



Volume 77 No. 3 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* March 8, 2023



Milestones Business Honoree

Ambrea Mikolajczyk, ARK Restoration and Construction

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Celebrate Women's History Month with the Toledo Library

The Toledo Library is celebrating Women's History Month with a packed schedule of events and programs. In addition to the events below, every branch has created hands-on activities and book displays for this inclusion month.

The Future is Female (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7040674>) | (Th) March 2 at Main Library from 3-5 p.m. | As part of our Better Toledo series, Laura Maylene Walter talks about the influence women have on society.

Women's History Month Kahoot Trivia (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7751719>) | (F) March 3 at Lagrange Branch from 4-5 p.m. | Who was the first American woman in space? Stop by and play Women's History Month trivia to test your knowledge and learn new facts.

She's Beautiful When She's Angry (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7671490>) | (M) March 6 via Zoom | A provocative, rousing and often humorous account of the birth of the modern women's liberation movement in the late 1960s through to its contemporary

manifestations in the new millennium, direct from the women who lived it.

A Taste of Ireland (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/8051673>) | (Tu) March 14 at Main Library from 6-7:30 p.m. | As part of a cultural cooking series brought to you in partnership with Women of Toledo and Welcome TLC, explore cuisines from around the world!

Toledo Stories - Millie Benson (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7196369>) | (Th) March 23 at Point Place Branch from 1-2:30 p.m. | WGTE presents The Storied Life of Millie Benson. With strong ties to Toledo, she is most famous for being a Nancy Drew ghost-writer.

Pen to Pallete with the Toledo Museum of Art (<http://events.toledolibrary.org/event/7752460>) | (Sa) March 25 at Toledo Museum of Art from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Interested in the intersections of art and prose? Read a book, then meet in-person for a personalized tour featuring objects, arts and cultures from our chosen book.

Hicks-Hudson Condemns Passage of Education Overhaul

Last week, state Senator Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued a statement after the Ohio Senate voted along party lines to pass Senate Bill 1, which drastically limits the duties and function of the State Board of Education and Department of Education.

"Ohio's education system has been based on the principle of 'common schools' and directed by the voters in local districts for almost two centuries," said Sen. Hicks-Hudson. "This bill would remove their voices without any evidence that it will lead to an overall improvement in scholastic performance for Ohio children."

S.B. 1 would transfer almost all the current powers and duties of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the new Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), which would be a cabinet-level agency. It would allow the Governor to appoint the director of the DEW. S.B. 1 also weakens home-schooling regulations.

The bill is a politically motivated takeover of public education that Democrats believe will not serve Ohio's students.

S.B. 1 now heads to the Ohio House of Representatives for consideration.



Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

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6323

Community Calendar

March 11-12

St. Paul MBC Men's Weekend: Saturday – Drive-by Breakfast, 9 am to noon; Sunday – Service at 10:45 am, Rev. Mark Click guest speaker: 419-246-2886

March 12

Indiana Avenue MBC Pastoral Anniversary: Rev. William Foster; 10:30 am service – guest speaker Rev. James Morgan; 3:00 pm service – guest speaker Lonnie Anderson

March 14

NAACP General Membership Meeting; 7 pm; Jerusalem Baptist Church

March 19

NAACP Youth Council Meeting; 3 pm; Sanger Branch Library

IT Is OK To Be White ... But, What Kind of White?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

It was, then and still is now, prophetic that the late scholar and historian W.E.B. DuBois said that the major problem facing the 20th century will be the color line.

Again, we are reminded of the ongoing repercussions of racism in America when hundreds of newspapers quickly canceled the comic strip entitled Dilbert, written by Scott Adams. The rapid-fire cancellations were due to Scott Adams stating that based upon a Rasmussen poll (its sampling techniques have been called into question) that purportedly indicated that a slight majority of Black people thought that it was not "OK" to be White.

Scott's response to that highly controversial (controversial in the sense that the Rasmussen poll is seen as a right-wing pollster) poll was: "Blacks are a hate group and my advice is for White people to stay the Hell away from Black people."

Of course, when the firestorm over that comment hit the media and social platforms, Scott resorted to damage control mode, even stating that his income will vanish in the next few days due to the hundreds of cancellations of his comic strip; and of course the usual mea culpa, that he was not a racist.

Well, I guess free speech is not totally free after all, for there are consequences when certain attitudes or beliefs are aired in public and if you are not willing to "go down with the ship" with them, you can face severe blowback.

Scott was on Hotep Jesus (a Black podcast/broadcaster) who asked Scott if he had ever read the biography of Malcolm X and he said, no. I daresay 95 percent of White Americans have not read the biography and much less any readings by Black authors on the state of race relations in America.

White America's favorite default position for quoting a Black person of noteworthy is of course, Martin Luther King Jr., and that quote is the worn and shiny penny of judging people by the content of their character and not their color.

Whenever White America gets jammed up or is flustered by a discussion of race, they quickly reach for that quote to show to their inquisitor (and for self-affirmation) that they are not racist

Of course, the history of America quickly, amply and steadfastly rebukes that trophy quote by doing a mere review of American history since the date of 1619 and onwards.

From that fateful year of 1619 when the first slave ships arrived on these United States and the American colonists devised a system, (built solely on race and to also mark and segment people by class), white privilege and standing in America has been seemingly forever established. For how does one separate a pool of ink from its submersion into a pail of water? The concept of colorblindness left the station a long time ago! From the beginning of America's unequal and uneven racial and class classifications, "White" has always been placed at the tip of the spear or the top of the pecking order and transgressors thereto need not apply for fair treatment.

White American history and some of its duplicitous White historians have depicted an America where the present order of privilege, class and race has its genesis and support from a White America behaving in ways that bespeak that any change to the existing social order will be only accomplished by or with momentous struggle, even replete with a Civil War, if so needed.

The shameful history of White America has been a covert and overt "jihad" against all persons of color whenever White privilege has been challenged. Privileges based solely on one's melanin and nothing else.

So, when the question is asked: "Is it OK to be White?", the corollary question that needs to be posited in the same breath is, "What kind of White?"

Is it a "White" that is peaceful, fair, honest, just and of good report? Is it a "White" that will humbly acknowledge its sins of omission and commission against people of color and will seek ways to amend the wrongs?

Is it a "White" that will form linkages with people of color to ensure that institutions that perpetuate racism are reformed or are required to cease their existence?

But, more importantly, is it a "White" that, upon retrospection and introspection, will share its perks, privileges and power with those whose time spent, and time served making America great, are entitled to partake of both the lean and the fat of America?

Yes, the onus and burden is upon White America to recalculate where it spends its time and treasures so as to make the singing of the Star Spangled Banner a reality and not a time waster at sporting events.

The same White Americans who love to quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., amazingly fail to quote his other quip that Black America has a check that is due and payable to them, but the White American Bank won't cash it.

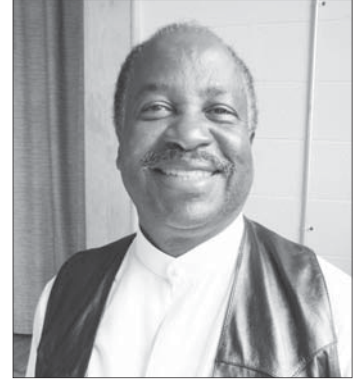
The funds are there but the collective will is lacking to cash out the long overdue check.

The present danger is the gathering of race war clouds as seen in the empty debate about who is "woke" and the dastardly cultural wars being precipitated by an angry GOP and its anxiety ridden base being goaded on by the likes of Ron DeSantis and Donald Trump and his sycophants in Congress.

Voter suppression and racial gerrymandering are now in vogue again with the desired goal of people of color being squeezed into a corner of political and economic despair.

So, is "White" OK? Sure... just as Black is OK and so are Indigenous People and Orientals and anyone else who will recognize the common humanity in each one of us and resolve that no one "color" has a lockbox on virtue, freedom and truth to the exclusion of the other.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

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Ambrea Mikolajczyk: 2023 YWCA Milestones Honoree for Business

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio has announced the 2023 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women annual award.

For nearly 30 years, YWCA Northwest Ohio has commemorated Women's History Month by recognizing business leaders who embody their mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Today we highlight Milestones Business Honoree, Ambrea Mikolajczyk, owner of ARK Restoration & Construction Company.

As the sun rises above the horizon, casting a warm glow across the city of Toledo, Mikolajczyk stands before a dilapidated building, her heart racing with anticipation. "To most, they're just abandoned buildings decaying and crumbling, forgotten by the world around us, but to me, they are treasures waiting to be uncovered, pieces of history waiting to be revived."

Born and raised in Toledo in the BUMA neighborhood on Goodale and Ma-comber, Ambrea Mikolajczyk would have never imagined she'd one day be one of the first Black female developers in the northwest Ohio region.

"I met my husband Kevin while we were teenagers working at the shoe store Finish Line," she shares. I later ran into him in the hallways of Roy C. Start High School and we've been inseparable since."

Ambrea went on to earn an academic scholarship through Toledo Excel and Helen Cooks, PhD, and graduated from The University of Toledo with a Pharmacy Administration Degree.

"Kevin and I love Toledo. That love has always been a driving force behind us staying here after school and growing where we are planted," says Ms. Mikolajczyk



Over the next 15 years Ambrea had an illustrious career as a pharmaceutical sales manager for Pfizer, and then Genzyme.

"Our start in real estate investment materialized from a seed of curiosity. Kevin and I were intrigued. We attended an auction and purchased our first distressed properties: a house and a duplex," recalls Ambrea. "We attended meetings, watched videos, read, and researched everything we could to gain a better understanding of the industry."

Mikolajczyk took a deep breath and stepped forward, feet to the gravel and debris that littered the ground of their newly acquired distressed properties. The air was thick with the scent of dust and decay, but she could sense something else, something that stirred within her like a flame.

"I remember the excitement of possibility, the thrill of transformation, the joy of feeling we were bringing old and forgotten homes back to life for local families," she says.

In 2017, Ms. Mikolajczyk felt a calling to leave her successful career in pharmaceuticals to launch, now ARK Restoration & Construction, where she is majority owner.

"Kevin and I had acquired the knowledge necessary to help clients with their construction needs one step at a time. We decided we were ready to pursue our new venture full-time and I named the company ARK, because very much like Noah in The Bible, I knew our journey would be challenging, yet necessary," says Ambrea.

Understanding there would be difficulties navigating as a Black woman in a male-dominated field Ms. Mikolajczyk knew from the onset she wanted to be a responsible developer fostering a diverse workforce.

Fast-forward to today, ARK has renovated over 20 structures, improved

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Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to

need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

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Ambrea Mikolajczyk... continued from page 4

property values in desolate communities, and owns and manages, with their team, nearly 200 apartments.

In the past 15 years, ARK has also renovated and preserved about nine multi-family apartments — mostly in West Toledo and the Old West End. ARK Companies proudly partner with a healthy mix of both union and non-union local companies on their projects and have since the inception of their business, shares Ambrea. "50 percent of our workforce are Black and 30 percent are women."

"Women bring a unique perspective and skillset to the table, and our contributions are essential for businesses to succeed in today's global market," says Ms. Mikolajczyk. Studies have shown that gender diversity in the workplace is beneficial for businesses. Companies with diverse teams are more innovative, make better decisions, and have better financial performance than those without.

ARK Restoration & Construction is perhaps best known for turning the old Wonder Bread bakery in Toledo's Historic Vistula neighborhood into affordable luxury apartments.

The Lofts at WB is a groundbreaking development in a historic neighborhood that has long experienced disinvestment and structural barriers to capital and development. The apartments have 33 loft units (seven designated as affordable units), full of natural light shining through large warehouse paned efficiency windows. The apartments' vaulted 24 foot ceilings expose beautiful steel trusses and all units are decked in the newest amenities.

"We hope it will attract additional investment and amenities to the community residents, many of whom are Black or other people of color, that have faced racial and economic inequities," shares Ambrea.

The loft apartments also include in-building covered resident parking and breathtaking views of the Maumee River and Downtown Toledo skyline.

It was a huge undertaking but ARK's team was undeterred. Rolling up their sleeves their team dove into the work, armed with passion and determination. "Day after day, they chipped away at the layers of neglect, revealing the hidden beauty and character of the building," recalls Ambera.

As the weeks turned into months, the building began to take shape, its grandeur and beauty emerging like a butterfly from its cocoon. The archways and columns stood tall and proud, metal trusses gleamed in the sunlight, the ceilings and windows shone with new life.

With each passing day, The Lofts at WB increase the value of the surrounding properties, breathing new life into the entire neighborhood. "It was a special experience to take part in the Wander the Warehouse District tour," shares Mrs. Mikolajczyk. "It was exciting to take the community on a restoration journey they could witness with their own eyes."

Wander the Warehouse is the signature loft and business tour of Warehouse District buildings in downtown Toledo, OH. After the event, people began to take notice, to see the beauty and potential of the once-forgotten building, and to appreciate the efforts ARK Restoration and Construction put into its restoration.

Over the next several years ARK will be working on their second and third largest projects to date —

East Toledo's former Masonic Temple and two of downtown Toledo's oldest and largest office buildings — the Spitzer and Nicholas.

East Toledo has been in need of more affordable housing for seniors for some time now. Toledo's 10-year housing plan, noted more than a third of our city's seniors are cost-burdened. And much of the city's existing housing options for them are old and low-quality.



The future of the old Wonderbread building



Kevin Mikolajczyk, Ambrea Mikolajczyk, Kaden Mikolajczyk, Karson Mikolajczyk, Rowan Mikolajczyk, Reagan Mikolajczyk



"We found a niche in historic buildings because they're dirty, they're nasty, they're challenging, and not a lot of people want to do them," says Ambrea.

"Our plans for the former Temple will transform the four-story historic structure into 42 affordable senior apartments, with retail services such as a barbershop, salon, and even a medical facility on the first floor," she shares.

"We are also excited to be teaming up with Cincinnati developer, The Model Group, for the Spitzer and Nicholas buildings."

Together ARK and The Model Group presented a redevelopment proposal to

...continued on page 6

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The Greater Toledo Community Foundation – 50 Years of Service to the Community

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation is in the process of celebrating 50 years of service to the community – 50 years of financial service in an attempt to make this area a better place to live.

“Everything we do starts with that word ‘community’ in our name,” says Keith Burwell, president and CEO of GTCF. “We did debate about the entire name but it was important to us to leave the word ‘community’ in there because everything we do is about our community – donors



Keith Burwell

will have created funds and it’s about our community. Our partners invest and there is a strategic partnership that helps us make things happen in the community.

“And then the community business leaders and when I say ‘business,’ it’s not just for profit, but also not-for-profit, government ... we try to solve problems.”

The GTCF began its efforts to solve problems within the community when they were left an estate by the Terhune family five decades ago and over that time the Foundation has given away over \$310 million dollars through the use

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Ambrea Mikolajczyk... continued from page 5

transform historic buildings — two of downtown’s original skyscrapers.

“Our proposal envisions beautiful apartments overlooking the city’s skyline and ground-level commercial spaces,” shares Ms. Mikolajczyk.

The properties combine 500,000 square feet and are part of Toledo’s historic Four Corners, the intersection of Huron Street and Madison Avenue, where all four original buildings remain today.

“The ARK Restoration & Construction team is honored to be a part of reimagining the 11-story Spitzer and 17-story Nicholas buildings,” shares Ambrea. “Our plans call for close to 400 apartments including 40,000 square feet of multi-purpose commercial space.”

With a keen eye for opportunity and a deep understanding of our community, Ambrea Mikolajczyk and her team work tirelessly, negotiating with city officials, investors, and community leaders to ensure that their vision

will become a reality.

“Our efforts are paying off, and soon, downtown will begin to transform back into a vibrant, thriving community full of families once priced out of the housing market, with safe comfortable homes to call their own,” says Ambrea.

ARK Companies hard work and dedication to the City of Toledo is far from over. The Mikolajczyk’s continue to push for change, advocating for policies that will promote equity and access for all. They know that their work is not just about bricks and mortar, but about building a better future for all.

When asked what being honored by the YWCA in the business sector means to her, Ms. Mikolajczyk says, My legacy is not just in the buildings we revitalize, but in the hope they inspire and the doors they open for generations to come. I will forever be humbled by this honor.

The YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon will be held on March 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the Glass City Center.

The Truth Colours Art Gallery

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Community Foundation... continued from page 6

of over 900 funds, says Burwell. (Alice Crosby Terhune, who lived in Toledo all her life, passed away in the early 1970s. In 1973, \$145,000 from her father's trust – created 45 years earlier – established the Walter E. Terhune Fund, the first grantmaking endowment of Greater Toledo Community Foundation.)

"Our mission has always been to build a better community not by creating band aids but by solving problems. So we want to find out what the systemic change is that has to happen. There's a lot of conversation around hunger – it's important to break that cycle of poverty. We're not just interested in talking about food, we want to talk about why people don't have food," Burwell adds.

"The same thing with children – we talk about cradle to career so we've been funding early childhood education and issue around children ... how do we help a child get off to a start in life in a good way. That said, we've also tried to go outside the norm and ask how do we create opportunity?"

"We try to create a funding stream that's not what you would normally think of – by helping to create revenue and solve problems."

The Foundation also delves into the arts and culture aspects of the community, for example, by arranging for paid apprenticeships because of the value that arts add to the community, says Burwell.

"We're always looking for strategic partnerships in what we call 'the power of the community,'" he adds. "That's the cornerstone of what we are at the Greater Toledo Community Foundation."

As an example, of the approach that the GTCF has used and how it has impacted the community, Burwell notes that being proactive in bringing in partners to solve problems enables the Foundation to rely on outside expertise.

"We don't have all the answers but we do try to find partners who may be twice as bright as us – then go about making the change."

"As an example, we recognized that kids being born here were below weight and dying at birth, particularly in three zip codes – they were Third World numbers. We put together that Pathways program where we incentivized case workers to go into neighborhoods and using the 12 different steps of Pathways we've lowered the numbers – it's been such a success that the state picked it up and now the feds have picked up on it. The CDC [Centers for Disease Control] is using the Pathway model."

Over the past several years, the Foundation has ramped up its efforts in the diversity, equity and inclusion area.

"We looked at the [George] Floyd murder, and I think you can call it a murder, and said 'let's not just put out a statement – everybody is putting out a statement, let's do something about it.' Let's be active, not just talking about it," says Burwell.

"Our mission is to address concerns raised by the community. We looked at lack of access and we took up the challenge and out together a fund. [Equity and Access Fund] We created an independent committee comprised of some current board members but also community members and gave them the authority to see how we could tackle [diversity, equity and including] issues in our community. They were allowed to make those grants without coming back to the board for approval."

"Those grants by that committee were pushed forward with the understanding that they would know best what was needed in the community. So, we created a fund - \$600,000 over five years. Not to say it stops there but we had to start with a numerical amount.

"It's been very successful. We looked at four different focus areas – advocacy, economic development, employment and non-profit capacity. A lot of nonprofits are led by minorities that just don't have the capacity [to do a lot of programming]."

Collaboration is a key word for the committee as the members look at areas in which nonprofits led by minorities can be a great help to the community but cannot do the job by themselves. "Some issues are so big we need to have a collaborative effort," says Burwell.

Collaboration is also a concern outside of the current Equity and Access Fund when it comes to smaller operations, he notes. There's a concern for "shared service models," he says using child-care centers as an example. These are operations that can work together on such tasks as purchasing jointly in order to command the best prices for commonly used goods.

So far the Foundation has funded seven collaborative applications in the Equity and Access Fund: the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo with Issue Box Theatre, Toledo Opera and University of Toledo School of Social Justice; Cherry Street Mission Ministries with Water for Ishmael; GreaterGenerations with City Park League Resource Group; JumpStart with Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc; St. Martin de Porres Parish with Community Reinvestment Coalition and Robinson Community Hub; The Movement Team Lucas County with Lucas County Children Services and The University Church with Rogers High School.

The GTCF provided The Truth with this list of notable successes/high-

lights in the areas of collaboration:

* Arts Commission of Greater Toledo with Issue Box Theatre, Toledo Opera and University of Toledo School of Social Justice collaboratively impacted youth and adults. The Opera launched several community engagement activities to increase interest in the minority community and produce Blue, an award winning production about an African American male from Harlem that focuses on his life decisions and family challenges. Issue Box Theatre and Arts Commission worked with 61 YAAW youth to focus on community impact through service and social emotional skills. Of that 61 youth, 16 were selected to produce a social justice focused documentary that was viewed at several in-person locations include Mott Branch and TolHouse. The School of Social Justice measured the impact that these activities had on the youth participants.

* Jumpstart with Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. collaboratively invested in 16 local small businesses by providing \$20,000 in Boost Funds and technical assistance to scale up business operations.

* GreaterGenerations and CityPark League provided 50 local youth with seasonal community outdoor work experience and even elevated one of the youth to a supervisory position. This project is still ongoing, meaning, more youth will benefit.

* Wilber A. Williams Community Life and Technology Center has trained 50 percent of their board to increase awareness of board-level responsibility. This project is still ongoing.

* YWCA of Northwest Ohio has completed the research and will soon launch an online series that provides training on understanding bias, structural racism, systemic racism and factors that impact outcomes within the Black community. This project is still ongoing.

* Midstory has completed the research and finalized the list of individuals to interview for a documentary that will capture and uplift the voices of local Asian American Pacific Islanders. Filming is currently underway. This project is still ongoing.


For the Equity and Access Fund, the next round, the fourth round, of applications will be taken by the committee from May 2 to July 2, says Burwell.

ADVOCATE FOR AN ABUSED CHILD



CASA Volunteer Information Meeting

Sunday, April 2
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Oregon Branch Library
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Silent Soldiers Celebrated by Mt. Nebo Church

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church's The Voice of Hope Outreach Ministry recognized 19 individuals during a banquet held on Sunday, March 5 at Premier Banquet Hall on Heatherdowns in Toledo. These local individuals were acknowledged as Silent Soldiers for their countless and selfless contributions to the community. The celebration host was Brother Larry Jones of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church and began with the entrance of the honorees.

"We are excited to celebrate these outstanding citizens that do silent work in our community. These awesome people were selected by a committee, and we're excited to tell them and show them in front of the community and their family, just how much we appreciate their work. These silent soldiers are fighting every day. They may not be known by society, so today we tell these silent soldiers of God thank you," shared Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

"This is an awesome honor. It's women's history month and it's an honor to be surrounded by all of these women, who have come together today as silent soldiers," shared First Lady Natalyn Newson, honoree.

The 2023 Voice of Hope Honorees: Elder Iva Brassfield, Sister Andrea Whaley-Buford, Mother Frances Crenshaw, Sister Beatrice Daniels, Brother James Easter, Sister Annette Hannibal, First Lady Brooklynn Harris, Rev. Janice Carson Hearn, PhD, Sister Viola Hobbs, Rev. Travoy Horton, Sister Debra Jelks, Elder J. M. McKinney, Sister Naomi Martin, First Lady Celeste Mitchell, First Lady Natalyn Newson, First Lady Louise Parker, Sister Rose Perry, Minister Angela Savage, and First Lady Donna Trail.

Immediately following the standing ovation and loud applaud for each of the honorees and also a plaque. The plaque read, "Silent Foot Solder Award



Back row (left to right): Rev. Cedric Brock, Brother James Easter, Sister Naomi Martin, First Lady Brooklynn Harris, First Lady Louise Parker, Minister Angela Savage, Sister Beatrice Daniels, Rev. Travoy Horton, Elder Iva Brassfield, Sister Debra Jelks, Councilwoman McPherson
Front row (left to right): Sister Andrea Whaley-Buford, Sister Viola Hobbs, First Lady Natalyn Newson, Sister Rose Perry, First Lady Celeste Mitchell, Elder J. M. McKinney, Sister Annette Hannibal, First Lady Donna Trail, Mother Frances Crenshaw, Rev. Janice Carson Hearn, DMin

for your outstanding and faithful support as a spirit-lifter." The program continued with invocation delivered by Bishop Christopher Rowell the pastor of The Refreshing Place, dinner, and a special presentation. Toledo City Coun-

...continued on page 9

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Silent Soldiers... continued from page 8

cilwoman Cerssandra McPherson and Councilwoman Vanice Williams presented a proclamation to Voice of Hope.

"It's an honor to assist Pastor Brock and The Voice of Hope Outreach Ministry in recognizing silent heroes. I commend the effort and the thought, we have so many people in our community that are working behind the scenes that rarely receive recognition for the work they are doing and the change that they are making in our community. Councilwoman Vanice and myself have put together a resolution recognizing the service of the outreach ministry at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church," said McPherson.

"I'm happy to be here and support Pastor Brock and Mt. Nebo's The Vision of Hope Outreach Ministry. It's always a great thing to recognize those heroes that nobody knows about. So often we focus on those in front of the camera or in front of the lights, but there are so many people that have to complete the behind-the-scenes work to keep those lights shining. I'm so glad to be here with my colleague, Councilwoman McPherson to celebrate these deserving individuals," said Williams.

The banquet continued with musical selections by First Lady Debra Brock of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, instrumental music performed by Calvin Hughes Jazz Trio, greetings by program partners, and a special presentation to the honorees by Sister Geraldine Scrutchins of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church.

Of the 62 partners, several were individuals, companies, faith-based institutions and elected officials. Each of the partners was granted a brief opportunity to address the audience including Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, Family Foods, J'Maes Home Cooking, Northwest Baptist Association, Toledo Muslim Association and Judge Nicole Khoury.

The banquet is the 21st annual program. The Voice Hope Outreach Ministry was envisioned by Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church which is located on North Detroit Ave. and for over 17 years has sponsored numerous banquets to recognize unsung local heroes from throughout the city.

Over the course of the ministry's 17 year history, several community ac-



Pastor Brock with a small portion of the sock donations



Councilwomen Cerssandra McPherson and Vanice Williams

tivities have been organized including: a radio ministry heard on 1520 AM and 95.7 FM since 1996, Adopt a Haircut ministry which is held at Poor Clark's Barbershop which offers free haircuts for youth once per month, Adopt a Belt Outreach Ministry which provides free belts, Coat-give-a-way in partnership with Macy's Department Store where approximately 200 coats were donated, Good Friday Ham give-a-way, Back to School give-a-way, a weekly broadcast on NOW network, advocating for mental health issues and providing mentoring tools for a successful life. In addition to honoring the silent solders, socks were donated to local children.

"Last year we gave away 1,200 socks and this year we're giving away 2,500 socks. Important because it's important that our babies have clean socks," shared Rev. Brock.

Lucas County Children Services Selects Executive Director Candidate

The Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) Board of Trustees has selected Randall Muth, executive director of Mahoning County Children Services, as its preferred candidate to serve as the agency's next executive director. Muth and the board will now begin the process of negotiating an employment contract.

Muth joins LCCS with 24 years of experience in child protection in Ohio. He began his career in 1999 as an attorney supervisor in the children services division of the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services and became the executive director of Wayne County Children Services in 2006. He has spent the past decade as the executive director of Mahoning County.

"Mr. Muth offers child protection experience in progressively larger agencies across the state, making him the right person at the right time to lead Lucas County Children Services," said LCCS Board President Kathy Vasquez. "We are confident in his ability to continue the agency's culture of community collaboration," she added.

Muth has a juris doctorate from the University of Akron and spent a few years in private practice. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kent State University. Mr. Muth is also a U.S. Army veteran.

Muth has taken an active role in the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), serving as a past trustee, secretary, and chair of the legislative committee. He has participated in several state and regional panels that have influenced child welfare practice in Ohio.

Donna Seed, LCCS' social services director, has been serving as LCCS' interim executive director since November 2022, following the retirement of Robin Reese.



Five Super Fun Activities That Get Kids Excited to Learn

Special to The Truth

Looking for activities for kids that offer some educational value? The good news is that you don't need to sacrifice fun. Here are five awesome gift ideas that will get school-age kids excited about learning outside the classroom.

1. With the Magic Adventures Microscope, young biologists can explore tiny worlds full of huge discoveries, zooming in on flowers, animals, food, minerals and more using eight double-sided smart slides that activate amazing BBC videos and images. Inquiring minds can discover answers to curious questions like: How do leaves change colors? What do plant cells look like? What is sand made of anyway? They can also make their own discoveries by finding things around the house and getting a closer look using the reusable slides or large sample tray. With up to 200x magnification on this real microscope, kids will be amazed by what they see. A capture-and-save feature allows for documenting findings, and included games and quizzes add to the fun and let kids put their knowledge to the test.

2. Reading enthusiasts will love a subscription to a book of the month club offering selections for their reading level and interests. This is not only a great way to promote a lifelong love of literature, it can help a young reader build their home library.

3. Fledgling explorers can travel the world and see everything in it with the Magic Adventures Globe from LeapFrog. Using the stylus, children can tap on the interactive learning globe and experience new places, languages, cultures, animals, geography, habitats and more through high-quality BBC videos. Featuring an integrated video screen, animations and live-action videos

fully immerse kids in the curriculum to provide a better understanding of the world through more than five hours of videos. They can also play interactive games to explore the globe, challenge a friend and solve mysteries. With its focus on curriculum-based content and important foundational skills, LeapFrog toys offer experiences that make learning fun.

4. Encourage kids to become informed citizens of the world with a subscription to a news magazine designed just for them, such as "The Week Junior." This is an excellent way to build vocabulary, while engaging kids on a wide range of subjects -- from culture and arts to science and government -- in a way that's appropriate for their age.

5. Foster a love of fine arts with an all-in-one sketching, painting and coloring set complete with everything they need to unleash their inner Picasso. Pencils, markers, acrylic and watercolor paints, along with brushes, paper pads and canvas boards, will give artists of all ages the foundational tools they need to try their hand in various mediums.

Courtesy StatePoint

Lifelong Learning March Classes

Lifelong Learning offers the following March classes. All classes are held at Lourdes University, 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania and most classes are in-person with a few offered online exclusively.

In addition to classes, the robust Lifelong Learning Program offers monthly lectures and day trips. For more information, contact Dr. Laura Megeath, Lifelong Learning Coordinator, at 419-824-3707, (419) 824-3707 or visit www.lourdes.edu/lifelong or <http://www.lourdes.edu/lifelong>.

~ MARCH CLASSES ~

The Stories They Tell: Wisdom Stories Across Traditions

Instructor: Sheila Otto

10:30 – 12:00 NOON

Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5 (5 weeks)

Using stories from the world's great faith traditions, storyteller/story listener Sheila Otto will invite participants to explore the possibility of meaning and personal truth. Stories from Christian, Jewish, Middle Eastern and Asian traditions will stimulate an appreciation of different faith traditions, the power of humor, and story as guides for our personal journeys. Many of these stories are from collections published by Anthony DeMello, a Jesuit priest born in Bombay, India and widely known for integrating western and eastern spirituality.

Sake It to Me

Instructor: Nicholas Kubiak

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Thursdays, March 9

Sake has mystified drinkers for centuries. Surrounded by ceremony and

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Ella P. Stewart Academy Students Celebrate Ella P. Stewart the Toledo Heroine

The Truth Staff

As the end of Black History Month approached, the third grade students of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls were treated to a reading of the life and accomplishments of their school's name sake.

On Monday, February 27, Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, taught the students about a very special lady, Ella P. Stewart, the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh's pharmacy school in 1916 and who opened Stewart's Pharmacy in 1922.

Durant read to the students from a booklet produced by Robert Smith and the African American Legacy Project about the life of Stewart, a booklet published for grade school students which includes review questions, an essay question and a coloring section.

"A lady who did amazing things before her time," said Smith explaining the project to the students. "She's given you young ladies an opportunity to be great."



Robert Smith (l.) and Durant introduce the booklet



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD reading to the students

Lifelong Learning... continued from page 10

history, this beverage is often mistakenly called a wine because of its appearance and alcoholic content, however, it is made in a process known as multiple parallel fermentation, in which a grain (rice) is converted from starch to sugar followed by conversion to alcohol.

This class will delve into the details of how sake producers use this method of production, the history of the beverage, serving techniques, and the quality levels. We will taste 6 examples and please feel free to bring foods to pair.

Nicholas Kubiak is a Certified Specialist of Wine and Spirits and a veteran of our local wine industry.

Film Scores in the Golden Age of Hollywood

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Williams

3:30 – 5:00 PM,

Mondays, March 13 – 27 (3 weeks) – offered exclusively online

This course focuses on the music of five composers who combined to weave the sound world of American cinema in its great age from the early talkies to the films of Alfred Hitchcock and science fiction movies. Max Steiner (King Kong, Gone with the Wind, Casablanca); Erich Wolfgang Korngold (Adventures of Robin Hood, The Sea Hawk, King's Row); Franz Waxman (Rebecca, The Philadelphia Story, Sunset Boulevard.); and Miklós Rózsa (The Thief of Bagdad, Double Indemnity, Lady on a Train, Ivanhoe.) all had to flee Central Europe in order to escape the Nazis. Korngold, Waxman, and Rózsa all had flourishing careers in Europe before they left. Bernard Herrmann (Citizen Kane, Jane Eyre, Psycho.) was American-born but had a guiding hand in the same trends of cinema the others helped shape.

Over three class meetings, we will discuss the disparate ways these five composers worked collaboratively with directors and studio music teams,

the different film genres they helped shape, and the different techniques they employed to create the soundstage of the most successful films they worked on.

Dr. Christopher Williams holds a Ph.D. in Music History and Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, and has taught at UT, BGSU, the Universität Salzburg, and in the joint program of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University.

The 1940's: American History and Culture Experienced through Poetry

Instructor: Shari O'Brien, Ph.D., J.D.

1:00 – 3:45 PM, with a generous break.

Tuesdays, March 14 – April 4 (4 weeks)

Appealing to enthusiasts of history, popular culture, and poetry alike, our class will explore the momentous decade of the forties. While poet W. H. Auden called it the Age of Anxiety, this was a highly complex time, marked in nearly equal measures by enormous courage and cowardice, good and evil, joy and anguish. We will be moved by poems of greats like Frost, Gwendolyn Brooks, Theodore Roethke, and Muriel Ruckeser, as well as stirring, grace-filled poetic passages from speeches by King George, Churchill and FDR, and even beautiful or whimsical song lyrics. Through these, history and culture are mirrored. Time traveling together will be exciting!

Dr. O'Brien has doctorates in English and law; she worked in United States District Court. Publishing five law review articles as well as hundreds of essays and poems in national journals, she taught writing and poetry for twenty-seven years at UT and continues to practice law and write poetry today.

General Custer

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Lifelong Learning... continued from page 11

Instructor: Dr. Dwayne Beggs

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Thursdays, March 16 – April 13 (5 weeks)

George Armstrong Custer earned a place in US history for the stinging embarrassment of the Battle of Little Bighorn and Custer's Last Stand. Yet Custer had a colorful and distinguished career before this. At West Point, he was frequently disciplined, nearly expelled and ultimately finished last in his graduating class. However, during the Civil War Custer distinguished himself in multiple battles, rising quickly through the ranks. As major general, Custer's cavalry units were crucial in blocking the movements of General Lee's retreating forces which helped hasten his surrender at Appomattox and the end of war. Learn the history of this remarkable man!

Dr. Dwayne Beggs has taught popular classes on many military conflicts for Lifelong Learning.

Dr. Beggs earned a M.A. and a Ph.D. in U.S. Diplomatic History from BGSU. He also holds an M. Div. and served as a Youth Pastor / Associate Pastor for 22 years.

History of Poland – 10th Century to the 16th Century

Instructor: Tom Sorosiak

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Tuesdays, March 21 – April 11 (4 weeks)

Beginning with the first ruling Dynasty of Poland in 910, the chronological history of Poland will be studied through 1599. Included in this class will be a presentation of how events like wars, religion, kings, and culture impacted the lives of the people and the development of every aspect of the Polish nation.

Islamic Art

Instructor: Chris Rilling

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Wednesday, March 22



Dear Community Partner,

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is pleased to present our Second Annual "Strike Out with the Ques Bowl-A-Thon." Strike Out is a family-oriented afternoon of fun aimed at benefiting the students of Rosa Parks Elementary School. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Timbers Bowling Lanes from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career-ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grades levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity. At Rosa Parks Elementary, the students learn to show respect for everyone, accept responsibilities and develop positive relationships. With continued community support, these young men and women will be the leaders of tomorrow.

We invite you to help us support our youth by sponsoring at one of the below levels. With your enthusiastic support, you will assist us in reaching our goal of raising \$6,000.

- As a \$500 **Presenting Sponsor**, your donation includes a 5-person bowling team and recognition on signage throughout the event.
- As a \$300 **Strike Sponsor**, your organization's name will appear on event signage throughout the event.
- As a \$100 **Spare Sponsor**, donors will appear on event welcome signage at the entrance.

If you cannot participate as a sponsor, please consider supporting a team of bowlers for \$125 or making a donation of any amount.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the great work being done at Rosa Parks Elementary, please visit <https://rosaparkselementary.tps.org/>. You can also call (419) 671-4350.

Yours in Service,

Christopher McClendon
Chair

Strongly influenced by the teachings of Muhammad, Islamic art encompasses traditions from a wide range of lands, periods of history and genres since the 7th century. Traditionally non-representational, it uses plant forms, calligraphy and geometric patterns to embellish sur-faces from small objects to large buildings.

Chris Rilling is both an educator and artist. After receiving a master's in art education from the University of Toledo, Chris taught art and art history at Owens Community College and North-view High School.

Art and Classical Music in the 20th Century

Instructor: David Enstone

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Thursdays, March 23 – April 6 (3 weeks)

During the 20th century both the Arts and Classical Music worlds evolved dramatically. In our first class we will discuss and analyze how, and to what extent, these two worlds changed, and how sometimes they influenced each other. The second class will focus specifically on the evolution of the US Abstract Expressionist Art Movement with an analysis of the works and lives of the artists Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still and Jack-son Pollack. The final class will focus on the lives and works of the composers Maurice Ravel, Gustav Holst, and Philip Glass.

David Enstone has previously taught classes on the Cotswolds, New Mexico, the United Kingdom, and classical guitar for Lifelong Learning.

The Papacy: The Best, Worst, and Most Important

Instructor: L. Paul Hood, Jr., JD, LL.M.

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Fridays, March 24 – 31 (2 weeks)

The papacy is the oldest, longest-continuously running institution in the world. Of the 266 Popes who have occupied the Cathedra Petri (Chair of St. Peter), some have been exceptional, e.g., Pope St. Gregory I the Great and Pope St. John Paul II the Great, while others have been forgettable to downright awful. Discover the best and worst ten Popes and the compelling evidence for these selections. The second-class meeting will reveal ten close calls, turning points, and transformational events in the history of the papacy.

A native of Louisiana, Paul Hood obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University and an LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center before settling down to practice tax and estate planning law in the New Orleans area. Paul has taught at the University of New Orleans, Northeastern University, The University of Toledo College of Law and Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law. A passionate history buff, Paul is a self-described amateur papal historian (boasting a personal library of papal history books that exceeds 100), and has given numerous speeches about the history of the papacy and the popes.

Old Masters of Baroque Art

Instructor: Sharon Havelak

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Friday, March 24

Baroque art is known for exuberant extravagance, ornate details, and theatrical lighting. Yet within this style are three distinct approaches. Explore the when, why, who and how of the three variations to better understand this grand art.

Snapshot: A Brief History of Photography

Instructor: Kristin Baldeschwiler

3:00 – 5:00 PM,

Thursdays, March 30 – May 4 (6 weeks)

Photographs capture moments in time, and this class will explore the major moments in the history of photography from the 19th through the 21st century. You will learn about the development of cameras and the printing processes developed by early photographers.

You will also meet the photographers who established and expanded this art form and examine the iconic images that have made an enduring impact.

Instructor Kristin Baldeschwiler received her BA in Art History from Lourdes University, works at St. Vincent Medical Center, and is the artist/owner of Baldeschwiler Art & Design, LLC.

Women's History Month Books for Kids by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Girls can do anything boys can do.

But you knew that, right? Well, once upon a time, almost nobody believed it, which is why, in March, we celebrate the accomplishments that women made when very few people thought they could. Here are some great picture books to learn more...

c.2023
Calkins Creek
\$18.99 each
40 pages each

After you read *The Brilliant Calculator: How Mathematician Edith Clarke Helped Electrify America* by Jan Lower, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Calkins Creek, \$18.99), you might think that something doesn't add up.

Edith Clarke loved numbers – she was fascinated by them – but all the grown-ups said that “Girls belong on the farm.” Lucky for all of us, Edith never paid attention to that. She ignored everyone, went to college, and then she became a teacher and a “human computer” for an engineering firm. She was also a big problem-solver, and this led to Edith becoming “America’s first female electrical engineer!” For kids who always wonder how things work, this book is excellent.

For the kid who hates doing household chores – especially the dishes! – *Josephine and Her Dishwashing Machine* by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Sarah Green (Calkins Creek, \$18.99) is a great book to have. It's the

story of one woman and a sink full of broken dishes. Josephine Cochrane hated that her good dishes were chipped and scratched almost as much as she hated washing them by hand. That chore took her away from doing the things she actually wanted to do. But the one thing Josephine believed was that for every problem in the world, “There must be a better way!” It was just up to her to find it, that was all. Her story is perfect for children who like to tinker and invent, and for those who want to improve the world.

Here's another book for the kid who wants to make a difference: *A Take-Charge Girl Blazes a Trail to Congress: The Story of Jeannette Rankin* by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (Calkins Creek, \$18.99). It's the story of a restless young woman who couldn't find her fit at home in Montana, so she traveled to California where she worked to help people in poverty. Her heart broke because of the children, and she vowed to do something. This led her around the country, working for the right for women to vote – and when she went home to Montana, she discovered that she still had work to do. But Jeannette Rankin was a can-do kind of woman and eventually, her work was a success! This is a great book for young activists, budding politicians, and for little girls who want to help others.

Any and all of these great books are for kids around age four to about age seven. They're inspirational, colorfully illustrated, interesting, and historically true but if they aren't what you're looking for this Women's History Month, be sure to ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. They can help you find almost any woman's story, for kids or for adults. It's just something they can do.

Faith-based Organization... continued from page 16

“This is truly a special occasion. There is a special joy when we of different denominations can gather together to celebrate together,” said Rev. Barger.

“We celebrate black history month every day. We celebrate because we know whose shoulders we stand on,” said Rev. Butler.

The service continued with Rev. Lee Williams of Search-Lite Community Baptist Church, who read the introduction of the featured program speaker. Bishop Darnell Sheares, Sr, the pastor of FreshWIND, served as the program's featured speaker.

“We thank God who brought us here for Kingdom business. Let's talk about, enough is enough,” said Bishop Sheares during the opening of his sermon. He connected the story of Rosa Parks, who sparked the Civic Rights Movement, when she was arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. “Rosa was tired. She worked a full day, her feet were tired. Enough was enough. As we face challenges, sooner or later we will say enough is enough.”

The service concluded with special recognitions of Chief Derrick Diggs, former Toledo Police chief, posthumously; Romules Durant, EdD, the TPS Superintendent; Toledo Police Department Lucas County Sheriffs; Brothers & Sisters United; Billie Johnson of the Area Office on Aging; and Rob-in Reese, former executive director of Lucas County Children Services.

The special presentation was presided over by program church Rev. Otis Gordon, DMin, closing remarks delivered by IMA President, Rev. Cedric Brock, DMin, and benediction by Bishop Sheares.

“Our task is to recognize just a few great people in this city of Toledo that made Toledo what it is,” Rev. Gordon

“Everyone that did a part on this program, did an awesome job. We work together as a team within the IMA,” shared Rev. Brock.

FreshWIND is located at 1421 S. Cove Blvd in Toledo, visit the website for additional information, thefreshwindchurch.com. For additional information about IMA, visit the IMA of Toledo Facebook page.



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CLASSIFIEDS

March 8, 2023

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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR & FINANCE DIRECTOR

THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOW HIRING for a full time Administrative Coordinator and a part time Finance Director. Deadline to apply is March 20, 2023. The Arts Commission is committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process and is an equal opportunity employer. For position details and how to apply, please visit TheArtsCommission.org/About/Employment

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – WEB-BASED APPLICATION PROGRAM

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) is seeking written quotations for the development of a web-based application allowing individuals in the community seeking help (community members, agencies, and organizations) to quickly identify behavioral health support services based on their unique needs. The web application would allow individuals to identify mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and other services in the continuum of care in Lucas County. An individual could filter their search by the distinct type of service needed, whether it be treatment, support, or crisis services. Once in the Services menu, an individual would see a list of available services within a broader category (such as crisis intervention, residential inpatient care, assessment, etc.).

The individual could filter their need further based on age and payment type. Once the specific provider offering the needed services and matching the individual's criteria is identified, the individual would have access to all required contact information and resources to engage with the provider.

The application would allow the Board to control content and update provider information quickly. The application would also provide real-time access to analytics on engagement to further inform the Board's ability to understand who is using the application and where to target education and outreach about this new tool.

The anticipated application build and implementation timeline would be around eight (8) weeks. The vendor would work collaboratively with the Board throughout the application buildout process and train Board Staff on front-end and backend functionality. Additionally, it is ideal that the vendor would provide marketing assets to allow the Board to launch the application quickly. Finally, once the application is launched, the vendor will provide ongoing maintenance and technical support to the Board as needed.

Previous experience working with Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards in Ohio is preferred.

To be considered, quotes must be submitted via email to sspinelli@lcmhrsb.oh.gov or sspinelli@lcmhrsb.oh.gov by No Later Than (NLT) 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) March 20, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals will be received by Pathway, Inc. until **4:00 p.m., April 7, 2023** for the selection of Provider(s) to implement IT Managed Services. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately **May 1, 2023** through **May 31, 2024**.

No proposals will be accepted after **4:00 p.m., April 7, 2023**; proposals that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **February 17, 2023**.

It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: www.pathwaytoledo.org

The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals.

POSITION AVAILABLE ACCOUNTANT

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high-quality civil legal assistance to people living in poverty, seeks an Accountant to provide services for ABLE and its partner, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO). This position will be based out of ABLE's Toledo office.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/to> to review full details for the position and apply.

ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

INVITATION AND INSTRUCTION TO INTERESTED LEGAL FIRMS

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is now accepting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for a Legal Consultant to provide Legal Services.

Please read the entire package before bidding, available at tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business/open-procurements. Interested firms shall make the necessary entry in all blanks provided for the responses.

SOQs submitted for evaluation by interested firms shall be evaluated according to the following criteria: a) Qualifications; b) Ability of professional personnel; c) Past record and experience; d) Performance data on file; e) Willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and f) Workload. Proposed costs shall not be considered in the evaluation of proposals unless and until contract negotiations commence.

Interested firms must respond completely and in the same numerical order in which the RFQ is issued. An interested firm's notes, exceptions, and comments may be rendered on an attachment, provided the same format of the SOQ text is followed. All notes, exceptions, and comments shall be made in ink or be typewritten. Mistakes may be crossed out and corrections typed or written in ink adjacent thereto and must be initialed in ink by the person signing the bid. All SOQs shall be returned in a sealed envelope with SOQ number and opening date stated on the outside of the envelope.

Sealed SOQs must be received at TARTA's offices located at 1127 West Central Avenue, or by mail to the above address and clearly marked with Legal Consultant's full name and address, telephone number and TARTA Legal Services SOQ, and sent to:

Sophie Giviyán
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
1127 W. Central Avenue
P.O. Box 792
Toledo 43697-0792

SOQs received after the 4 p.m. **deadline on March 7, 2023**, will not be opened.

Questions from interested firms and inquiries on the specifications of this SOQ shall be directed to: **Sophie Giviyán, sgiviyán@tarta.com**

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Faith-based Organization Hosts Black History Program

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) of Toledo and Vicinity hosted a community-wide Black History program on Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m. FreshWIND Church served as host church of the interfaith service.

Hand clapping praise and spirit-filled worship filled the sanctuary as the praise and worship teams of First Church of God and FreshWIND sang various selections. The service continued with the entire congregation singing the Black National Anthem. Rev. TK Barger, DMin, of First Unitarian Church of Toledo delivered the official program welcome; Rev. Will Henderson of L.E.A.D Community Church delivered the scripture text; Rev. Shirley Sparks led the prayer and Rev. Eric Butler of First Church of God delivered the statement of purpose.

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