



Volume 78 No. 3                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      May 10, 2023



**The Legacy of the Man Is a Legacy Unmatched!**

*Bishop Robert and First Lady Maggie Culp*

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# Larry James Touts Columbus Success in Advancing Black Cultural Sites

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

As part of the effort to launch the Dorr Street Project, Robert Smith and the African American Legacy Project hosted a luncheon gathering on Friday, April 5 at the Toledo Museum of Art. Friday's guest speaker was Larry James, a Columbus attorney who has been immensely successful in establishing the city's MLK Jr. Center for Performing & Cultural Arts and leading the renovation of the Lincoln Theatre.

The Dorr Street Project, as envisioned by Robert Smith, who founded the AALP almost 20 years ago, "is a volunteer-driven effort designed with the expressed intent of telling the story of how this community evolved. The Dorr Street Project celebrates those who came before us with the hope of stimulating both young and old to search for the intersect where investment meets opportunity," Smith has written.



Larry James

Friday's event at the Museum's Glass Pavilion which was moderated by Tiffany Tarpley, WTOL-TV anchor, featured a welcome by Adam Levine, TMA president, and remarks by state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson and U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur before the guest speaker James offered his thoughts on the successful development of a cultural arts center.



Robert Smith

Larry James has been part of the Columbus legal, business, civic and political scene for four decades. The managing partner of the law firm of Crabbe, Brown & James, he is a co-founder of the African American Leadership Academy, a board trustee for the Grater Columbus Arts Council, the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and the Columbus Urban League.

In 1987 James accepted the challenge of putting together a community board in a way to establish an arts tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The cultural arts institution, James noted, "started in a dilapidated [closed] school." His task was to first raise \$2.3 million to renovate the building and then to get the Black community on board and overcome its skepticism about the project and his ability to spearhead it.

First the board "started community concerts to reinforce the neighborhood and create memories," said James. After the Black community was involved, the "commercial community eventually became involved."

James offered a word of caution for those in his Toledo audience who wish to take on the same daunting task. "This word is going to be painful," he warned. "Getting started in the Black community and then getting the majority community involved."

As painful as that almost two decades experience was for James and his board at the King Arts Center, he took on another similar task in 2008 when the mayor sought him out to renovate the old Lincoln Theatre, a one time Black-only theatre during segregation times, and turn it into a thriving performing arts center.

Once again James used his connections to put together a stellar board and get the funds raised. Ultimately outstanding programming garnered the support of the community and now the Lincoln Theatre "is the most utilized theatre in central Ohio," he said.

In 2018 when the board started planning for a 100-year celebration of the Harlem Renaissance, they were able to bring together the city's black community in a way to showcase "Black art by Black artists."

According to James, the Washington Post reported of the Harlem Renaissance project that "New York tried it but Columbus got it right."

The King Art Center and the Lincoln Theatre are about five minutes apart, said James, and just last year, Franklin County Commission Kevin Boyce, suggested to James that he would like to start a Black-owned bank in the same area. The bank, due to Boyce's leadership, opened last week.

"Everything we thought about in 1987 has happened," said James as he concluded his speech.



Taron Cunningham



AALP Board Member Bernadette Graham, Larry James, AALP Director Robert Smith, Tiffany Tarpley



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# Leading with Empathy

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

The Truth Contributor

*It's not our experiences that make us or break us. It's our interpretation of and explanation for those experiences that ultimately determines who we become.*

– Mark Batterson



The single common denominator present in the majority of lives of most successful leaders is adversity.

For one, adversity creates relatable leaders with the ability and skills to understand a situation from others' perspectives and react by bridging a gap.

Researchers from the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) have found that "today's successful leaders must be more person-focused and able to work well with people from various teams, departments, countries, cultures and backgrounds."

In addition, adversity creates empathy. Not to be confused with sympathy, typically defined by feelings of pity for another person without understanding what it's like to be in their situation, according to CCL.

Instead, empathy fosters understanding and cuts across divisions in today's highly polarized world. Moreover, empathy correlates positively with job performance and leadership success.

This week's interview is with George Thomas, CEO of the Fair Housing Center.

We will see how adversity served as a hot kiln of preparation for developing his empathetic leadership style and resulting effective career. Here is our recent discussion.

**Perryman:** Let's first talk about your journey.

**Thomas:** I moved around quite a bit when I was young. I went to more than eight different grade schools, so housing stability was not always there. My mother had severe mental health issues, and ultimately, she took her own life when I was 17. So, I had a long journey starting with a lot of instability at the beginning of my life up and through my teen years.

**Perryman:** Tell our readers about your college education?

**Thomas:** That's an interesting story in itself. Nobody in my family had ever been to college before. My grandfather worked at Jeep, and most of my family was in the trades. So, although I didn't know my father, I have all the stories I heard about him. He was a union organizer and member of the IBEW and the Teamsters. So, I grew up with those stories. It was a bit out of place for me to go to college.

But at the time, there was a lovely young girl that I worked with at Target. She was like, 'Okay, well, now you're at the stage where you go to this orientation at the University of Toledo.' I had no idea what she was talking about, but I went with her to orientation day, and the next thing I knew, I was enrolled at UT.

I was very overwhelmed at that point in my life. I ended up transferring to Lourdes, where the classes were much smaller, and they had a lot of nontraditional students. That fit with me a lot better.

**Perryman:** You then attended UT Law School following graduation at Lourdes and passed the Ohio Bar Exam?

**Thomas:** Yes, Law school was when I first realized that the experiences that I had were very different from the vast majority of the people who were in law school.

At one point, we were in a large auditorium class, and the professor was making a point. He said, 'Everybody raise your hand if your parent was some kind of professional, either a doctor, a lawyer, or another professional.' I was really surprised. Until that point, it never really dawned on me that most folks had a different perspective and background.

At the same time, I don't know that I always fit in very well. But, that's when I realized I wanted to focus on legal aid or assisting people through the legal profession, some nonprofit, legal services, or public interest law.

**Perryman:** What was your first job after passing the Ohio Bar?

**Thomas:** Before passing the Ohio Bar, I worked for Judge C. Allen McConnell at the Toledo Municipal Court. He was the judge overseeing the housing and environmental court. I was the research clerk, so I worked on research and helped draft the court's decisions.

**Perryman:** Talk about your experience at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE).

**Thomas:** I applied for and received an Equal Justice Works fellowship for housing and community development work in the Old South End. It was an excellent experience to see things from a neighborhood and a development perspective, which was different from handling individual cases one at a time.

Then, I worked for the Medical-Legal Partnership at ABLE. That involved partnering with medical providers. I would assist the client with a legal issue that had health implications. I also completed some research studies on childhood asthma and the concentration of childhood asthma in urban areas of Toledo and implications to housing conditions and disinvestment in certain areas, and how our community should address that.

**Perryman:** What was your position at ABLE when you left?

**Thomas:** I was a senior attorney, overseeing and mentoring newer attorneys while working on various issues. Becoming a senior attorney gave me more freedom to work on community lawyering issues, meet with community groups, and identify legal strategies to reach their goals..

**Perryman:** When did you arrive at the Fair Housing Center, and what do you do there?

**Thomas:** I started employment here in January 2020. Before that, I collaborated with them on advocacy and a wide range of different issues, so it was a natural step to transition to the Fair Housing Center.

So, I started as the vice president and general counsel before becoming CEO. That meant I was working in one way or another on almost all the cases that the Fair Housing Center had, overseeing them and working on research and policy advocacy.

I also oversaw various aspects of the administration, applying for grants and other administrative aspects of the company, like the employee manual or other typical things.

**Perryman:** Who influenced you professionally or helped shape your legal perspective?



George Thomas

... continued on page 12





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# The Remedy to the Attacks on Our Democracy

By John E. Warren, Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper  
Special to The Truth

It is becoming increasingly clear that the only people who appear to believe in our form of democratic government are those who fight to uphold the Constitution of the United States. While we were organized with three separate branches of government: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary, it appears that only the Executive Branch is concerned about "We The People".



John Warren

Although we have operated with a two party system representing the different points of view of our society, that system has now collapsed so that we are becoming a nation as divided as the Kerner Commission officially called us in "The National Advisory Report on Civil Disorder".

The Kerner Commission report was called "a powerful window into the roots of racism and inequality in America." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called it "a physician's warning of approaching death, with a prescription for life".

Today, the Conservative Right, as seen in the behavior of the Republican Party, is no longer concerned about we the people or the oath that all of them, as elected officials, took to defend the Constitution of the United States. That document contains our Bill of Rights, guaranteeing the right to vote, due process and equality. Instead, we elected officials at all levels seeking to pass laws suppressing the right to vote, removing books from schools and libraries, denying the right to teach our history as it really was, slavery and all, and seeking to remove a woman's right to have control over her body, at the expense of death to her and imprisonment to doctors who seek to help her.

We now live in a nation consumed with removing basic rights while the

people of this great nation suffer denials of healthcare and food through our supplemental nutrition programs that are being cut. We live in a nation where those same Conservative Right lawmakers refuse to pass laws removing deadly firearms from our streets as they are being used to slaughter our children, family and neighbors. And now we have a Supreme Court, created as an independent third Branch of Government, with one third engaged in conduct of ethical questions and no objections from those in charge of that self governing body.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave us the remedy to these problems, in part, in his May 1957 speech in which he said: "Give us the ballot and we will elect men of character to give us the laws we need."

The problem is, too many of us have lost sight of the importance of our votes in a democratic society. There are more of us with the power to vote than there are those who want to do all the harmful things mentioned above.

The State of Georgia demonstrated to us that we can outvote those who are against us. If they had not voted, we would have lost Senator Raphael Warnock to a Black Puppet of the Conservative Right. It was the fight for the right to vote and for Civil Rights, with prayer, that got us both the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act when so many Americans were against the two.

Now we have allowed the Supreme Court to cut the Voting Rights Act, cancel Roe vs. Wade and move to roll back as many social gains as they can because the Court has been stacked with a Conservative Majority which believes it can't be touched.

But if we prepare now to elect those persons in 2024 that reflect our views, we can change a non-working and divided Congress into the instrument of the people it was intended to be. We can vote out those in favor of keeping guns on our streets. We can replace people at the state and local level who seek to restrict voting, ban books and change history. We can elect School Board members, City and State lawmakers, and can recall and discipline judges who think they are untouchable.

If we register, get informed of the issues and vote for those who will give us the desired change and not smiles and personalities, then we are the remedy!

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## The Sister City Luncheon at The Toledo Club

The Toledo-Tanga, Tanzania Sister City Luncheon held on Saturday, April 22, at The Toledo Club. The guest speaker was Rose Funja, from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

...continued on page 6

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# Bishop Culp's Legacy Is His Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Community Service

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Bishop Robert Culp, DMin, is a name that resonates deeply within the community, especially among those who have the honor of meeting him or benefiting from his tireless work as a community activist and religious leader. So integral is his presence and impact that he is affectionately known as 'The Bishop of Toledo'.

From his early days as a young, passionate leader and NAACP Toledo Branch president, to his more recent years as an elder statesman, Bishop Culp has been a driving force in advocating for civil rights, education and economic empowerment in Toledo and beyond. His unwavering commitment to social justice and his dedication to empowering those around him have earned him a place in our hearts across generations.

Bishop James Robert Allen Culp was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania to Fred and Esther Culp. He is a graduate of Sharon Public Schools, receiving his BA from Anderson University and his Master of Divinity from Anderson University School of Theology.

Bishop Robert Culp has received many early honors, including being named a Distinguished Alumni of Anderson University in 1976, and going on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Anderson University in 1989.

As chairman of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Anderson, Indiana, Culp had a strong foundation in faith that he used to guide him in all aspects of life. He is a man who believes in the power of education. His leadership extends far beyond the church, as he served on the Ministries Council and the Board of Trustees of Anderson University.

"While in graduate school I pastored the Williams Street Church of God in Danville, Illinois," says Bishop.

"Then in 1961 I was called to the First Church of God right here in our very own Toledo."

Under his leadership, First Church of God located on Collingwood Blvd. has thrived, reaching the community through their Christian school, the Four Corners Project serving youth and children and the FACTS and FORWARD program.

In response to the increasing need for support for those struggling with substance abuse, Bishop Culp founded F.A.C.T.S and F.O.R.W.A.R.D, two housing programs that offer support, counseling, and shelter to those in need. He also founded Sparrow's Nest, a homeless shelter operated by Cherry St. Mission Ministries, which provides shelter and resources.

Bishop Culp's efforts to empower the community extend beyond his charitable works. He also co-chairs the Toledo Community Coalition, a group that focuses on improving community-police relations.

His work with the Lucas County Fatherhood Committee, CASA/CRB (Court Appointed Special Advocates & Citizen Review Board), and Hope for Toledo Board has had a tremendous impact on vulnerable children and families.

"We must always remember that the children are our future," shares Bishop.

In the freedom era of 1966, Bishop was nominated as the Toledo Young Man

of the Year, recognizing his early potential and commitment to serving others.

The 1960s was a decade of tension and upheaval in America, marked by the Civil Rights Movement and the push for affirmative action. For Black Americans, the struggle for equal rights was a long and arduous one, filled with protests, marches, and violent clashes with police and white supremacists.

The landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

...continued on page 6



Bishop Robert Culp



Bishop and First Lady Culp celebrate Florie Huntley's 100th

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*Bishop Culp...continued from page 5*

were major victories of the time, but the fight was far from over. In many parts of Ohio, discrimination and segregation were still rampant, and the implementation of civil rights laws was met with resistance and hostility.

"All it takes is one small action from one person," says Bishop Culp. "I convinced the Toledo City Council in the late 60s to pass a fair housing ordinance against redlining. The voters overturned it but progress had begun!"

In recent years, the term "redlining" has become shorthand for many types of historic race-based exclusionary tactics in real estate. Federal law helped reduce the discriminatory redlining housing practices in Ohio, yet Affirmative Action which aims to level the playing field for minorities and women was, and is still today, a particularly contentious issue.

"I'm often an early supporter of unpopular opinions," says Bishop. "I generally choose what helps those most underrepresented and Affirmative Action is necessary to rectify past injustices and provide opportunities for those historically marginalized."

After many years of dedicated service Bishop Culp's work in promoting diversity and affirmative action was recognized. He received the Pace Setter Award for Affirmative Action in 2001, and the Goldberg Award in 2003.

"Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a profound impact on my life," explains Bishop. "He helped me grasp the relationship between Christianity and civil rights."

The city of Toledo has always been a beacon of hope for those who believe in the ideals of social justice and equality. The spirit of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. permeates through every aspect of our city, from Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge to the MLK Kitchen for the Poor. Toledo is a place where people of all races and religions are welcomed with open arms, and where the words of the great civil rights leader are still being echoed to this day.

At the heart of this movement was Bishop Robert Culp, a man who has been for the rights of African Americans for over six decades. He is a man who has seen the worst of humanity but has never lost faith in the power of the human spirit. "I met Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. just months before his assassination," explains Bishop Culp. "I have been inspired by the great leader's words to keep

fighting for what was right ever since."

Bishop Culp is a man who understands the power of community. At First Church of God, he built a family out of his congregation, and inspired them to dream bigger than the world would ever expect of them. He has been and continues to be a mentor to countless young men and women, helping them to see that they are capable of achieving anything they set their minds to.

In 2011, Bishop Culp received proclamations from many influential individuals and groups, including the President of the United States, Barack Obama, the governor of Ohio and the mayor of the City of Toledo.

Most recently Bishop Robert Culp received the 2023 Governor's Humanitarian Award. This award seeks to selfless advocates who promote the welfare of humanity and the elimination of pain and suffering through service, often without recognition.

Bishop Culp's influence continues to extend far beyond the walls of his church. As an advocate for African Americans telling our own stories, he works tirelessly to ensure that media outlets hire capable African American journalists. Bishop also stands side-by-side with other Toledo area ministers and community leaders pressuring those in power to make real change and has never lost sight of his ultimate goal: a world where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

For Bishop Culp, the fight for justice is a lifelong pursuit. He is a living legend, a testament to the power of the human spirit and the importance of standing up for what is right.

Bishop Culp has enjoyed being married to his wife Maggie for 61 wonderful years. They are the proud parents of four children and six grandchildren.

"Although I'm retired as lead Pastor, we are just as active in the Church of God as ever. Come join us," he says.

Bishop's work spans a wide range of fields. "We continue to be a driving force in the efforts to improve public transportation," shares Bishop. "We are working on that while increasing access to fresh and affordable groceries in our food deserts, too."

Bishop Culp served as senior pastor of the First Church of God in Toledo for 61 years. Since his retirement last September, Bishop Culp remains committed to his community and the causes he has fought for throughout his career. He is now helping to transform a closed satellite campus of the University of Toledo into a hub for community services and programming.

He sees community and connection as vital parts of his work, recognizing that residents often have the most valuable insights into what the city truly needs. He plans to continue his involvement in community organizations and projects, working to ensure that Toledo remains a vibrant and inclusive city for years to come. "I'm 81 years young and have a lot left to do," he shares smiling.

Bishop Dr. Robert Culp is a titan in our Toledo community; a shining star whose light brightens the lives of countless individuals. His achievements are many, each one a testament to his unwavering commitment to equality, diversity and community service.

Thank you for your dedication to social justice and the numerous community organizations and initiatives you've supported specifically aimed at improving the lives of African Americans.

*Sister City Luncheon...continued from page 4*

Funja is a business owner, drone instructor and best selling author. The fundraiser was to support the upcoming Drone Academy for junior and senior high school students, in Toledo and Tanga.

The committee will offer this training in the Fall of 2023, with its partners, The City of Toledo Parks and Recreation Department and The University of Toledo.

A ceremony recognizing ancestors – Virginia Haywood-Smith and Elders - Norman A. Bell, Sr. and Norma King was presented to replicate the presentation at the Sister City International-Africa Conference, in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2023.




Leslie Henriquez, Rose Funja, Frances Amison and Norma King

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# The Annual WEDO Awards Recognize Outstanding Area Business Women

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

The Northwest Ohio Women's Business Council held an event to encourage, celebrate and support women entrepreneurs who have achieved successful outcomes and have contributed to the economic atmosphere in our community.

The event was scheduled to award selected women business owners for their contributions to the community. The Women's Entrepreneurial Distinction Ovation Award (WEDO Awards) was arranged to establish impactful results in the community. The WEDO Awards are provided to support the success of the women who were nominated and selected for the win and also provided to share the inspirational stories of each woman entrepreneur who achieved success, despite struggles or obstacles.

Northwest Ohio Women's Business Council is an active member and contributor to the Women of Toledo's Economic Development Initiative. A nonprofit established in 2014, 'Inclusive For Women Inc.' is currently dba Women of Toledo: a local 501c3 nonprofit that supports the women of the community, by providing programs and services that address any barriers to women's growth and economic successful progress.

All of the women from The Women's Business Council, committed to the cause of supporting the community women, are acknowledged by The Women of Toledo program! All participants of both The Women's Business Council and The Women of Toledo have provided support to women everywhere in the community.

Many women were nominated and judges created a process to select the honorees for the 2023 award ceremony. The WEDO Award event was set up to share the inspiring stories of the five selected award winners: local women who have followed their dreams, established jobs and contributed to the community.

The beginning of the event consisted of networking: time to communicate with all attendees present in the facility and celebrate the success of women. The hosts established a networking room offering food, drinks, and a band providing musical entertainment. The communication/networking session was an opportunity to speak with the women who are committed to the community. The networking also provided motivation to others to activate community contribution!

"Nominations are now open for 2024, so push for successful entrepreneurs who have a successful impact in our community," said Sena Friedman, co-chair of the Women's Business Council. "It's important that their stories get told to help the women in our community. Celebrating these five incredible women, who have had an economic impact on our community, is truly an honor! This year's winners represent the entrepreneurial spirit that creates change and growth. These five women are truly a blessing to our economic development. Thank you to ALL who have contributed to make today happen."

The reception ended after the networking time and the Award presentation began. The reception period was created by numerous volunteers and various sponsors. Sponsor recognition was provided throughout the atmosphere to acknowledge all who



Ambrea Mikolajczyk, Jera Stewart and Tina Butts

... continued on page 11



(Left to right): Terrie Cook, Brenda Kynard-Holsey, Meg Ressler, Sierra Ortiz, Elizabeth Mohler, Karly Fulton, Felicia Roberts-Dunston, Cassie Tinta, Halina Schriefer, Martha McAnlis



(Left to right): Brenda Kynard-Holsey, Sierra Ortiz, Lisa Halsey, Elizabeth Mohler, Karly Fulton

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# Two Decades of Faithful Service Celebrated

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The corner of Monroe and Lawrence was filled with music and singing as the congregation of United Missionary Baptist Church celebrated the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Robert G Bass and First Lady Reverend Anita Bass.

The festivities began with Sunday morning service and continued with an afternoon service at 2705 Monroe Street in Toledo with the theme, "The Work I've Done Speaks," from Romans 8:28. The afternoon service welcomed Bishop John Williams, pastor of River of Life Church in Toledo and the congregation.



First Lady Rev. Anita Bass, Pastor Robert Bass

Rev. Troy Brown of United MBC served as the worship leader and led various portions of the service including the scripture reading, pastoral tribute and offertory prayer. The service opened with traditional hand clapping praise and worship selections, followed by the processional of Pastor Robert Bass who was escorted by Deaconess Mary Hawkins and First Lady Reverend Anita Bass who was escorted by Deacon John Hawkins.

River of Life Church sang two soulful selections and Bishop John Williams, pastor of River of Life Church in Toledo, delivered the proclamation of the Gospel.

Reverend Robert Bass became the senior pastor of United Missionary Baptist Church 20 years ago. In addition to his pastoral duties, Rev. Bass and First Lady Bass have three children and three grandchildren. Pastor Bass is in the final stages of completing his doctorate in Education and Organizational Leadership degree from Grand Canyon University. He is also the director of Business and Program Development at Owens Community College and Zepf board member.



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# Silver Anniversary Jubilee Honors Local Pastora

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Glass City Church of Christ congregation honored Pastor Robert Birt, DMin, and First Lady Winda Birt with a 25th silver anniversary jubilee celebration weekend. Festivities began on Friday, May 5 as guests and honorees gathered to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and games at Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metropark.

The festivities continued on Saturday with a concert at Bowsher High School, and concluded Sunday with a spirit-filled praise and worship service at Bowsher.

"I thank God for choosing me, my wife and my family for this endeavor. I am grateful for my wife and my family for their support. I thank Glass City Church of Christ for accepting me 25 years ago, I was from New Orleans and had never heard of the church of even Toledo," shared Pastor Birt.

Saturday's concert incorporated moments of appreciation and gratitude for Pastor and First Lady Birt, and various soulful selections. Alvin and Cynthia Sims of Detroit served as the program facilitators and asked the audience to rise to receive the Birt family. A warm welcome was presented by The Birt's Anniversary Celebration Team from Glass City and a prayer of thanksgiving was spoken by Minister Jerry Macon and First Lady Macon of Louisville, Kentucky.

"We're here to celebrate a wonderful time tonight. Let's celebrate and ush-

... continued on page 12



Glass City United a cappella chorus



Birt Family receiving prayer by Dorothy Dye, DMin, of Glass City



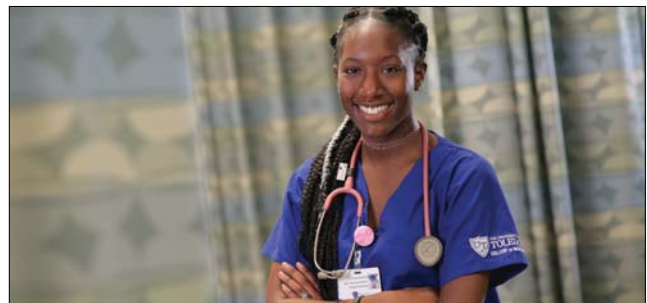
Robert Birt, First Lady Birt, Grandsons Kendrale and Zephan, granddaughter Kamarya and daughter Octavia



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A NURSING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



# A Party for the Ages at The Truth Colours Art Gallery

The Truth Staff

Nikola Welcome-Bovell certainly knows how to throw a party!

On Friday, April 28, Welcome-Bovell, the resident artist and curator of The Truth Colours Art Gallery, entertained guests with a sumptuous array of food and drink along with an evening of live music and spoken word.

"Rhythms & Poetry" was the title of the event and, true to that title, a number of musicians and poets held forth and captured the guests' attention.

The featured artists were: The Nat Hicks Singers; Dianne E'laine – a singer performer; poet Eddie White; saxophonist Shaw Highsmith and drummers Jaali & Wakeso Peterson and JP Dynasty.

Welsome-Bovell hosts a number of events at The Truth Colours Art Gallery. For more information on upcoming events or about the art available call 347-286-9227.



## LIVING WITH LUPUS

### 2023 EVENTS

**"You Can't Break Her Soul"**  
Donate A Wig & Join Us For A Night Of Fun!  
Friday, May 19th from 6 PM-1 AM  
The Trunk

**Wig Giveaway**  
Saturday, May 20th from 1-4 PM  
Mott Library (Pink Room)

**"9 is Fine" Bowling**  
Saturday, May 20th at 7 PM  
All Strikes Lanes

**Lupus Walk**  
Sunday, May 21st at 10 AM  
Ottawa Park (ProMedica Toledo Hospital Entrance)



The Weekend is Dedicated to the Loving Memory of Our Lupus Sister, **Schatzlia Depp** (10/16/88-3/28/23)

For inquiries, please contact **Rachelle Roy** at 419.304.1343

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# Simple Tips to Help Black Men Manage Blood Pressure to Prevent Stroke and Dementia

For many health conditions, Black/African Americans are impacted at disproportionate rates. High blood pressure is the leading modifiable risk factor for stroke, cardiovascular disease, and dementia. Black/African Americans are 50 percent more likely to have high blood pressure when compared to other racial and ethnic groups, and Black/African American men have the highest rate of uncontrolled blood pressure.

Many other factors can increase your risk of high blood pressure, including genetics and family history, having certain medical conditions, and lifestyle factors. While you can't change your genetics, there are many simple and effective lifestyle changes you can make that can help control your blood pressure and lower your risk of stroke and dementia later in life.

"People need to think about how they can decrease their chances of developing stroke and dementia in later life," said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Director of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). "With what we now know, controlling hypertension in mid-life is at the top of the list." That's why NINDS developed the Mind Your Risks® campaign to raise awareness of this important health topic and steps to take to lower risks.

## What is high blood pressure?

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the walls of your arteries when the heart is contracting and while it is resting. High blood pressure, also called hypertension, is blood pressure that is higher than normal. You can have high blood pressure without having any symptoms or warning signs associated with it, so it's important to check it regularly.

*Normal Blood Pressure for Most Adults:* Less than 120/80 mm HG

*High Blood Pressure:* 130 or higher/80 or higher mm HG

## How does high blood pressure lead to stroke and dementia?

- If your blood pressure stays high, over time it can damage brain blood

vessels and lead to a stroke.

- High blood pressure can also lead to other damage in the brain that has been associated with dementia, which can lead to problems with thinking, learning, and memory.

## How does high blood pressure, stroke, and dementia impact Black/African American men?

Black/African American men have higher rates of uncontrolled blood pressure. Uncontrolled blood pressure in early to mid-life leads to more opportunity for damage to the arteries, brain, and heart. These factors place Black men at higher risk for developing long-term complications, including stroke, cardiovascular disease, and dementia.

## How can I control my blood pressure to lower my risks?

You can take steps now to get—or keep—your blood pressure numbers in a healthy range to help prevent stroke and dementia later in life. These include:

- **Stay informed.** Discuss high blood pressure with your healthcare provider.
- **Take your medications.** Your healthcare provider may recommend taking medicine to prevent stroke and heart attack, especially if you have high blood pressure, diabetes, or elevated cholesterol.
- **Eat healthy and exercise.** Following a healthy eating plan and keeping physically active on a regular basis will significantly lower your risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and other health problems.
- **Quit smoking or using tobacco.** Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body, including the heart. Any amount of smoking, even light or occasional smoking, damages the heart and blood vessels.

Take charge of your health today. Because nobody can lower your risk of stroke and dementia like you. For more information, visit [mindyourrisks.nih.gov](http://mindyourrisks.nih.gov).

## WEDO Awards... continued from page 7

contributed to the event; appreciation was acknowledged to all volunteers as well as all sponsors.

The beginning of the award ceremony began with introductions and knowledge provided for understanding of the successful women involved.

"Here to celebrate great women. We have such excellent judges," said Olivia Holden, committee chair for WEDO Judges.

The WEDO judges included Dr. Soon-Young Yoon, Athena Golianis, Crystal Harris Darnell, Pamela J. Moore and Deborah Barnett.

"The judges are very active in our community. The co-chair, Sandy Spang, brings experience and her passion for small business owners. Especially women! Co-chair Sena Mourad-Friedman, is a motivation!" said Kathy Tucker, vice president Women of Toledo.

This year's honorees are: Noor Alexandria Abukaram; Erin Curley; Ambrea Mikolajczyk; Jeraldine Stewart and Tina Butts.

Abukaram, the founder of Let Noor Run, is the year's Rising Star awardee – a woman who is 25 or younger who has founded a successful business with promises for the future.

"I am grateful for the recognition and humbled to be amongst such incredible women entrepreneurs," said Abukaram. "This award not only celebrates our achievements but also ignites a flame of hope in aspiring entrepreneurs."

Curley, the owner and inspiration of Engage Studio Architects, is this year's recipient of the Second Act Award – a woman who draws inspiration from previous life and work experiences to find success as an entrepreneur.

"Giving back, volunteering your time, not being paid: gives back," said Curley. "Thanks you to those who nominated me. I have three quick words to share: Be Feisty, Be Fierce, Be Fearless."

Mikolajczyk, owner of ARK Restoration and Construction, is the Trailblazer

Awardee – an innovator, creator and leader who has broken new ground as a woman entrepreneur

"I feel so incredibly honored to receive this inaugural award, to be recognized for the hard work I do in the community restoring forgotten architecture and contributing to many causes in order to move the needle forward in my hometown is something I will always treasure," said Mikolajczyk. "A trailblazer to me is someone who presses forward! Thank you to The Women of Toledo. I know that God has me here."

Stewart, owner of Jera's Heavenly Sweet Bakery, is the Thriver awardee – a woman whose entrepreneurial leadership has grown and sustained a business meeting increasingly higher levels of achievement in revenue, job creation and market share.

"Winning this award just solidifies the fact for me that, with God, ALL things are possible," said Stewart. "For anyone interested in a business, make sure it's your passion!"

Butts, owner of Tina Butts Bail Bonds Service and founder of The Movement, is the Legend awardee – a woman we celebrate for a lifetime of entrepreneurial achievement, community impact and support of the success of others.

Award winner Tina Butts: "I transform every passion that I have into a business. That's why I love what I do and I hope to inspire you!"

The Women's Business Council strives to promote, support and celebrate entrepreneurship in the community. The 2023 WEDO Awards are the beginning of a new tradition. Nominations for 2024 WEDO Awards are open now! All are invited to nominate a woman entrepreneur or yourself for the future 2024 WEDO Awards. Nominations are possible at [NWOWBC.com](http://NWOWBC.com). The future plans will continue to recognize and acknowledge the excellence of women entrepreneurs in our community, to support improvement and growth in the atmosphere.



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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

**Thomas:** Early on, Judge McConnell was highly influential in how he would think and talk about things. It was important to be around another, much more experienced attorney. I studied for the Bar exam then, and Judge McConnell's mentorship was extremely valuable.

Also, my father had been very close with an attorney named Jack Gallon, associated with Gallon and Takacs. Interestingly, throughout my childhood and up until not long before he passed away, I would talk with him occasionally. Because he was friends with my father, I could stop by his office and talk with him even when I was young. That was something that maybe a lot of kids don't have - to know a professional and see what they do. That was more influential than I may have understood until recently.

When I was at ABLE, there was an attorney named Aneel Chablani, who was my supervisor for most of the time that I was there. Also, another Fair Housing attorney that I worked with, named Steve Dane. So many people say that being able to work with him on cases is hugely beneficial.

Finally, there are other people. Again, I am not making this up; you, Rev. Perryman, have been very influential in how I think about things or try to meet with the community and work on items from the community's perspective and accomplish goals that the community identifies.

There was another attorney I supervised; even though I was her supervisor, she influenced me, Aisha Sleiman. The way she would think about how to approach things, not just the legal aspect of it but how to approach the desire to meet the community where they are and try to accomplish goals from their perspective, was empowering to me.

**Perryman:** What is your philosophy of lawyering?

**Thomas:** My whole career has been dedicated to nonprofit, legal aid and public interest attorney work. So, listening carefully to the client community you're serving and trying to see things from their perspective is essential. So, it's been my theme to identify and act on their goals and, with that perspective.

**Perryman:** Please discuss what you are trying to accomplish as the Fair Housing Center's leader.

**Thomas:** The Fair Housing Center needs to grow to meet the needs. More and more, housing stability is being understood as a central issue. The availability of safe, affordable housing is a key piece in solving the many social problems and creating a country of communities where that's the norm.

We are constantly getting pulled into issues related to the rental market, which makes sense because the number of renters is increasing. So, we cer-

tainly want to pay attention to that area. However, we also want to remember that home ownership is still a significant way of building wealth, particularly because recent studies have shown that the gap in homeownership rates between Black and white residents is increasing over time. So, getting access to credit opportunities always has been an important issue.

**Perryman:** So basically, the lack of safe, affordable housing is connected to adverse health outcomes such as exposure to respiratory and toxins such as lead or asthma, increase the rate of crime and violence, and other things?

**Thomas:** Exactly. The individual home that you have access to impacts the family living there in every aspect of their life. At the center point of all these societal issues is the home, the roof that you have over your head.

My hope in the next year is to build more awareness around that issue and then form some community coalitions that work collaboratively on those kinds of issues.

**Perryman:** Finally, what traits or skills are best for a public interest lawyer?

**Thomas:** The ability to research very quickly is vital because if you are trying to have a community lawyering perspective, your clients don't think about things within the parameters of certain areas of legal expertise. For example, they don't think in terms of this is a land use issue or this is a criminal law issue. Or, this is a legislative advocacy issue. So, you must be adaptive, which means you must be able to research different problems quickly and develop potential solutions quickly.

The other piece is that the ability to listen and a deep level of empathy are critical. You have to be careful with that, though, because I've seen - especially younger folks in this realm of advocacy, whether it's fair housing advocacy or otherwise - they may be extremely passionate, and I very much appreciate that. Yet, you also have to also be strategic.

I've heard a quote, and I'm not sure whom to attribute it to, but they said: 'The best community organizers don't get enraged; they don't boil over. Instead, it's a constant low boil.' So that means they're very empathetic, they're very hard-working, but they also are very strategic because you don't want to get so passionate that you don't see weaknesses in a potential strategy to approach an issue.

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

*Silver Anniversary Jubilee... continued from page 9*

er in the spirit," shared Alvin Sims

Selections were presented by United Acappella Chorus of Glass City, MWCC Praise Team which included Terri Jackson from Dallas, Texas and Michele Glass from Winter Haven, Florida, and also David Calhoun & Journey from Detroit. Special recognition was presented by Vanessa Lynn of Glass City on behalf of Toledo City Council members Vanice Williams, Cerssandra McPherson and Matt Cherry. Terrie Miller of Glass City presented a memory book and Robert and Lorraine Cannon presented the benches.

Kaliah Barringer of Glass City offered a spoken word, Matt and Ginger Brooks of Glass City presented a faithful journey, Nicole Williams of Glass City gave a tribute from Children's Worship, video presentations of gratitude were shared from Shelly Ulrich of Glass City and Marva Jones from Glass City. Words of encouragement and tributes were presented by Michele Williams, Pastor Cedrick Brock of Mt Nebo, Minister Kevin Syph, Rev. James H Willis, the pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Otis Gordon, the pastor of Warren AME Church, Robert and First Lady Karen Brewington, future Elders of Glass City, future Deacons of Glass City, present Deacons of Glass City.

The celebration also included The Birt's family special presentation to First Lady Birt and Pastor Birt. Joyce Henderson introduced the guest speaker, Dorothy Dye, DMin, of Valdosta, Georgia. Closing song performed by Dominic Lemon of Harvey, IL and closing prayer by Minister James & Ivy Kent.

The 25th anniversary planning committee included: Terrie Miller, Joyce Henderson, Eddie Hall, Ginger Brooks, Gary Burks, Lynn Burks, Mikita Bush, Lorraine Cannon, Robert Cannon, Leslye Colbert, Joy Gregory, Dorothy Hill, Nadeline Jones, Charles Jones, Lisa Lonas, Tony Lonas, Vanessa Lynn, Donald Lynn, Pat Lyons, Nicole Williams and Cheryl Wilson.

"We started working on this in September of last year. Dr. Birt and First Lady Birt have been such a blessing to us," shared Terrie Miller during the welcome address from the committee.

"I want to thank Terrie Miller and her committee for their hard work. I appreciate it, and I know my wife and my family appreciate all of the love that we have received. We need to all remember to never look down on a man unless you're helping him up," shared Pastor Birt.

The Silver Anniversary weekend was organized to show gratitude and love to Pastor Birt and First Lady Birt for 25 years of service and leadership. The church is located at 901 Hoag Street in Toledo.

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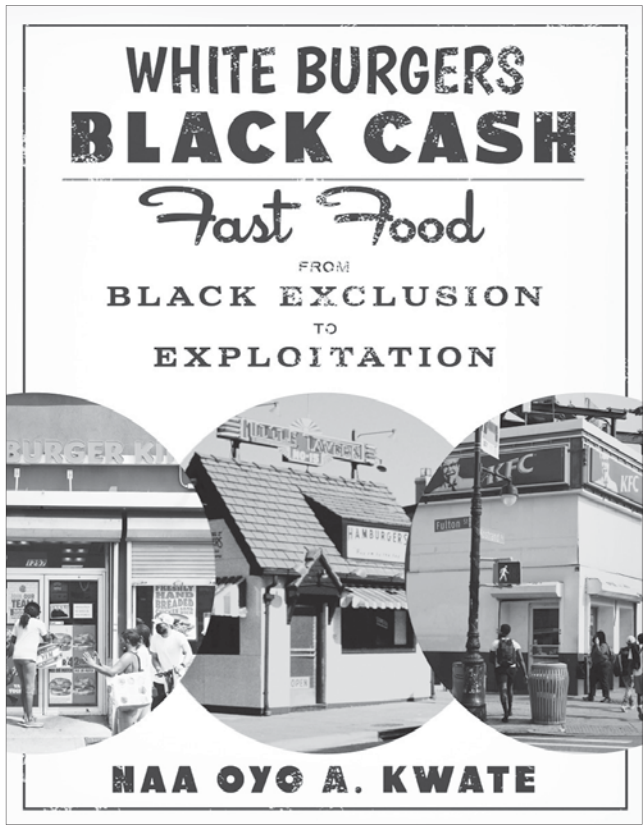
# White Burgers, Black Cash: Fast Food from Black Exclusion to Exploitation by Naa Oyo A. Kwate

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Hold the pickles, no mustard.

Double patty, add bacon, fried onions, that's how you like your burger. As for chicken, well, it has to have cheese, and there must be something salty-crunchy on the side or it's not a complete meal. Yeah, Mom could sure cook but not like this, and in the new book *White Burgers, Black Cash* by Naa Oyo A. Kwate, you'll see why fast food was slow to come to Black communities.

c.2023  
University of Minnesota Press  
\$29.95  
451 pages



Though restaurants certainly existed before the turn of the last century, fast food joints “took root in the early 1900s, when the earliest...chains began.” White Castle, with their oniony square burgers, is widely considered to be the first; later, KFC, Burger King and McDonald’s became the juggernauts of the industry, and something set them apart.

The first fast food restaurants, says Kwate, “did not include Black folks,” whether explicitly or implicitly when restaurants weren’t built in their areas. While high-end establishments and wealthier homes employed Black waiters, fast food was “almost exclusively White,” from kitchen to booth.

In the 1920s, though, franchisees started noticing that they were leaving money on the table. Slowly, fast food restaurants were built in areas once ignored – possibly, says Kwate, for profit or perhaps because developers saw it as a way to keep Black diners from White neighborhoods. There was controversy about the new additions – citizens of both races thought the restaurants were “a nuisance.” After a time, some already-established restaurants were accidentally found in Black neighborhoods because of “White flight.”

By the latter half of the 1960s, Black investors were finally invited to buy in as franchisees; in addition, some White operators were ordered by their home franchise to sell a percentage of their sites to Black citizens. This led closer to the equality Black operators wanted, but with a price: by the turn of this century, “studies began to mount... showing that residential proximity to fast food mattered for health.”

“Black youth,” says Kwate, “were especially at risk.” Looking for something light to read while you enjoy your basket meal with onion rings? This book is interesting, but it isn’t like that.

Like a triple-patty super-sized sandwich, *White Burgers, Black Cash* is much heavier than you might expect, at first glance. Author Naa Oyo A. Kwate dives deep into her subject, beginning years before the first White Castle opened – and that narrative includes neighborhood names, street names, and competitors’ locations, which likely won’t mean much to many readers. There are pictures in here but those, too, often have inadequate context. Still, it’s worth biting into this book because of its wider focus on racism and what White America was doing at this time, and its inclusion of other, more social history that’s relevant to this subject.

Readers who can consume this book slowly, and chew on its information with careful thought will get more out of it than those who want a fast book about fast food. *White Burgers, Black Cash* deserves more cogitation, and you won’t even need fries with that.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

May 10, 2023

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LABOR RELATIONS SERVICES RFP23-R006

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Labor Relations Services in accordance with RFP23-R006**. Received in accordance with law until **May 26, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (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.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, Ohio is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): **Vice President of Development & Modernization**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. **Deadline: 05/20/23**. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LUCAS COUNTY CANINE CARE & CONTROL (LC4) – BID PACKAGE 3

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Lucas County Canine Care & Control (LC4) – Bid Package 3. This Bid Package involves procurement of mechanical equipment, electrical equipment, and furnish/install of building structural steel.

Bids are due May 23, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Bidding documents are available online at BuildingConnected. To receive an invitation to access these documents, contact Andy Wren at (419) 725-3291.

One (1) set of bidding documents will be available to review at no charge, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., at 6494 Latcha Road, Walbridge, OH.

This project has MBE/WBE requirements.

## DIRECTOR OF MAJOR GIFTS AND PLANNED GIVING

WGTE Public Media is seeking an accomplished Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. Candidate will be a front-line fundraising professional responsible for securing funds for the organization by strategically managing a portfolio of prospects and donors with a giving potential of five figures or more. The Director creates and maintains relationships, connecting donor interests to WGTE Public Media's priorities and includes identifying, qualifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding major and planned gift prospects and donors. Retaining and upgrading existing donors through strategic engagement and stewardship is expected. This person is detail and goal-oriented, with demonstrated skills in relationship building, project support, information management, and verbal and written communication. The Director will work to increase annual revenue, identify new sources of support, and drive the major and planned giving strategy. A bachelor's degree, CFRE, a minimum of 5 years of sales or fundraising experience, experience crafting gift proposals resulting in five and six-figure gifts from individuals, strong prospect research skills, and thorough knowledge of estate and charitable gift planning are preferred.

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## TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

**Multiple Assistant Public Defender and TLAS Fellowship positions:** Successful candidates must be licensed with the Ohio Supreme Court. Graduates from an accredited college of law that are awaiting Ohio bar results; have a UBE score that transfers to Ohio; or are eligible for Practice Pending Admission will be considered. Please see <https://www.nlada.org/node/63311> for more detailed descriptions.

**Case Manager/Social Worker:** Opportunity Project Case Managers identify client needs and provide meaningful connections to behavioral health and other services. LCDC II, LSW, LISW, LPCC, preferred but not required. Please see <https://www.nlada.org/node/63321> for more detailed descriptions.

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$27,250.00 for one person or \$31,150.00 for two people.

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## CHORISTERS NEEDED

Toledo Opera is holding auditions for small roles and chorus positions for the 2023-24 season. The 2023-24 season will feature: Rossini's *Cinderella* (August - October 2023 commitment), Gounod's *Romeo & Juliet* (November 2023 - February 2024 commitment), and the Broadway musical *Ragtime* (February - April 2024 commitment), on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. Auditions will be held at Toledo Opera Offices, 425 Jefferson Ave., Suite 601. Toledo Opera is seeking the following singers:

### *Cinderella* by Gioachino Rossini

October 6 & 8, 2023

Valentine Theatre

Twenty (20) lower voices: tenor, baritone, bass. Music rehearsals begin on August 6 and run weekly on Sundays. Staging rehearsals will begin September 18 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

For more information regarding auditions, visit <https://www.toledoopera.org/performances/auditions-2023-2024/>. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at [jnorman@toledoopera.org](mailto:jnorman@toledoopera.org). For more information about the 2023-24 season, visit [toledoopera.org](http://toledoopera.org). For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at [rcammarn@toledoopera.org](mailto:rcammarn@toledoopera.org).



# The Hillards' Walls and Walls of Fame

The Truth Staff

George Hillard, and his wife Gloria, have lived on Torrington Street for almost 50 years, enough time that a park at the end is named in their honor and eventually the street itself will probably names for him.

However, George isn't waiting to seize the opportunity to create memorials to those in the couple's life who have been so important to them.

Hillard, a retired chief operator at Sun Refinery has worked on Democratic political campaigns for decades, for just about every Democratic elected official during that time. And during that time, he has set up memorial to those officials, to family members, to sports heroes in his home. In his garage to be precise.

Hillard has created walls and walls ... and walls of fame on his ga-

rage walls. Local elected officials have a prominent place. And so has President Obama – George was closely connected with presidential campaigns here and even attended an inaugural.

Family, though, is hugely important and with so many photos from over the years, siblings, offspring, older generations, younger and young generations are also represented.

And what would such a memorial be without the presence of The Greatest – the G.O.A.T. Muhammad Ali through the years, of course!

It's not just the walls though. In recent years, having un out of most of the garage walls' room, George has started on the ceiling. Anyone could spend hours just going from photo to photo and listening to the history behind so many of them.



**Backyard Gardens Family Food & Fun**  
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**June 13, 2023, 6 to 8 p.m.**  
**First Unitarian Church of Toledo, 3205 Glendale Ave.**

Yes...gardening is work and brings a reward ... AND can be fun...but make no mistake it's a lifestyle that helps sustain your family especially during climate change and is worth the work.

Come learn more ... kids activities...have a **FREE** walking taco. (as long as they last).  
**Enter to win one of 10 native plants. Receive a free tree seedling & free native plant seeds from Wild Ones.**

Visit with following folks about their efforts to help us all grow our own food and live more sustainably.

- **Homestead Gardens**—Learn about backyard gardening in-ground and in pots to supply food for the family. Chickens do their part with daily eggs. Pollinator plants help to keep the bees and us alive!
- **Solar Power** — Tina Baker will tell her story of installing and benefitting from in her backyard panels.
- **Community Gardens**— Learn about how gardens have been established around the city and how to grow and eat the healthy food produced. You'll also learn of the benefits of the native plants in the garden.
- **Turning Vacant to Green**—Sierra Webb will tell you about how Urban Wholistics is growing gardens on what was vacant, abandoned property in the city.
- **Church Gardens** — Take a tour of the Unitarian rain garden which captures rain runoff from the parking lot and learn about the Monroe St. United Methodist's neighborhood garden.
- **Importance of Trees**— Tom McDonald of Tree Toledo will talk about the importance of trees to our environment and he'll bring seedlings to give away.
- **OSU Extension Office**—Learn about Lucas County 4H Clubs and other aspects of its work.

**THANKS** to Unitarian David Strickler who will welcome us all with his guitar and singing.  
 The Unitarian Church is sponsoring this Unitarian Action event because one of the Unitarian's principles is to have "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

**UNCF LUNCHEON**  
 MAYOR'S LUNCHEON  
 TOLEDO 2023

EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO BETTER FUTURES

**REGISTER NOW**  
 Friday, May 12, 2023  
 Glass City Center | 401 Jefferson Avenue | Toledo, OH 43604  
 11:00 a.m Networking/Registration | 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Program



# Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Holds Annual Senior Recognition Program

The Truth Staff

The members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, In, Toledo Alumnae Chapter held its annual Senior Recognition Program on Thursday, May 4, at Bowsher High School and honored 38 graduating high school seniors from across the area.

After headshot photos taken of the seniors by Ambershaun Miller of Abyrdseyephoto, the program opened with welcomes from the Recognition Committee members and Chapter President Tonia Pace. The audience of students and parents learned the history of both the national organization and the local chapter.

Then attendees were treated to an address by guest speaker Karolyn Drone Smith, author, motivational speaker, wellness coach and founder of Self-Elevate, a platform that empowers women.

This year's Recognition Committee include: Tiffany C. Bailey; Roxanne Allen; NaTasha Baker; Shannon Tisdale Carter; Tia Daniels and Kaylene Miller.

This year's seniors recognized for their academic achievement by the Deltas are: Bowsher High School's Amaiya Criss, Navaeh Holifield, Kennedy Kihumbu, Triston Morehead, Jordyn Smith and Sha'Nyla Tucker; Central Catholic's Autumn Bates; Jones Leadership Academy's Christen Edwards, Aur'Miah Mims and JeLena Williams; Notre Dame Academy's Danielle Donkor, Kennedy Jefferson and Laila Rivers; Rogers High School's My'Lah Hamlett, Da'Nyah McWilliams, Savanna Sweeney and Mylah Williams; Start High School's Mya Gowdy, Mackenzie Stewart,



Seniors with Recognition Certificates

Vivian Stewart, Diamond Turner and Nori Washington; St. Ursula's Sydney Gregory; Toledo Early College's Amaree Armstrong, Cynthia Barrett, Kaylee Britt, Camryn Haynes, Zaria Spidell and Janet Whitney; Toledo School for the Arts' Jazz-Minn Coleman, Madison Fisher, Mikayla Jordan, Samiah Robinson, Caitlyn Scott and Kailyn Sherman and Woodward High School's Za'Niya Allen, Rakaisha Hall and Rochelle Watson.



Tia Daniels; Kaylene Miller; Tonia Pace - Toledo Alumnae President; Tiffany Bailey; Na'Tasha Baker; committee members not present - Shannon Carter and Roxanne Allen



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So much to do...  
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