What are the benefits of your medical debt relief initiative?

Grim: Our healthcare system needs to be fixed. This initiative is something very simple that local communities can do to help aid in the economic recovery of our citizens. Lucas County residents, Toledoans are dealing with COVID. They are dealing with inflation, and I can't think of a better use of our American Rescue Plan dollars than to relieve medical debt.

Medical debt exacerbates several social determinants of health. It exacerbates addictions, prevents people from putting food on the table, prevents them from paying their rent on time and their mortgage or utilities, and hinders people from getting employment. Medical debt is devastating to many people. This initiative is a simple intervention to help aid our local citizens' economic recovery.

Perryman: Local implementation seems the best option since medical debt relief is difficult to do nationally or through the state.

Grim: We can look into that statewide as well, and I'm hoping to potentially look into it in my new role as a state representative. The ARPA dollars have been helpful locally. Since we passed our plan here in Toledo, I've talked to at least half a dozen other municipalities around the country who want to replicate the Toledo model. New Orleans and Pittsburgh are both moving forward. The City of Columbus introduced it last year.

Perryman: The City of Toledo has already allocated all of its ARPA dollars. Are there other more critical needs or priorities that will get bumped?

Grim: Nothing is getting bumped. The initiative is less than one half of one percent of the ARPA funds. The debt relief package was actually from the Municipal Revenue Recovery Replacement allocation, a flexible pot of money. I had the administration's blessing to pull it out of that bucket because it was a huge \$72 million pot of money for a flexible spending area. But again, we have a one to 100 return on investment for medical debt relief. Nothing is getting cut or left behind. All of our ARPA projects are moving forward. This is just an additional project that will affect at least 41,000 people in Toledo and Lucas County. Our \$1.6 million will eliminate up to \$240 million in medical debt.

Perryman: Many readers may question why you ran for the Ohio Legislature after accomplishing so much but serving only one year on Toledo City Council. Could not you have done more for Toledo had you finished your term on city council? I know you will be representing the people of the 43rd District, but what about the rest of the City of Toledo, particularly those affected by food deserts?

Grim: I represent a good portion of Toledo, and that's what I was elected to do in the State House. I intend to still be very active in the community, working toward healthy food and other healthcare access issues, expanding Medicaid, and expanding our funding for our student-run free clinics and federally qualified health centers. Although my term was short on city council, there's still so much that I want to do for the local community, and that's what I intend to do.

Perryman: Let's stay on the topic of the Ohio Legislature. Talk about the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives drama going on that you just



State Rep. Michele Grim

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... continued on page 12

OP-ED: The Blade Editorial Not Right

Professor Emeritus Earl Murry, Ph.D.

Guest Editorial

On January 4, 2023, The Toledo Blade Editorial Board published "Editorial: Hobbs choice not right."

Respectfully, I disagree with the editorial board's opinion and their admittedly "trifling" justifications for their opposition to the Honorable Johnny Hobbs appointment to City Council. The editorial stated: "The Office of Ohio Inspector General Randy Meyer reported on July 21, 2021, a former head coach for E.L. Bowsher High School girls' basketball team used time he was on the clock as a State Barber Inspector and his state vehicle for coaching duties and personal dental appointments costing the state about \$600.00."

Should Mr. Hobbs have driven his state vehicle back to work or his home and taken his personal vehicle to each occasion This is like complaining that someone stopped at the grocery store (a personal endeavor) on the way home from work.

The Blade wholly ignores that "coaching" is a positive contributing factor to learning and sustaining good morals, good fellowshiping, and a significant hallmark of excellence to good overall behavior. And coaching usually is performed "free" to benefit children and young adults.

The Blade wholly ignores that the competing jobs – State Inspector and City Council member – are both services in the public interest. In other words, all three of Mr. Hobbs "jobs" are for the benefit of others – children and citizens of Toledo and the State of Ohio, jobs he has accomplished without any mention by the "editorial board" of complaint about his job performance.

Undoubtedly, at various times uniform officers, city, county, and state employees have been seen picking up dry cleaning clothes, shopping at grocery stores, parked at basketball and football games watching players. How much did those workers cost their employer at places not reported and published in a newspaper?

Just because one is a public servant that used a vehicle for the efficient use of time, for what good reason now should he be judged as an "abusive" worker. The Honorable Hobbs was hardly moonlighting as stated by the editorial. Doing paperwork at Bowsher was a safe place.

Police officers are seen in alleys, parks, behind buildings, etc. and possibly doing or not doing paperwork. Are they moonlighting? At what point does "trifling" become "abusive." Or is that line crossed only when the "editorial board" for unspoken reasons of its own opposes a member or the African American community?

Yes, the Honorable Hobbs was appointed to Toledo City Council. Obviously, he was selected because he had been thoroughly investigated and determined to have honorable character and was considered a suitable candidate to be placed onto City Council. Even in his brief time on City Council he has proven his selection was merited and in the best interests of the Citizens of Toledo.

As stated in the editorial "these are trifling accounts cited by the Ohio Inspector General, but rules are rules." The accounts are trifling and as such it did not need to be reported in an editorial – especially when not warranted by present circumstances. The editorial news reporting suggests other reasons it was editorialized.

There are unknown reasons afoot not reported. Could it be that the Honor-



Councilman John Hobbs

able Hobbs is African American? Could it be that he is working hard to be a good council member for the city and is unappreciated by the present city administration? Could it be that the editorial is supporting and bidding for the present city administration to reduce African Americans on City Council? Could it be that he is not a sycophant? Could it be that the city administration and its departments are racist and toxic against African Americans.

C'mon editorial board members, you should give The Blade readers a clean-hand editorial opinion. A person with common sense knows the January 4, 2023, editorial release does not reveal the true or factual reasons afoot underlying your negative editorial "opinion."



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Ohio Democratic Party Statement Following Mike DeWine's Signature on One of the Worst Anti-Voter Bills in the Country

Special to The Truth

Last week, Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) Chair Elizabeth Walters released the following statement after Mike DeWine signed a dangerous anti-voter bill into law that would take our state backward in the fight for voting rights. The bill punishes working Ohioans by putting up unnecessary barriers to the voting booth and making it harder for working families who rely on absentee or early voting to have their voices heard.

"Ohio Republicans know that their out-of-touch agenda and anti-worker policies are betraying Ohio voters, and they don't want to be held accountable. So they're further rigging the rules in their favor and pushing one of the worst anti-voter bills in the entire country all so that they can keep lining the pockets of their corporate donors and leave working families in Ohio out to dry. Shame on all of them," said Ohio Democratic

Party Chair Elizabeth Walters.

The bill signed into law would:

- * End Ohioans' ability to use utility bills, government documents and alternative forms of identification in order to prove their identity and cast their vote;

- * Shorten the window for Ohioans to cast mail-in ballots;

- * Allow only one dropbox per county, even after Ohio courts decided that the limitation was unnecessary;

- * Eliminate in-person voting on the Monday before Election Day;

- * Prohibit most curbside voting;

- * Disenfranchise military voters.

Kaptur Statement on the 2nd Anniversary of January 6th Insurrection on Capitol

Last week, Representative Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), the longest serving woman in history of House of Representatives, joined colleagues on the

Capitol Steps to honor the 2nd anniversary of the January 6th insurrection on the Capitol, and mourn the loss of dedicated law enforcement officers who gave their lives defending democracy.



U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur

"Today is the second anniversary of the terrible January 6th, 2021 attack on the Capitol by an angry mob intent on stopping the transition of Presidential power. Democracy prevailed. Let every American pay grateful tribute to the officers who died - US Capitol Police Officers Brian D. Sicknick, Officer Howie Liebengood and Metropolitan Police Department Officers Jeffrey Smith, Kyle DeFreytag, and Gunther Hashida as well as the hundreds of law enforcement officials who were injured - from the Capitol police, Sergeant at Arms staff, regional policing authorities, and National Guard. May God bless America and may the wisdom of the Founders that a nation "For and by the people" who peaceably choose their leaders always endure." said Rep. Kaptur.

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Toledo Urban and Mercy Health Partner to Benefit Homeowners

Special to The Truth

The cross over to January 1 traditionally signifies not just the start of a new year but an ushering in of new goals, new aspirations and new opportunities. On the first Friday of this new year, two local Toledo institutions took center stage as they announced a new opportunity available to central city Toledo residents.

On Friday, January 6, 2023, the lobby of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union was filled with an air of hope, opportunity and change as Bon Secours Mercy Health and Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union announced the launch of new partnership that will benefit homeowners in Toledo's inner-city neighborhoods.

Over the next five years, Bon Secours Mercy Health has pledged a \$3 Million dollar investment in the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, the monies are a part of Mercy's Direct Community Investment Program.

The \$3 million investment will support the credit union's new Neighborhood and Home Revitalization Program, a loan product designed to provide community members with a low interest loan for the purposes of completing home repairs to their primary residences. The program will also work to expand community assistance efforts by providing members with access to with vital wrap around services that include a financial literacy curriculum and health referrals.

"This loan program is going to do a lot more than just roof repair," said Suzette R. Cowell, CEO, and treasurer of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, "This investment is providing loan capital for all the vital home repairs that homes in our neighborhoods need. Roofs, gutters, foundations, waterproofing, windows, floors, insulation and siding. Inside and out are going to be able to help homeowners do what is needed" she said.

The Neighborhood and Home Revitalization Program has a target goal of 10 homes each quarter with a total goal of 40 homes in its first calendar year. Priority will be giving to those homeowners who qualify for membership at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and include those in the Cherry Legacy, a neighborhood of focus for Bon Secours Mercy Health.

"Our central city homeowners often find themselves in a tough position if they do not qualify for many of the housing supports available in our community. This fund is intended to offer diverse capital to fund home repair, while also promoting financial education and financial stability," said Kendra Smith, vice president of community health, BSMH.

"Right now, our community has an unprecedented number of resources at our disposal to address housing needs, our goal is to come along-



Kendra Smith, Tina Butts, Suzette Cowell



Tony Totty and Suzette Cowell



side those programs and resources to ensure that as many residents as possible have access to funds that can improve the conditions of their homes and raise property values, creating greater stability in Toledo neighborhoods."

Applications for the program are open at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, 1441 Dorr St, Toledo Ohio 43607.

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³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

The Case for Hobbs and Williams

The Truth Staff

John Hobbs's and Vanice Williams' seats on Toledo City Council, representing Districts 1 and 4 respectively, are up for appointment because they were chosen by council to fill the vacancies while former Councilmembers Tyrone Riley and Yvonne Harper were on suspension.

Now that Riley and Harper have officially resigned, the Lucas County Democratic Party is accepting applications for the vacancies, with the appointment to be made by council.

The opportunity for the appointments has concerned certain groups in the city who fear that council might go in a direction that may not be in the best interests of the community served by Hobbs and Williams.

At the first Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance monthly meeting of the year, the church leaders praised the efforts of Hobbs and Williams and urged council to retain their services.

"We are so proud you represent us," said Rev. Cedric Brock, IMA president and pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. "We thank God for these two – it's important we do this."

The IMA submitted a letter to the president of City Council, Matt Cherry, expressing the desire to keep the two councilmembers in their positions. The letter reads as follows.

Dear Councilman Cherry,

On behalf of Dr. Cedric Brock, president, and Rev. Dr. Lee Williams, 1st vice president, and our executive officers, whereas we would like to express our abject concerns to you and members of Toledo City Council regarding legislative representation of Council District #1 and #4.

The purpose of this communication and outcames are of paramount importance to the faith leaders and elders of the African American community (at large) but will also be a challenge to the elected members of Toledo City Council.

We request an expedited resolution of this impasse by the appointments of



Councilman Vanice S. Williams and Councilman John Hobbs III to vacant council seats districts #1 and #4 respectively without delay.

Council Districts #1 and #4 represent constituencies of nearly 89.5 thousand citizens who have been systematically labeled an underserved and marginalized population through no fault of their own. We are fully aware this demand is ambitious, however, as quoted by Geoffrey Canada, "nobody going to save us, we must save ourselves."

We await your timely response.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lee Williams, First VP IMA of Toledo; Senior Pastor Search-lite Community Church, Maumee

Dr. Cedric Brock, President IMA of Toledo; Senior Pastor Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Toledo

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Peace Coalition Plans Big Community Rally for January 18

The Truth Staff

On Wednesday, January 18, the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods will hold a memorial service for victims of violence here in the city. The service will be held at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral and the plans for the event were laid out on January 4 at a press conference at the Cathedral.

Clergy, labor leaders, former mayors, along with concerned citizens gathered for the press conference, along with the mothers and families of victims of the violence that has seen a sharp increase in the number of homicides in recent years.

"There has been a great rise in violence within the last decade," said Cathedral Archpriest Michael Sheheen as he opened the announcement for the upcoming memorial service. "We need citizens of this city to pull together."

Also speaking at the event were Lashawnda Kinnebrew, mother of Christopher Kinnebrew, who was killed in July 2021; Aviance Hill, mother of Issac Carpenter, who was killed in July 2022 and Abena Rowland, mother of JoVon Porter, who was killed in March, 2021.

"The detectives need to come together with the families," said Kinnebrew, who noted that Toledo Police Department detectives waited four months before they reached out to the family. "The detec-

tives, they need to help us and we need to help them," she added.

"I hope you never have to experience a holiday like we just did," said Hill. "I hope you never have to see a child ripped out of history and into eternity – the detectives treated us like we killed our own child."

"I'm the face of those who are here and those who aren't," said Rowland.

Also speaking at the event were former mayors Mike Bell and Donna Owens.

"The reality is that we are killing kids in our community," said Bell. "This is about trying to help a community. We need to be able to step up."

"You heard the voices of those who have been hurt the most," said Owens. "We need hope in our community."

The Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods was formed in October and has gathered broad support so far for their efforts to address the issue of violent crime, including all four former mayors. Their mission is to encourage community engagement, partnership building as they call for a return of community policing and the Block Watch program.



Aviance Hill, mother of a victim of violence, addresses press conference



Lashawnda Kinnebrew, mother of a victim of violence, speaks

Dear Toledoans

Dear Toledoans,

During the past few years, hundreds of Toledo area families have lost loved ones to the random acts of violence on Toledo streets and Toledo neighborhoods.

Within days of those acts of violence, the good people of Toledo have moved on with their lives, yet the families who have lost their son or daughter have an empty seat at their dinner table.

On Wednesday, January 18 at 4 PM, the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods is hosting a memorial service, followed by a warm meal for the families who have experienced such a loss.

Please join us at St. George Antiochian Cathedral, 3754 Woodley Rd in west Toledo. We will convey our caring and love to our fellow Toledo families.

Please join us at 5 PM on January 18. There are hurts and holes in hundreds of Toledo families that can be filled by our outreach and love.

Your fellow Toledoans and fellow mayors:

Carty Finkbeiner, Donna Owens, Michael Bell and Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson



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YWCA Announces 2023 Milestones Honorees

The Truth Staff

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio announced the 2023 Milestones honorees last week. The honorees will be formally presented at the 28th annual YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women on March 30 at the Glass City Center.

Since 1996, the YWCA has recognized women in northwest Ohio "who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who, though their efforts and accomplishments, have opened doors for other women to achieve their potential," notes the agency's media kit.



2023 Milestone Honorees



Kendra Smith



Tina Butts



Erin Baker



*Cecelia
Adams, PhD*



*Ambrea
Mikolajczyk*

... continued on page 9



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The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Celebrate a Successful Year of Giving

The Truth Staff

The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers gathered on Sunday nights, January 8, at the Hampton Inn on Secor Road to celebrate a successful year of giving to the community and to honor those in the community who have made that giving possible.

During the meeting, President Earl Mack and Public Information Officer Fred LeFebvre introduced the honorees in attendance and noted the contributions they had made – from food to funds to supplies – that TBS had donated to those in need.

Among the honorees present were Ben Frobose of Frobose Meat Locker, who has provided food for families to Aayan Naim, a musician who has helped TBS work with youngsters, to Sheila Cook, of MLK Academy for Boys, who has assisted TBS with educational projects – to name a few.

Other honorees were Jim Hodulik and Tony Bilancini of Swig Restaurant; Fred and Chanel Dedrick of Iron Bean; Brad and Jim Regness of Off The Rails Food Trolley; Dean El-Joubaily of The Crave Ave Cave; Jeffrey Clegg of Toledo Memorial Park; Marvin Hillery of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls; Matt Simpson of Durocher's; Tim Whetro of Whetro Wealth Management; Tom Pruss of Northcoast Print Mail Marketing.

This past year, the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers fed over 300 shut in veterans on Veterans Day, provided over \$5,000 in scholarships to local students, presented gun safety programs to numerous grade schools and provided Christmas gifts to over 400 children in the Toledo area.

Following their monthly meeting, the Buffalo Soldiers and their guests feasted on a catered meal from O'Henry's Kitchen On Wheels, a locally-owned food truck and the certificates of appreciation were given out.

There are numerous upcoming projects TBS will be hosting in the next several weeks including participating in the MLK Unity Day event at UT

Savage Arena on January 16; a Young At Heart Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church on February 9; an Ella P. Stewart Father/Daughter Dance on February 16; a Rotary Club of Perrysburg Luncheon on February 24; a Home and Garden Show at Seagate Center on February 24.

In addition, TBS will take about 100 children to a performance of The Lion King at the Stranahan Theater in April of May.



Fred LeFebvre, Sheila Cook and Earl Mack



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What We're Reading Now

Winter Read!

Do your New Year's resolutions include reading more? Let the Library help you resolve to read with our Winter Read challenge from Jan. 1 – Feb. 28.

Just read at least one book in January and February (two total books!)

* Register for Winter Read and get a pair of one-size-fits most TLCPL touch screen gloves for adults and kids (while supplies last.)

* Register and track what you read on the Beanstack Tracker app.

* You can also pick up a paper bookmark tracker in the lobby of any Library location or download a bookmark.

* Collect a prize for reading and logging at least two books by Feb. 28: a free book for kids and teens, and a winter mug for adults.

Better Toledo

Build your leadership skills, challenge yourself to move from the couch to a 5K, become more resilient, and more in 2023 with Better Toledo: A Series. First and Third Thursdays at Main Library.

Get started here!

Youth Programs

Keep the kids in your life engaged and entertained with our FREE fun programs like storytimes, teen hyper-film challenge, cookie in a jar, and more!

Check our calendar! <http://events.toledolibrary.org/events?v=grid>

50th Annual Caldecott Read-In!

Help us predict a winner! Teachers, librarians, and children's book fans have the chance to read and examine dozens of books and then vote to predict the winner of the Caldecott Medal.

(Sa) Jan. 28 | 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Main Library

Register Here! <http://http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7085591>

For the past 49 years our local Caldecott Read-In has been held in January to read and review the best picture books of the previous year. At this 50th annual Read-In attendees will receive a list of the best books of the year along with librarian reviews of our top ten favorites. Box lunch provided. Please call 419.259.5231 if you have dietary restrictions.

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The 2023 MLK Experience: Tributes to the Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The City of Toledo and The University of Toledo announced the 2023 MLK Experience to honor civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who played a crucial role in the civil rights movement in the United States.

MLK's message of nonviolence and his efforts to promote racial equality continue to inspire people around the world to work towards creating a more just and equal society.

The two organizations hope you will join them in celebrating his life and legacy in a series of events in partnership with the University of Toledo. The Toledo Museum of Art, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Human Relations Commission will also host a variety of events beginning on January 13th and culminating on January 16th with the Virtual MLK Unity Day Celebration.

The MLK Experience will kick off with a weekend of poetry and spoken word hosted by Hunter Prey on January 13 in the Lucille's Jazz Lounge. There will be signature cocktails, poetry, spoken word, music, food, and networking. Open mic opportunities as well! The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show begins at 8:00 p.m. The event is open to the public. Minimum age is 21. Tickets are \$10.00 for non-TolHouse members.

On January 14, the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will host the 31st annual Scholarship Breakfast "Daring to Achieve: A Call to Challenge Stigmas and the Status Quo" featuring guest speaker Brian Dawkins, former NFL football player and Hall of Famer, from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at The Pinnacle located at 1772 Indianwood Cir. Register here - <http://axl1906.org/events/mlk-scholarship-breakfast/> and to find more information.

On January 15, two community worship services will be held to continue the celebration. Both services can be attended in-person or virtually.

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 10:45 a.m.

1502 N Detroit Ave. with Pastor James Willis. Link Viewers may watch live or recorded here: <https://www.facebook.com/spbc1502/>

- Transformation Church at 11:30 a.m.

5444 Airport Highway with Pastor Brandon Tucker

Viewers may watch live here: <https://transformtoledo.online.church/>

Viewers may watch a recorded version here:

<https://www.facebook.com/TransformToledo/>

On January 16, join the Human Relations Commission and the University of Toledo for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Celebration which will be held virtually - <https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/community/mlk-day> - from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Chuck Ealey, a University of Toledo graduate and American and Canadian football player, will join his daughter Jael Ealey Richardson in a discussion about what it means to "live the dream" to kick off the event. Keynote speaker Bree Newsome, an American filmmaker, musician, and activist, will follow. They will be joined by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Dr. Gregory Postal, president of The University of Toledo.

Special performances include:

- Thaddaeus Washington playing "Lift Every Voice" on the electric guitar
- African drumming by J.P. Dynasty
- The Toledo Opera
- An original spoken word piece by Davion Desean
- Brandon Monford playing the saxophone in front on the new Jazz Mural at the Glass City Center
- The My5tery Mu-

sic Band

- United Vision Choir

- TRIBE

On January 17, the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meet and greet at TolHouse from 6 to 8 p.m. Free, open to members and the public. DJ, light appetizers, cash bar.

The Toledo Museum of Art will be open on Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a day-long MLK celebration which will include guest speaker Calvin Burney Jr., Superintendent of Rise & Shine Academy, motivational speaker and Chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast. Guests can watch a screening of the movie SELMA, go on a docent tour to learn about African American artwork and enjoy special performances by the BGSU Voices Choir.

As part of the MLK Experience this year, the Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a free cookie from Jera's Heavenly Sweet and a free 16oz. cup of coffee from Onyx Café in the Oliver House. Patrons can receive their free cookie and coffee while supplies last on Friday, January 13th and Saturday, January 14th.

YWCA... continued from page 8

"Each and every one of them are doing wonderful things," Lisa McDuffie, the YWCA president and CEO, said at the press conference at the Nexus Health Care Building, a Neighborhood Health Association facility.

"They are doing extraordinary things in their field. They are mentoring. They are breaking glass ceilings. In many instances, they're shattering," she added.

This year's honorees are: Amy Chang (arts), Ambrea Mikolajczyk (business), Mary Sabin (education), Cecelia Adams (government), Lori Hauser (sciences), Tina Butts (social services), Kristi Hoffman (volunteerism), Lauren Scott (Women on the Rise-YWCA involvement), Kendra Smith (Women on the Rise-community), and Erin Baker (Women on the Rise-community).

Women on the Rise is a new category this year and recognizes women who are influencing their field and becoming leaders in the community. Scott was honored for her work with the YWCA. Smith and Baker were chosen because of their community work that reflects the organization's mission.



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For over 50 years, the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) has served Lucas County residents, ensuring a safety net for their mental health and recovery support services. Visit www.LCMHSB.oh.gov for more information.

Resolve to Protect Your Finances and Your Family in the New Year

Special to The Truth

After a holiday season spent racking up credit card bills, many Americans consider making financial resolutions in the New Year. However, now is the perfect time to not only reevaluate your saving and spending, but also commit to creating a more holistic financial plan designed to protect your finances and your family.

Consumers are seeking stability and preparedness in today's uncertain economic environment, according to a recent Consumer Sentiment Tracker study by Lincoln Financial Group. With ongoing inflation and market volatility, 56% of respondents cited protection from risk as being most important to them. When it comes to thinking about their finances, people said they have the greatest interest in protecting their family (39%) followed by their income (26%).

"Our research reinforced the importance of financial solutions that can help consumers navigate through market cycles and protect their loved ones," said David Berkowitz, president, Lincoln Financial Network, Lincoln Financial's wealth management business. "People are not only concerned about having enough to pay their bills, but also saving for retirement and preparing for the unexpected. It's important to have a well-rounded financial plan that can address those risks, protect assets and create positive outcomes for today's families."

To achieve a stronger financial future, don't neglect your finances in 2023 — instead, add a little TLC (Talk, Learn, Commit). Resolve to create a robust financial plan using these three tips from Lincoln Financial:

1. Talk about it. Financial conversations play a crucial role. Be transparent with your loved ones about financial priorities so you can set expectations and work toward your shared financial goals. Initiate ongoing discussions to stay on track with everything from saving for retirement to paying for a long-term

healthcare event, which can happen suddenly and be very costly. Also, consider talking to a financial professional who can help identify solutions that best meet your individual needs, as well as drive better outcomes. Lincoln's research found those who work with financial professionals are more likely to prioritize retirement savings (26% vs. 10%).

2. Learn more about tax-deferred investments. Life insurance can be more than just a death benefit, with some types of policies offering income replacement for unforeseen events. It can also protect your financial security from the impact of taxes, market volatility and longevity. It's not just for individuals and families either, but businesses too. Also, consider diversifying your portfolio with an annuity, which can provide protected growth and monthly lifetime income to help cover expenses in retirement and ensure you have a stream of income.

3. Commit to maximizing your workplace benefits. Look into supplemental coverages like disability, accident and life insurance that may be available through your employer. Solutions like these protect against unexpected events that can disrupt your ability to provide for your family or drive you into additional debt. If you have an employer-sponsored retirement plan, make sure you are contributing and getting a match, if offered. Tap into any financial wellness tools offered at work to help provide you with an accurate picture of your holistic financial situation and lower stress.

Visit www.lfg.com for more tools and resources.

With a robust plan, you can help ensure a solid financial future for you and your family.

Courtesy StatePoint

Perryman... continued from page 2

walked into. How did that happen? Why did it happen?

Grim: We took a vote as a caucus to vote for the current Speaker. The Republicans were in a position where they needed Democrats. So, we voted, hoping the new Speaker will work with Democrats to get fair maps, public school funding, and ensure we have abortion access here. I know that we're

still dealing with conservative Republicans. I'm hoping that, again, the new Speaker will ensure that the Democrats have a seat at the table, and we can all work together.

Perryman: Are you hoping for favorable committee assignments or to affect state spending to obtain Democratic Party priorities?

Grim: I'm hoping for health committees because that's my background. But, again, I'm looking forward to working with my fellow legislators. I'd love to work on expanding Medicaid, increasing funding for federally qualified health centers, free student-run clinics and mental health.

Perryman: All 32 Democratic votes went for Jason Stephens. What's the difference between Stephens and Derek Merrin, who was all set to be Speaker before the House flipped the script? Why did you vote for Stephens and not Merrin, who also represents Toledo?

Grim: Stephens seemed more likely to work with Democrats. We delivered the vote for him, so he seemed more willing to work with us. He's against the backpack bill because he has no private schools in his district. Public schools would really hurt in his district and ours if they passed the backpack bill. So, that was something that I took into consideration. I think he seems very reasonable.

Perryman: Finally, what advantage do you provide in the State Legislature rather than on city council? And what does your election mean for the people of the Ohio 43rd District?

Grim: I joined the race because we needed strong, effective representation in Columbus. I still believe that, and I thought I was the best person for that. And as I said before, I intend to stay active locally.

We recently lost one local Democrat in the legislature. So, my voice in Columbus is one with experience in government and working with different personalities and other legislators to get things done. That's what I think I bring.

I'm excited to be working for the constituents of House District 43, bringing resources to the area, and ensuring that we're thriving here in Toledo and Lucas County. I think it's essential to have that strong representation down in Columbus, and I'm looking forward to working for the constituents and working for the people.

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

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6323

My People: Five Decades of Writing About Black Lives by Charlayne Hunter-Gault

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You try to stay on top of things.

You keep your eyes and ears open for news of what's going on because you know that being informed is being forewarned. Somebody's got to watch what happens in your state and your city. Somebody needs to keep track of the goings-on in your neighborhood. And in the new book *My People* by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, somebody needs to testify.

It was hot that early July day in 1959 when Charlayne Hunter and a friend went to the Court House in Atlanta to get their college applications certified. That day, they hoped to enroll in the University of Georgia but, though the papers were all in order, the judge refused to sign them, accusing the pair of wanting to cause trouble.

"All this talk made little sense to me," Hunter-Gault says now.

She'd been "the only Negro" in schools before, so attending the all-white University of Georgia didn't seem like a big deal. Still, they weren't accepted – at least not then but a year-and-a-half later, a federal judge ordered the university to enroll both Hunter and her friend.

That's not the end of this particular story but a degree in journalism is – and so Hunter (later, Hunter-Gault) went to work reporting

c.2022
Harper
\$27.99
347 pages

the news at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, not long after her own activism.

This book is a collection of some of her columns and interviews.

Perhaps because of her own experiences in education, she writes of schools, integration, and curriculums. She tells tales of other Civil Rights icons, John Lewis, the Panthers, Mandela and Tutu, The Black Women's Community Development Foundation, Shirley Chisholm. She writes about living and working in South Africa and in Harlem.



Charlayne Hunter Gault in 1975

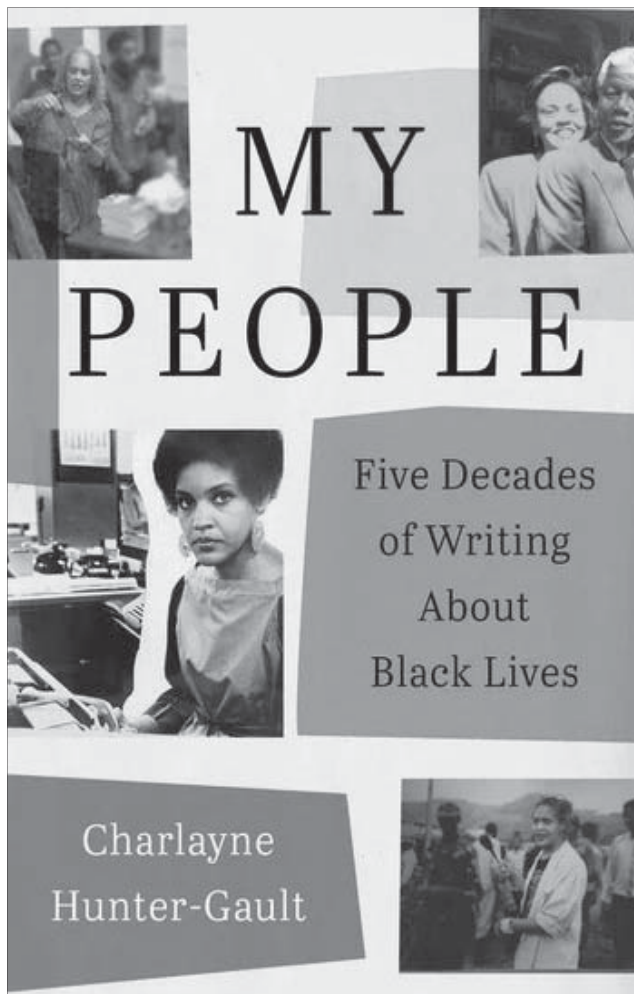
Personally, Hunter-Gault writes of her jobs in newspaper and television, what a delight it is to find a good vacation spot, and how to talk to young people about Trump and today's current events. And she sings the praises of Black newspapers, that "tell their story."

As memoirs go – and this is a kind of memoir – *My People* is really different.

You have to look quite a bit between the lines to get author Charlayne Hunter-Gault's story; it's here, just not presented in the way you expect a life story to be. Instead, Hunter-Gault wraps her experiences inside the things on which she reported in these columns from the middle 1960s to just a few years ago.

What's interesting is that the columns, despite the age of some of them, seem as fresh as if they were written last year. Hunter-Gault's work often focused on reporting issues of racism and inequality and the people who fought those things through the years, and yet readers will see the modern relevance. Sadly, however, there's no editorializing or commentary on that; the columns merely stand on their own.

Still, this collection-cum-memoir is a fascinating read, especially for someone who's looking for a unique sort of historical record. For you, *My People* is the thing to put at the top of your to-be-read pile.



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This special time in the land where Jesus lived, ministered and performed miracles is going to be a time of fellowship, praise and worship. Please make plans and set things in order to be with me on this pilgrimage.

I have been to the Holy Land before, but this time, I feel an urgency for us to go back and receive new insight and fresh revelation.

Are you ready for a refreshing? Come and go with me...

I believe God is going to do something special as we take this journey! Begin now to pray and seek God for his guidance in planning for this tour. I encourage you to elevate your expectation, and prepare now for miracles, signs and wonders...

God Bless You!
Bishop Pat McKinstry



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DAY 1

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DAY 2

Arrival at Tel Aviv airport. Transfer to hotel in the Galilee for dinner and overnight. Begin to feel the spirit of this amazing land. Depending on Flight arrival time, visit Megiddo, Carmel on the way to Galilee.

DAY 4

Start the day at Yardenit, the Baptismal Site on the Jordan River. Take a scenic drive past Cana of Galilee to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. On to Muchraka, the location of Elijah's altar during his confrontation with the false prophets of Baal. Continue through the Valley of Armageddon to the excavation site at Tel Megiddo. On to Caesarea, built by Herod the Great in 22 B.C. Continue to the city of Jerusalem.

DAY 6

After breakfast, continue to the Jewish Quarter visiting the Cardo, the "Wide" wall built by King Hezekiah, the Herodian mansion and the Golden Menorah. Continue to the Temple area and Mt. Moriah, to see the Dome of Rock, visit the Western Wall, the Ophel Archaeological Park and Museum and the Southern steps. Visit the Upper Room and King David's Tomb.

DAY 8

After breakfast and hotel check out continue to the Garden Tomb, visit Calvary where we will partake of Communion service. Continue to Bethlehem, Visit the Church of Nativity, the Milk Grotto and Shepherds' Field. Enjoy a special farewell dinner before being transferred to the airport.

DAY 3

Start the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. On to Tabgha, site of the Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves and the Feeding of Five Thousand. Visit Capernaum, the city of Jesus and Peter to see the house of Peter and an ancient synagogue, where Jesus preached and gathered his disciples. End the day in the ancient city of Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene.

DAY 5

Start the day at the Mount of Olives for an outstanding view of Jerusalem. Visit the Chapel of the Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations before driving along the Kidron Valley seeing the Tombs of Absalom, Zechariah and James. Visit the Old City, see the Pool of Bethesda, the Chapel of the Flagellation, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Continue through the Bazaar to the last stations of the Cross Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Gabbatha pavement.

DAY 7

This morning we drive past the Inn of the Good Samaritan to arrive at the shores of the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth. We go to Masada. Continue to Ein Gedi, where King David found shelter from the wrath of King Saul. After lunch (on your own), enjoy a short "float" in the Dead Sea. On to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947

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January 11, 2023

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BOND COUNSEL RFP#22-R011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Bond Counsel in accordance with RFP#22-R011**. Received in accordance with law until **January 5, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MASONRY & TUCKPOINT SERVICES RFP#22-R014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Masonry & Tuckpoint Services in accordance with RFP#22-R014**. Received in accordance with law until **January 5, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS ADMINISTRATIVE CLEANING SERVICES IFP#22-B007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Administrative Cleaning Services in accordance with IFB#22-B007**. Received in accordance with law until **January 9, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



PROGRAM MANAGER - TRIO TRIO PROGRAMS

Bowling Green State University is a nationally ranked public university committed to redefining student success in a high-achieving, innovative environment. In 2021, Forbes ranked BGSU as the No. 3 midsize employer in the United States, highlighting the University's commitment to its faculty and staff. Serving as the core of the University's academic community, more than 800 full-time faculty members are engaged in teaching, research and creative activities, with over 2,000 full-time staff members to support the operations and education of over 20,000 students.

The Upward Bound Program is federally funded TRIO Program that provides intensive services to ensure that low income and potential first-generation college students complete their respective secondary programs and are prepared to pursue a postsecondary education.

The Program Manager of the Upward Bound Program is responsible for providing leadership and supervision to the Program. The Program Manager coordinates the implementation of all aspects of the UB Program including the coordination of the academic and summer components, budgetary oversight, and the day to day operations as related to the goals and objectives of the BGSU federal grant and in accordance with the US Department of Education federal policies in both the OMB Circular and Edgar. Legislation in the UB program requires that all participants meet federal guidelines to be eligible for participation in the program. The Program Manager oversees and approves all applications to the program to ensure their compliance for participation with the program.

The Program Manager also works cooperatively with University staff and faculty, Toledo Public School administrators and teachers and community agencies to ensure that the mission, strategic plan and objectives of the UB Program are achieved. The Program Manager also cultivate and sustain relationships with target middle and high schools and ensure collaborations with other TRIO programs and community programs to ensure that successful initiatives are implemented towards student successfully graduating from secondary school and entering college.

Deadline to apply: The search committee will review applications until the position is filled; however, **for best consideration, applications should be provided by January 11, 2023.**

Full-time Administrative Staff position available. For a complete job description & to apply for this position visit <https://bgsu.hiretouch.com/> or contact the Office of Human Resources. BGSU. AA/EEO/Disabilities/Veterans. In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Bowling Green State University, please call 419-372-8421.

Links Cut Ribbon to Clothing Closet at Ella P. Stewart

The Truth Staff

Members of the Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc. hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, January 9 to open the Links L.O.V.E. Hygiene Cabinet and Clothing Closer at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.

"This event is part of the Toledo (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

12-month celebration highlighting their charter members and the 50-year legacy of leadership, service and friendship," said Links President Erin Baker.

The hygiene closet was installed last year giving Stewart students access to personal items donated by club members. The clothing closet, just opened this week, contains dozens of school uniforms in sizes for kindergarten to sixth grade students.

According to Baker, the ribbon cutting was in recognition of charter member Marietta Leverette's "commitment and service" and her efforts in the St. Michael's in the Hill's Echo Shop that closed in 2003 after years of providing monetary donations to various service agencies, to churches for improvements and to agencies for education grants.



L. to R - Nicole Duhart, Beverly Baker, Sheila Eason, Erin Baker, Ebonie Jackson, Yolanda Harleston



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