

*Lupus Awareness Weekend Is Only a Few Days Away!*

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# A Closing Bow: The Reflections of a Legendary Leader

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.  
The Truth Contributor



*You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get others interested in you.*

— Dale Carnegie

Bishop Robert Culp will punctuate an illustrious career as leader of the First Church of God Church when he takes a joyous and electrifying curtain call on Saturday, May 20, at the Hilton of Toledo.

The gifted storyteller, inspirational pastor, and community leader will step away from the spotlight after 61 years of shepherding the historical First Church congregation at 3016 Collingwood.

Although Culp steps out of the limelight, don't expect him to sit in a rocking chair and do nothing. As a transformative leader, his schedule continues to be active, and he already has planned his next act, even if he has not revealed his plans publicly.

Instead, Saturday's curtain call symbolizes the culmination of a lifetime of dedication, passion, hard work, and service to his congregation and community.

I spoke with Bishop Culp to discuss his reflections on his impactful career. Here is our conversation.

**Perryman:** Your schedule is still active, so what does retirement mean for you?

**Culp:** It means that my successor asked me to stay on as what he calls his spiritual advisor. I am at church three or four days a week. It's not doing what I usually would, so my most significant task at church has been aiding the transition to a new pastor.

**Perryman:** What advice would you give to ministers starting as pastors?

**Bishop:** For the first five years I was here, I attended church on Sunday, but the rest of the week, I spent it out in the community. I was part of the IMA and the NAACP in the 1960s because I had time to devote to those activities. Plus, it allowed me to look at what I thought of in terms of good successful pastors. Samuel Coleman at Mt. Pilgrim and Elijah Benton took me under their wing; they were encouraging and helpful. CJ Johnson was a good friend and helper who taught me how to deal with white folks. You can't simply disagree with them, protesting and the whole bit. If you're going to make headway, take private time with them, and become their friends, which helped me terrifically.

That probably was it, that I could be effective with the community, not just my own church. As a result, the church grew and became significant in the community. The first few months I was here, people had never even heard of the First Church of God and didn't know where we were or what we were about.

**Perryman:** What will you miss most about pastoring?

**Culp:** Probably the interaction with people. From childhood, I've always liked people, even strangers, I'd start conversations with them when I was a kid. That's what I will miss the most, but I'm permitted now to do it still, and I enjoy the community events and things. I still show up as much as possible now because I enjoy people. My dad taught me to make every person your friend, even if they're your enemy, and never raise your voice when you're talking to them. He said if you treat people that way, you disarm them. You'd be much more effective in dealing with them, and it's

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# A Word about Our Friend ... the "N" Word

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

Yeah, yeah. I played the Twitter excerpt of the Oakland A's baseball color announcer using the "N" word when he was gushing about going to the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Kansas.

Truth be told, the announcer was quite smooth and suave when that "N" word rolled off his tongue as honey touching a hot spoon. No delay. No premeditation. No pursed lips... just, "N"!

And what makes this clip even more tragic is that his co-anchor kept bopping to the sound of the "N" word and did not so much as miss an eye blink when his best bud said it.

It was as if everyone were entirely at ease with swinging the "N" word about as a batter would be with an inside fast ball. Americana as blueberry pie. As easy as saying, "We are going to "Disneyland!"

No effort to conceal. No attempt to say, "Negro." Just an unabashed joy of uttering the "N" word with full, unbridled freedom of speech to say what is in your heart of hearts.

Of course, the now embarrassed sports announcer made a belated public apology and was almost willing to wear a hair shirt and thorns in his pants if that what it took to convey his shame and sorrow of uttering the "N" word.

I am thinking that the now mortified sportscaster was so flummoxed in describing his visit to the museum that he got tongue tied in describing the trip that he unintentionally (?) allowed the "N" word to substitute for the word, Negro.

Lest we forget, America was steeped and boiled and drenched and marinated in using derogatory words describing Black people going

... continued on page 11



Lafe Tolliver



Bishop Culp





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**Bishop Robert A. Culp**

**On Sunday**  
**May 21, 2023 - 10:00 A.M.**  
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**Guest Speaker**  
**Bishop Timothy J. Clarke**  
*From*  
**First Church The City**  
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# Lucas County Commissioners Choose Downtown Toledo for New Detention Center

Special to The Truth

The Lucas County Commissioners today announced that the new county pre-trial detention center will be built on a three-acre site at Canton and Southard streets, one block away from the current jail in downtown Toledo.

"We are thrilled to announce that the new county jail will be located in the downtown area, in close proximity to the Common Pleas Courthouse and the municipal courthouse. This location not only allows for efficient operation and state-of-the-art facilities, but also demonstrates our commitment to listening to the community and choosing a site that is appropriate for the area and neighborhood. Acquiring this land presented the perfect opportunity for us to make the logical decision and we are confident that will be the right place for the new jail," Commissioner Pete Gerken said.

During last week's meeting, the Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to authorize the Lucas County Economic Development Corporation to act on their behalf to complete the purchase of property owned by law firm Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP to obtain additional land for the jail project.

The new jail will have the capacity to house 430 people and provide in-house infirmary care for 24 inmates. There will be a separate dedicated first-floor unit to house 48 females. The new jail will be designed with dormitory living spaces that hold up to 48 inmates each in a normative environment under direct supervision, which will provide operational efficiencies.

It also will have sections for administration and operations, booking, specialized housing for youthful offenders (18 to 25 years old), senior inmates, and mental health beds to provide a full continuum of mental health treatment services.

"We recognize that 60 to 66 percent of the people being held in our jail have some form of mental illness and 26 percent of them have serious or persistent mental illness. That's why the new facility will have mental health housing

where inmates can be assessed and treated by qualified mental health professionals," Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak said. "By addressing the mental health and addiction issues of inmates, we hope to break the revolving door cycle and help them function better on the outside after they are released."

The boundaries of the new jail will include Canton, Southard, and 12th Streets. The County's Facilities Department, currently located at Canton and Southard, will be demolished to make way for the new detention center. Together, the Facilities Department Building and the land being acquired from Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick will provide three acres of land for the new jail.

The Facilities Department will be relocated later this year into a county-owned building at 1301 Washington St. Commissioner Lisa A. Sobecki said: "The new county jail will be funded through a variety of sources, including state and federal grants, general fund revenue, and operational savings, and we will continue to pursue additional funding opportunities. We are committed to a safe environment for the people housed there, visitors, and the officers who work there. By using a direct supervision model, we can encourage behavior modification and create a normative environment, and at the same time achieve operational efficiencies."

The new pretrial facility will be two levels with a partial basement and approximately 217,000 square feet. The design, construction materials, and colors will complement existing buildings in the area and a garage entrance on 12th street will allow vehicle access into the new jail to allow for transportation of inmates to the courts. Completion of the new detention center is planned for fall of 2026. The Commissioners will break ground on the project later this year.

## Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

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# Black Leaders Across Ohio Mobilize Black Voters To PROTECT ONE PERSON ONE VOTE

When the 135th General Assembly passed amended Senate Joint Resolution 2, they destroyed the principle of one person, one vote. The amendment changes the threshold to 60% to pass an amendment, giving greater power to a NO vote than a YES vote on citizen-led amendments to the Ohio

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# Coalition Explains Lawsuit Against Voucher Programs and Calls for Action

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

A coalition that includes Toledo Public Schools, Toledo Federation of Teachers, the Ohio Coalition of Equity and Adequacy of School Funding, and also Vouchers Hurt Ohio organized a meeting to rally supporters against Ohio's proposed expansion of school vouchers at the Downtown Library on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Attendees included school administrators, teachers, parents and residents.

In January 2022, Vouchers Hurt Ohio filed the lawsuit in Franklin County Common Court. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality under five separate claims, requiring that each claim receives a separate decision as the suit proceeds through the justice system.

According to Bill Phillis, executive director of Coalition of Equity & Adequacy in School Funding, the Attorney General for Ohio tried to get the case dismissed but a judge ruled against it, allowing all five claims to advance. The case could be ultimately decided by the Ohio Supreme Court some time in the future. "Vouchers could easily pass the legislature but not the court system. The lawsuit is a slow process but it is moving forward," said Phillis.

According to Vouchers Hurt Ohio's website, 140 school districts out of 611 have signed on in support of the lawsuit. Attendees were asked to urge their school boards to issue a resolution to join the lawsuit.

"Lobby your school board members in your district to join this lawsuit, 220 districts have already signed up," shared Polly Taylor-Gerken, Toledo Public School board member.

One of the speakers also mentioned that the following local school district have not signed up for the lawsuit: Anthony Wayne, Oregon and Maumee. He noted that these districts could be waiting for the resolution to come from the superintendent.

Critics of the existing voucher program cited concerns.

"Vouchers for Ohio hurt kids, teachers and communities. If a student attends Washington Local Schools, the district receives \$4,200 but if that same student attends a private school that school would receive \$7,500. We accept every student. This universal voucher program will hurt the schools, students, teachers and community worse. This is a winning lottery ticket for private schools," said Kadee Anstadt, Washington Local Schools superintendent.

"The only real choice is for the private schools because they choose whether to admit your child or not. The power is not with the student or the parent," shared Ryan Lockwood, Springfield Local Schools treasurer.

Taylor-Gerken shared stories of 22 students who had difficult experiences with the Ohio voucher program. Of the shared stories, the common themes were that each student owed a balance for the private school tuition which threatened his or her ability to graduate. There were some students who were able to graduate with assistance from others to pay off the balance, others who decided not to graduate and others who delayed graduation.

According to the Ed Choice website, the voucher is called the Ohio Income-Based Scholarship Program that determines eligibility to receive a voucher to a private or non-public K-12 qualified school based off income and other



Teresa Fedor, Dennis Willard, Bill Phillis, Kadee Anstadt and Ryan Lockwood



criteria. The voucher can be awarded up to \$5,500 for students in grades K-8 and \$7,500 for students in high school.

Families that are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level cannot be charged the difference between tuition and the voucher, meaning students above 200 percent will owe the balance between tuition and the voucher. The program has seen a steady increase of participation, in 2014 1,051 students participated in the program in 2022 over 20,000 students participated.

In addition to speaking in support of the lawsuit earlier in the meeting, Teresa Fedor, Ohio State Board of Education member spoke against Ohio House Bill 11 and Ohio Senate Bill 11. "It will move control of public education to the Governor's office," said Fedor. "There will be little oversight and will fall into a black hole. It was moved with an Ohio constitutional amendment to create a separate branch to focus on public education. These republicans have been in power for over 30 years and have failed our children and our communities."

The meeting included the following speakers: Polly Taylor-Gerken, TPS board member; Bill Phillis, Executive Director, Coalition of Equality & Adequacy in School Funding; Teresa Fedor, Ohio State Board of Education member; Kadee Anstadt, Superintendent, Washington Local School district; Ryan Lockwood, Treasurer, Springfield Local School district; Kevin Dalton, president, Toledo Federation of Teachers; and Dennis Willard of Vouchers Hurt Ohio.

For additional information about participating districts visit: <https://vouchershurtohio.com/districts/>

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# Healing for Our Mothers: A Grief and Loss Workshop

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

A “Grief and Loss Workshop,” a supportive and information event hosted by L.E.A.D. Community Church and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, was held on Thursday, May 11 at the Mott Branch Library, in order to offer support to mothers impacted by gun violence.

The event began with a brief introduction and a dinner for all attendees. The beginning was an opportunity to realize the support and concern the Lead Community Church and IMA Civic Team has to address and resolve the experience of grief and loss related to gun violence.

“To support the Mental Health aspect and emotions. That’s why we are here today,” said Reverend Will Henderson.

Several participants during personal introductions, offered the following details in reference to personal experiences:

“We have to mourn each loss and it’s difficult. Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, all are difficult. Grief and shame take over emotions,” said one attendee.

“Forgiveness is keys for health, spirituality and mental health,” noted another.

“I lost my son to gun violence in 2019,” offered yet another. “And have had multiple losses. It has been a lot of grief for me. What has got me through the grief is prayer. I pray a lot. Sitting in the waiting room for two hours after my son was shot, I said ‘Ok God this is all up to you, I know no doctor nurse or nobody, but YOU can save him. If he doesn’t survive, give me strength God to deal with it.’ My son did not survive. The next morning, I woke up and said my prayer. And I felt the calmness, my prayer (God) made peace and it made me feel good. I chose forgiveness for the situation; it was better for me to forgive instead of holding onto the pain!”

The recollections and impact on the families’ lives continued:

“Losing my mother is what caused my pain but also turned into my motivation.”

“My son passed away and I have been dealing with grief ever since.”

“I am a trauma and grief specialist and I wear many hats; helping kids 14-14 to deal with grief. I love working in the community and working to



(Left to Right): Doris Roberts, Laverne Cook, Idell Watson, Ramel Burns, Bishop James Wilson, Pastor Coretha Williams, Marie Flannery, Rev. Henderson, Phyllis Keith, Bernadette Graham, Robin Copeland, LaShawndra Kinnebrew, Deanna Hayes, Rev. LeRoy Williams



help babies. Grief has to be addressed.”

“My son was murdered in 2021.”

Reverend Will Henderson and Reverend Le Roy Williams explained the plans for the workshop and provided individual assessment forms to acquire personal knowledge of the presence of spirituality in daily living. Upon the completion of the assessment, the results placed spirituality focus into the following guidelines to offer the knowledge and opportunity for each individual to recognize, grow or establish more spirituality in daily living if needed:

1. Those who enjoy all the benefits of a spiritual rich life;
2. Those who emphasize spiritual values;
3. Those whose spiritual concerns are part of their lives;
4. Those whose spiritual lives are undeveloped

The spiritual assessment created significant personal knowledge, for each individual to acknowledge strength, or areas to address to grow in strength and spirituality. Upon completion of the assessment, the leaders moved forward to begin each session scheduled to support healing and growth.

Session one’s goal was to define “The Meaning of Grief.” Grief is one of the most difficult experiences a person can go through. To address grief, seek therapy and also turn to friends and family for support to deal with grief. Resolving grief is an important process and requires an active continual process.

There are numerous types of grief, it was explained, such as normal grief, anticipatory grief (anticipating a loss), disenfranchised grief (not believable), chronic grief, abbreviated grief, traumatic grief (such as a loss to gun violence).


Session two dealt with grief support; session three with the time and methods of dealing with grief and session three with the ways forward in order to start the process to self-healing.

The organizers and attendees noted that mental health is a matter of psychological, emotional and social well-being. Those in need were directed to the services provided by Harbor Behavioral Health, Zepf Center or Union.

“Everyone deserves to get help,” said Bernadette Graham. “Your average person doesn’t know or care about mental health. Without our mental health, we can’t function we can’t think, love or do anything.”

The final step of the Grief and Loss Workshop was Reverend Henderson and Reverend Williams summary and review of information and resources available.

The wrap up and end of the event was finalized by the Closing Prayer: motivational support given to God and made aware to all attendees.



**Backyard Gardens**  
**Family Food & Fun**  
Maybe a chicken or 2 too!

**June 13, 2023, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**First Unitarian Church of Toledo, 3205 Glendale Ave.**

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- + **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."

# This Weekend Is Lupus Awareness Time

By Lupus Survivors and The Truth Staff

The Lupus Foundation of America has conducted a number of surveys about the impact of the disease that affects 1.5 million Americans. One such survey indicates that 63 percent of Americans have never heard of lupus or know little or nothing about the disease.

Over the past several years, at least one person in Toledo has made an effort to change that lack of perception in this area by hosting a walk and by participating in a variety of related activities. This year Rachelle Roy, herself a lupus patient, has organized an entire weekend, this upcoming weekend, to heighten that awareness.

Friday is "Donate a Wig" night from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Trunk. Saturday is "Wig Giveaway" at Mott Branch Library from 1 to 4 p.m. along with a bowling event at All Strikes Lanes at 7 p.m. Sunday is the "Lupus Walk" at Ottawa Park at 10 a.m.

In addition, Visions Made Possible is presenting a Lupus Awareness Luncheon this Saturday at the Scott Park Banquet Hall starting at 10 a.m.

Roy's group is dedicating the weekend to Schatzia Depp, who passed from the effects of lupus this past March. The Visions group is dedicating their luncheon to Reeshemah Adams, who passed in 2018.

Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age – 90 percent of people living with lupus are women and most develop the disease between the ages of 15 and 44. The symptoms vary – pain, extreme fatigue, hair loss, cognitive issues and physical impairments often occur. Cardiovascular disease, disfiguring rashes and painful joints are common issues.

There are four different types of lupus: systemic lupus accounts for approximately 70 percent of all cases (heart, lungs, kidneys or brain can be affected); cutaneous lupus (affecting only the skin) accounts for approximately 10 percent of cases; drug-induced lupus – another 10 percent – is caused by high doses of certain medications; neonatal lupus is a rare condition in which the mother's antibodies affect the fetus.

Recently, Rachelle Roy gathered seven other lupus infected women to discuss the impact the disease has had on their lives and families. Here are some of their comments.

### Rachelle Roy

I am a 20-year plus lupus survivor. My version of lupus is discoid lupus. Discoid lupus scars my face and it has also taken away my eyebrows. I see a dermatologist, rheumatologist and a family doctor to manage my lupus. I also watch how much stress and sun I allow in my life.

My flare ups occur when my body is at war on the inside. It's a battle that no lupus survivor can really handle, the battle causes a burning sensation for me.

During the beginning of the pandemic, I was terrified of what COVID would do to my body because I'm not on any medication. I had stopped taking all the medication I was on. The doctor I was seeing didn't tell me to, I just did. I had noticed for a while that my bloodwork never showed a difference in my taking or not taking the medication. All the numbers were stable. My doctor removed me from his practice because we couldn't understand each other anymore.

I'm currently under the care of a doctor with ProMedica who is paying more attention to my bloodwork numbers. My doctor has even lowered



Rachelle Roy, seated, Jane Hague and Ty Russell, standing left to right

the number of visits to her office, the number of trips to a laboratory to have bloodwork and I am not on oral medication.

My lupus care has been reduced to applying a cream to my flareups accordingly and I take NO medication and I work in the sun. I have a blessed life living with lupus.

### Alyssa Gaines

Hi, my name is Alyssa Gaines and I was diagnosed with SLE (Systemic

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# Equality Starts With You.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a specific fund to support the removal of barriers to equity and access for all in our community. If you are a nonprofit organization in the Greater Toledo Region that has a program that supports this mission, you are encouraged to apply for funding by July 2nd.



For more information, contact Artisha Lawson at 419.241.5049 or visit [toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative](http://toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative)



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*Lupus Awareness.. continued from page 7*

Lupus Erythematosus) in 2017. I had been experiencing symptoms for years of joint pain, fatigue and lightheadedness for years.

I just figured it was neuropathy. It wasn't until I noticed my hair thinning that my then family physician took a closer look at things. He ordered a series of blood work including an ANA draw. Also, I was sent to several specialists (neurologist, hematologist and rheumatologist.)

Once I was evaluated thoroughly and my results were in, it was determined that I was dealing with lupus in what was considered a mild stage. Since then, I have researched the disease and found that lupus is not just one disease but many diseases – that there are different stages of lupus and that the ultimate goal is to keep your immune system strong.

I am so grateful for my family's support as well as the support I receive from my sister circle and brave hearts pictured with me. Together we will build each other up and remain positively strong.



Erika King, Cathy Dozier, Alyssa Gaines

**Cathy L. Dozier**

Hello, my name is Cathy L. Dozier. I am 67 years old, a born-again Christian, happily married for over 44 years and have given birth to three children,

I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE or Lupus) in 1987. I was singing with my church choir and started having problems breathing. I went to the emergency room of our local hospital and was told to see an immunologist.

I prayed and chose a doctor to go to. That doctor ultimately became determined to find out what was causing my problems. After numerous tests, he performed the Anti Nuclear Antibody (ANA) test, which verified that I had SLE and SLE was affecting my lungs.

This doctor recommended that I see a rheumatologist since lupus has an effect on connective tissue. My rheumatologist prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (nsaid) and Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil). Although I don't take Plaquenil (due to the side effects), I rely on my faith in God, vitamins, minerals and herbs. I also try to keep my stress levels as low as possible and exercise regularly. My Lupus appears to be in remis-

sion and I pray that it still stays away.

**Erika King**

I was diagnosed in 2009-2010 during a period when I was going through a lot of stuff – stress, a divorce. At that time my body opened up with a lot of sores and when I went to the doctor, I was diagnosed with lupus which I had never heard of.

A little while later I was talking with a friend and found out her sister had died of lupus and then I started doing research and found out about all the different kinds of lupus – it's like cancer with so many different kinds.

I believe that many in the medical profession disregard stress as a factor with lupus but I have taken the spiritual way – no medication. Have never taken medication prescribed for lupus. But I'm still learning. I've never found a doctor I feel comfortable with.

... continued on page 9



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Lupus Awareness.. continued from page 8

The last couple of years have added to issues – I had COVID three times and I'm having an onset of asthma. In a little while I'm going to see a doctor about the asthma, but I'm not going to tell him about the lupus diagnosis – I want to see what he says.

I feel fine though, I feel great. I got rid of the stress in my life and the steroid cream I take cleared up the sores but I still don't take medication for the lupus.

Jane Hague

My name is Jane Hague and I was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis in 2013. Over the past years, sarcoidosis has been running rampant in my body. I've lost 60 pounds in a matter of four months.

My body constantly aches and I have very little energy. My skin is very irritated most of time, especially on my face because of I have Lupus Pernio. Sarcoidosis has caused me to have an enlarged liver, spleen, thyroid, and swollen lymph nodes. My eyes become swollen and irritated from itching and burning.

Living with sarcoidosis has made my life difficult and unpredictable. I have some good days and I have some bad days. However, for the past two years, I have been taking steroids and methotrexate for treatment.

Although living with sarcoidosis can be hard I desire to have a good quality of life.

Na'Tasha Nunn

Hi, I'm Na'Tasha and I found out about my own lupus only in 2021 when my mother passed away from it. I found myself reliving my mother's life. I could not do the things I had been able to do. I finally realized I couldn't walk, couldn't see, had no appetite, my hair was falling out. I had been teaching and once again was getting so tired.

My mom only found out about her lupus one month before she passed away, her doctors had been telling her that "we don't know what it is."

So I went to a doctor after she passed and the first set of doctors were



Shevonne Banks and Na'Tasha Nunn

telling me that the numbers from my bloodwork weren't high enough and they couldn't diagnose. I found a second set of doctors who told me that my numbers were off the charts since I saw them after having another flare up.

Now my body will shut down, I need protecting from the sun. Even LED lighting is horrible. You never know what's going to happen and everyone is so different. But with me, I'm not on medication because of the side effect of going blind. I already have blurry vision and I don't want to lose my sight.

I have two children eight and five years old, and since my mother had it, we are starting to test the eight-year old to be careful.

Shevonne Banks

My journey started back when I was around 13 years old. I'd complained to my mother of joint pain while playing my violin in the orches-

...continued on page 12



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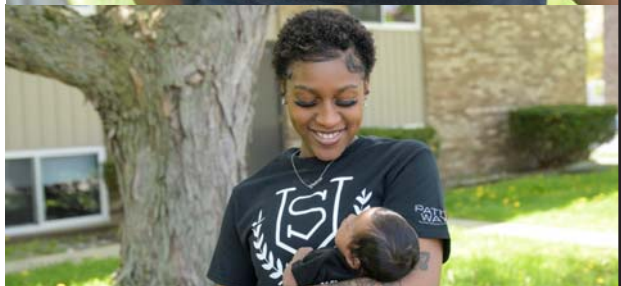
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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

been part of my strategy here with my church.

**Perryman:** Please describe what you are most proud of and your biggest regret.

**Culp:** The thing I'm most proud of would be fulfilling a plan, a dream I had when I came here of what the church could do and what it could be. My successor said, 'It seems like the community meets here at the church more than you go out into the community.' And, so it's the fact that the church is not some isolated place where you show up on Sunday morning; it should be the center of a person's life. So, we're not just an add-on.

Preachers and others would be cussing when you're meeting in a restaurant somewhere. Still, when you meet in the church, they're careful about their language, and really, their ideas are much better. So, one of the things that I'm proud of and pleased with is that the church has been just that, a meeting place where people in the community feel like I can contribute or I can be helped; that is what the church is all about. It's not a Sunday institution; it's seven days a week, whatever the community needs.

That, by the way, was a part of the things Dr. Martin Luther King introduced us to as college students in the 1950s that helped me see and understand. I thought I had to beat the saints over the head and tell them we're not separate from the community, but I had to teach enough principles so that people understand what the church is and what it's about. Then, they will invite others to worship and utilize whatever the church offers.

**Perryman:** Any regrets?

**Culp:** Yes, a few. One would probably be not having adequately involved my children. On the other hand, my wife stepped up well with the school she founded, which impacted as many people as the church did. Folks would stop us almost every time we were out and say, 'Thank you for the discipline of First Church Christian School.' It was the kind of compliments that we got.

My wife was an excellent principal, and it gave her a very fulfilling career. She did not spend much time telling me how to pastor the church. She'd answer my questions but found ways to contribute to the well-being



*Bishop Robert Culp*

not only of the church but of the community. I regret not using her more, especially after she retired as the school principal.

There were others, same fashion, that I didn't move quickly enough or strong enough to take advantage of their gifts and abilities. Some did do some excellent things where, people like Juanita Green or Judge McConnell, but others were in the church.

When you gather the right people around you, the good Lord helped me avoid making many mistakes with that; they add immeasurably to your ministry.

**Perryman:** What can we do to foster more unity among the churches?

**Culp:** Yes, the first thing is that God's helping us move toward that. I have heard Ben Snyder, pastor of CedarCreek Church say recently; he said: "You know, the good Lord is making us not only forget denominations but forget all of those theological things." He said, "If I say to a man do you know Christ Jesus? That's all I need to know for him to be my brother in the Lord."

We are increasingly realizing the critical thing is being Christian and having unity; Christ's prayer that we all be one is so essential for us. Even now, with all the violence, nobody seems to have the answer. I see times forcing us to come together, and I believe that God will help us to be effective with things like violence.

**Perryman:** How has ministry evolved since you began pastoring?

**Culp:** Then, churches were so self-centered. We had what we called ministry, but it was almost programming that required our people to be in our buildings so much. So, we had Sunday morning church, we had Sunday night church, we had Bible study, and then we had the other groups of choir rehearsal and everything else going on all week. We were so independent and so local church and inward focused.

**Perryman:** Please further elaborate

**Culp:** There was a time when you had a good crowd come into the church. Now that crowd, even before the pandemic, other than Easter, I haven't had a full house since the pandemic. We were running two services before; now, we can't even fill up one service. But yet, I look on Facebook and see a nice group coming to service, but they're doing it if not from bed, at least from their home. And times have just changed, so churches have to learn how to adapt.

**Perryman:** As you know, the black church has practiced what's called a dialectical model of ministry or balancing the polarity of our priestly and prophetic functions, between maintaining congregants' spiritual life and speaking truth to power. We occasionally witness the fruits of our labor in the spiritual growth of our members, but is achieving justice even possible?

**Culp:** There was a time when I really believed that. I read a book called *The Color of Compromise*. I bought a dozen copies and gave them to six Black and six white pastors. We've been meeting once a month. After a year, the Black pastors quit on me. They gave me nice excuses, but I knew the real problem; they said, 'We're not making any headway with these white folks in this group.' They're all well-versed and great friends, but they kept repeating the phrase 'I have not met a pastor that we've got into an excellent discussion that Black Lives Matter. I haven't met a prominent white pastor in this town who can even accept that phrase and understands what it means.'

It's the first doubt I've had. I've always believed that the in the next generation of the brotherhood, that justice would be more than a legal thing; it would become a social actuality. I'm beginning to sour a bit on that. It's just making me wonder, no matter how many laws we get, in the history of America, racial separation is so solid that the church isn't even able make a difference.

*... continued on page 11*

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*Perryman... continued from page 10*

When I was young, we used to say it's our different worship style, but I found out no, it ain't! So that's where I am these days. I'm still going to work at it, but I know in my lifetime, I'm not going to see it; I pray the next generation will.

**Perryman:** What are the keys to a long, fruitful ministry?

**Culp:** As I said, I learned the principle picked up from Martin Luther King, Jr.; you go to a community not merely to build a church; you go there to impact that community's culture and make a difference. You need to do that to be effective. As you know, clergy can build a church with 5,000 members, and crime, sin and evil can be worse in the town when they get to 5,000 than when they have a few people. So that has been my goal from the beginning.

**Perryman:** Finally, your official retirement event is called *The Legacy of The Man*. The term legacy can refer to an inheritance, reputation, impact, tradition, or values. Overall, legacy is often the lasting effects or experiences one can have on others. What are you and your wife, Dr. Maggie Culp, leaving to this community and your congregation that you hope is lasting?

**Culp:** The best thing, is that your pastor doesn't have to be somebody you place on a pedestal. My wife has been excellent at just being a friend to our folks. Sometimes I think they loved her more than they loved me. She was just so good with people. One reason I married her way back then was that she didn't raise her voice, she didn't have a temper, and or make hasty judgments and decisions. So I said, 'Boy, that's what the church needs as well as I need, her patience.'

We liked people and believed that you could contribute to the good of a person's life, but they don't owe you anything for it. So, for me, probably the best thing we've left is that a preacher is just another man or woman striving to fulfill God's mission and purpose in the world and being satis-

fied that one day we'll hear those words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

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

*Black Leaders... continued from page 4*  
Constitution.

The Ohio Unity Coalition in partnership with Black led institutions and leaders will mobilize black voters in Ohio urban cities to turn out to vote and defeat this measure in August when it is on the ballot. The effort will be aligned with the overall "Protect One Person One Vote Campaign".

"Ohioans have shown they want action on critical issues and when legislators fail to act, the citizen-led ballot initiative has been a critical tool for voters to have direct say in our government" said Petee Talley, CEO and Convener of the Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation/Ohio Unity Coalition.

Coalition members and partners believe that passage of SJR2 is a deliberate act to silence black voices and takes our state back to a time when blacks were counted as only 3/5 of a person.

"This legislative maneuver is the ultimate power grab. It changes the rules for amending the Ohio Constitution and robs us of our democratic right to "one person, one vote!" This change means that a simple majority of us will no longer be able to express our will on the most important issues facing the electorate!" said retired Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Ronald Adrine.

The process to amend the Ohio constitution by a simple majority has

...continued on page 13

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

back hundreds of years; and so to ask someone to deny their native upbringing and to eschew the twisted and denigrated history of Black people specifically formulated and approved by White society, is a big ask.

We still get regular media stories of White people caught using the "N" word because they grew up with it like eating Cream of Wheat or Aunt Jemima pancakes or Uncle Ben's Rice. Some things are just soooo good that it is hard to leave them alone!

The "N" word is a diehard word for White America. It invokes pleasant memories of Mammies tending spoiled White kids. It tells stories of brave White men lynching Black people because they simply imagined that they were up to no good.

The "N" word is an astute and stern historian. It gathers stories, real or imagined about the manner and means by which White people, with total freedom, could with a single word assign death or life to Black people... and to top it off, you said "N!" when you wanted to place an exclamation point on the alleged depravity of Black people.

Need a shorthand word for a Black man accused of being a thief or being lazy or being dirty or being a criminal? Simple. Just say "N!" loud and hard, and all is understood. No need for long explanations of what happened or why it happened.

Just say, the "N" did it and all will be right with the world. You have vanquished that dark dangerous foe and you have exalted yourself and have restored equilibrium to society.

The "N" word is nigh encyclopedic in that you can find almost anything you want when you use it. Just by using it with a certain tone, swagger, sneer or a hostile eye glance, the "N" word will not fail you.

Even if you are a bumbler of using the King's English and cannot articulate what is what, when all is lost, simply say, "N!" and what is missing in your explanation will be quickly filled in by the listener and you have just made a linkage with the past and the present.

What a powerful word! Just one word, simple in pronunciation, has defined an entire population of people whose only "sin" is that they were

longingly kissed by the sun. But. Let's be real for a moment.

When Black people toss around the "N" word as if it is a Frisbee or casually say it in public to another Black person and in earshot of White people, don't think for a minute that such an exchange is not being recorded in their minds as: "Hey, if they don't mind it, why should I be held to account for using it?"

The "N" word has no uncles, nieces, sisters, or brothers. It is a family pariah who steals from Grandma's secret cookie jar of money as well as punches and brutalize a man or a woman for no more than just, "being."

Don't lapse into some fakery that somehow the "N" word tripping off the lips of a Black person makes it antiseptic, cool, or hip. The "N" word is just as biting, cutting, harmful, belittling and degenerate coming from the tongue of a Black person or a White person.

For those who extol rappers, thugs, or miscreants who use the "N" word as a means of conversation in song, verse, or rap as if it is a heroic word, they are wrong. They are "N\*\*\*a" wrong! They are not cultural warriors or astute poets or bards telling a meaningful story.

When people say, "That's my N\*\*\*a" or "N\*\*\*a" be cool or "N" this or "N" that, they are not your friend. They are either woefully ignorant of the history of the word or they have a very low opinion of you and of themselves.

No. You cannot rehabilitate the word, "N." It is beyond redemption both in this life and the life to come. Nothing good or productive can come from its usage except division, irritation or anger.

How do you restore salt that has lost its saltiness? How do you unprick a balloon? How do you call back a speeding bullet?

You don't. You can't.

People who are unrepentant when using the "N" word, need to know their transgression and if they continue, you need to leave the premises. Your character is more important than being around people who diss you when they use the "N" word or worse yet, call you a "N!"

Don't let your spirit be polluted with such vileness.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



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Lupus Awareness.. continued from page 9

tra. By this time, I'd already been hospitalized with some bleeding issues due to low platelet counts. My mother was very keen on paying attention to my symptoms and being proactive with my doctors and care team. At 13, I was very accustomed to numerous doctor appointments, getting blood drawn, trialing different medications.

When my Rheumatologist confirmed the Lupus (SLE) prognosis through my blood tests, I was devastated. Up until that moment, my only encounter with Lupus was with my "Big Mama", who'd passed recently at that time. Getting that news, I instantly panicked assuming that I'd be bald and die, like my "Big Mama".

After that, I wanted to understand more about my Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and if it was in fact a death sentence. In the years that followed, I've always worked to advocate for myself and make sure that team of doctors and I were aligned on our treatment and health goals. Because Lupus can look like so many other things, it's really easy to be confused, and misguided when understanding your Lupus.

In my case, my Lupus is extremely mild, I'm sure that has to with the early diagnosis and continued management of my symptoms. With that, I usually forget I have Lupus until it flares up and causes muscle and joint pain, severe fatigue, hair loss, and other minor issues. In addition to my Lupus, I have a heart condition, so managing the two, I have to pay close attention to my triggers and flare ups. I am photosensitive, a day in the sun or at the beach or an amusement park usually is followed by a few days of joint pain and extreme fatigue. Stress and excessive activity are also common triggers for my Lupus.

Working to manage stress and planning for times you know you will not avoid a potential trigger. This includes always wearing sunscreen, planning rest days after excessive exposure outdoors or activities. I want more women that look like me to live long healthy lives. It starts with prioritizing our health and wellness and not taking "no" for an answer when we're looking for help in diagnosing and managing our health. We have to be our own advocates and demand that our voice is heard and our opinions are respected.

Ty Russell

I started walking my Lupus journey back in August 2021. I went to the doctor for a wellness checkup. Then when my bloodwork came back, my



platelets were low, my white blood cells count was low, so I was referred to a hematologist. Every time I went to the appointment, he just did the same blood work and tests kept coming back even lower.

By this time, my hair started to fall out, my skin was acting up, my hands were bruising. By November, my hair was damn near completely gone. I lost my sister, December 2, 2021 and then after that my body really started to act up. I lost a lot of weight - literally dropped 25 pounds. I could barely walk on my feet, they were so tender, my skin was tender to the touch. I felt weak, my whole body just hurt, I couldn't open certain items, had to switch my toothbrush because my mouth was so sensitive.

Now at this point my mom was worried. She ended up driving me to the Cleveland Clinic. They kept me for a whole week and diagnosed me with lupus and connected tissue disease. I have both SLE and DLE so I get infected either way. I've had a bone marrow biopsy, a skin biopsy and a liver biopsy because my live numbers kept being elevated. Steroid shots in my head. I had days when I just cried because I felt helpless. I was sad, feeling defeated.

I'm finally able to get back to work but not like I would like because the dental office would be a lot on me, although I miss it. Now with God's will, I'm working at a day care that I love. Feeling blessed I am alive and able to do it. This is my testimony!



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# King: A Life by Jonathan Eig

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

The life of the hero you most admire has been an open book.

For much of your life, you've read about him, watched him on television, and heard epic stories about him. Sometimes, your hero almost feels like a close personal friend; absolutely, he's someone you want to be like. So read the new book, *King: A Life by Jonathan Eig* and find out all the things you *don't* know.

Head to your local bookstore or library, and you'll find thousands of "excellent biographies" about Martin Luther King Jr. You'll find books on his work, beliefs, and his activism. Still, says Jonathan Eig, "the literature remains incomplete" – in part, because those books don't tell much about King as a flawed, irritated, exhausted human.

Says Eig, "King was a man, not a saint, not a symbol. He chewed his fingernails. He shouted at the TV during quiz shows." He cheated on his wife for so many years that "friends referred to [one] woman as his second wife."

By the time he was a year old, young King had three names: Michael, Marvin and Martin; his father adopted the name Martin Luther "after a few years," and the younger King was then called M.L. As the middle child and older son, young Martin was close to his sister but tussled with his younger brother, sometimes violently. The elder Martin was a preacher, and M.L. said that God had called him to do the same – though he later claimed that he "tried to escape" the "responsibility on [his] shoulders and grew frustrated.

King was a ladies' man who fell in love with a white woman before meeting Coretta Scott. He often felt insecure and had a "tendency to depression." He "found strength in words," vowing in a fiery speech in December of 1955 that "the world would change.

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671 pages

Their time had come. He promised."

Since his activism as a young man and his assassination more than a half-century ago, surely everything there is to know about Martin Luther King Jr has been told, right?

Surprisingly, no, as author Jonathan Eig shows. In *King: A Life*, readers are given a glimpse of a man who was more complicated and flawed than we've seen before.

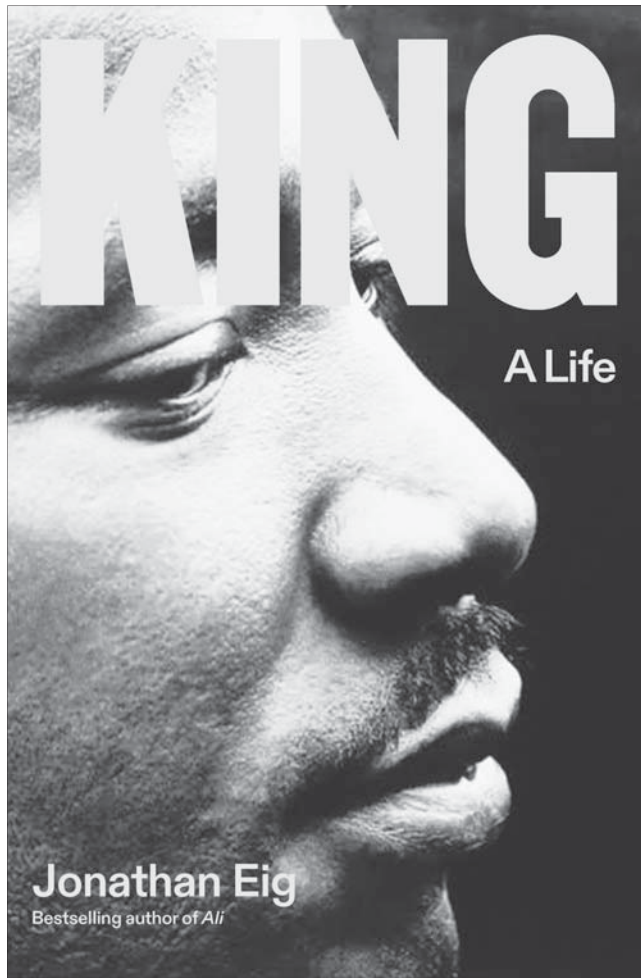
Part of the revelation lies in the stories Eig tells about King and the many people in King's circle, friends, family, and colleagues. It's in these tales that we see a King that contemporary accounts generally didn't reveal, but that "thousands of recently released FBI documents and tens of thousands of other new items..." have shed light on.

In that, we learn much about the turbulent relationships that King had, broadly, and specifically with politics and presidents. There's a fair amount of edginess and intrigue in that and, given the time-frame, a sense of doom.

The size of *King: A Life* may be daunting, but don't let it scare you. It's a surprisingly fast read that includes things you know and things you don't know. Truly, you're going to want to open this book.



King - A Life author, photo courtesy Doug McGoldrick



## Black Leaders... continued from page 11

been in place for more than 110 years. According to information provided on the Ohio Secretary of State's website, Ohio has had 76 citizen initiative petitions on the ballot, with only 20 that have passed. This process is not easy, nor should it be, but DEMOCRACY should be fair and allow majority rule of ONE PERSON. ONE VOTE and not allow the loser to take home the trophy.

The Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation/Ohio Unity Coalition has partners across the state representing Civil Rights organizations, Faith, Community, Labor, The Divine Nine sororities and fraternities, Voting Rights Organizations, Community Organizers and more and works to educate, engage and empower black voters continuously to remind them of their power and to demonstrate it to policymakers at the local, state and federal levels.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

May 17, 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.



## 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.

## 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.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all resident to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COLLINGWOOD GREEN PHASE V

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Collingwood Green Phase V, a 75 unit, 4 story, wood framed senior housing project. Located at 400 Nebraska, Toledo, OH.

Bids are due June 1, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Documents and additional information is available on Builders Exchange.com

This project has MBE/WBE requirements and is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

HUD Number 042-EE276

For more information on this project, please contact Scott Gross at 419-725-3176.

## 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.

WGTE Public Media provides a competitive salary and excellent benefits and is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse staff that honors your experience, perspective, and unique identity. Together, the team at WGTE strives to create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming.

Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614, or at [ [\\_blank:employment@wgte.org](mailto:_blank:employment@wgte.org) ][employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org), EOE/ADA.

## 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).

# Amanda West and Family Celebrate Her 101st Birthday

The Truth Staff

Amanda West and her family and friends celebrated her 101 birthday on Wednesday, May 10, with a drive-by party in the front of her home at 1406 Hoag Street, the same house that West and her family moved into almost 70 years ago.

Celebrating with the young lady were her children, Vera West, James West, Gregory West and Lucinda Peoples – the four surviving siblings of the original nine. Also, part of the festivities was Amanda's sister, Cordelia Roberts, who has lived around the corner, on Grandview, from her sister for all these decades.

West, who was born in DeKalb, Mississippi, and her family relocated to Toledo from Osceola, Arkansas in 1945, originally living with Amanda's mother on Fernwood before moving into the Hoag residence.

Drive by guests started arriving at 4 pm, honking and shouting birthday greeting to Amanda and her family with the usual gifts and cards. However, they were themselves presented with gift bags from the family!

Former Toledo City Councilman Larry Sykes was one such guest who arrived

to offer his greetings and well wishes and, as a symbol of the occasion, his own special gift – a 100 dollar bill and a single.



Larry Sykes and Birthday Girl



Sisters Cordelia Roberts and Amanda West



## The Soundtrack to Summer

In honor of our 50th anniversary, Greater Toledo Community Foundation is sponsoring the following concerts as a gift to our community. Here's to good vibes, great gigs and glorious summer nights.

SATURDAY JULY <b>01</b>	<b>The Commonheart</b> <i>(Roots/Blues/Soul)</i> 7:30pm • Glass City Metropark
THURSDAY JULY <b>06</b>	<b>Jazz in the Garden</b> <i>(Toledo Jazz Orchestra)</i> 6:30–8:30pm • Toledo Botanical Garden
SATURDAY JULY <b>15</b>	<b>The Grape Smugglers</b> <i>(Contemporary Rock/Motown)</i> 6:00–8:00pm • Ottawa Park
FRIDAY JULY <b>21</b>	<b>ProMedica Concert Series</b> with <b>Chris Janson</b> <i>(Country)</i> Entertainment begins at 5 p.m. • Promenade Park

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT US:

## Open for wellness

**OPEN FOR YOU**

Whether you need preventive and wellness care or help managing a complex health condition, The University of Toledo Medical Center's internal medicine providers are the healthcare leaders you want on your team.

**UT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER**

utmc.utoledo.edu

# UNCF Holds Toledo Mayor's Luncheon

The Truth Staff

The third annual United Negro College Fund Toledo Mayor's Luncheon was held on Friday, May 12 at the Glass City Center and the more than 500 guests were treated to speeches, information about the UNCF and crowd-pleasing entertainment by local high school students.

While this was the third annual such event, it was only the second in-person luncheon, the first was held virtually because of the pandemic.

Alexis Means of abc13, a graduate of Hampton University, a historically black college of university (HBCU), served as the moderator for the event, while Owens Corning staff Kam Hutchinson and Don Rettig led off the event addressing Owens Corning's emphasis on equity and inclusion.

Owens Corning was one of the major sponsors of this year's event and Hutchinson serves as director of Talent Acquisition and Rettig as director of Community Affairs.

The Scott High School Marching Band brought their instruments and filled the banquet room with a vibrant welcome and the Rogers High School Choir performed the very appropriate "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black national anthem, which got the lunch crowd to their feet.

Alan Bannister, a HBCU graduate of Kentucky State and now vice president of Business Development for Remington Road Group, and Jordyn Taylor, current HBCU student at Howard University, spoke of their HBCU experience.

The event's keynote address was delivered by Roderick Smother, PhD, president of Philander Smith College, an HBCU.

Throughout the afternoon, the audience was encouraged to donate using their electronic devices and the response exceeded the luncheon's goal of raising \$5,000 during the lunch hour.

The UNCF is now in its 80th year of raising money to assist Black students access their higher education dreams. Since 1944, UNCF has raised

more than \$5 billion and helped graduate more than 500,000 students from colleges and universities around the nation.

"We work to make sure minority students have an opportunity to go to and through college," says Steve Miller.

The UNCF supports 103 HBCUs and 37 member college and university institutions and while that is only three percent of all two and four-year colleges and universities, they educate almost 20 percent of all African American and minority student graduates – as well as over 25 percent of STEM related degrees.

The organization awards 10,000 scholarships annually worth a total of \$100 million and administers more than 400 fellowships, internships and student and faculty development programs. UNCF Toledo has raised close to \$200,000 for scholarships in the last two years alone to support local Toledo students.

And the UNCF has done all of this over the past eight decades because "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."



Steve Miller, UNCF Toledo Area Development Director and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Bishop Pat McKinstry



Alexis Means



Scott Marching Band



Rogers High School Choir



## Want to become a nurse? There's never been a better time.

The University of Toledo, Owens Community College and ProMedica have come together to diversify the nursing profession through QUEST for Success.

### QUEST for Success provides:

- Underrepresented minorities and male nursing students the opportunity to become successful, employed, bachelor-prepared nurses.
- Financial support may be available from ProMedica's Ebeid Diversity in Nursing Scholarship and/or other tuition assistance programs
- Career opportunities through ProMedica

Scan the QR code with your smart device or visit [utoledo.edu/nursing/partnerships/quest.html](http://utoledo.edu/nursing/partnerships/quest.html) to learn more!



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A NURSING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM